

NEW WAYS TO SEE URBAN SPRAWL IN HOUSTON

This October the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) unveils a group exhibition featuring sixteen emerging and mid-career artists whose works grapple with the consequences of urban development and expansion. Titled *Sprawl* and on view from October 4 to January 19, 2014, the exhibition presents both positive and negative perspectives on the divisive topic of city sprawl. Artist Kathryn Clark translates data into colorful layers of fabric in her *Foreclosure Quilts*, while Norwood Viviano creates three-dimensional glass models based on digital renderings of statistical data representing population shifts in twenty-four American urban centers. Dylan J. Beck's ceramic piece *Yesterday's Tomorrow* juxtaposes sleek modern architecture with more traditional terracotta structures, prompting divergent interpretations: a criticism of construction's upheaval, or a celebration of the pluralism characterizing contemporary cityscapes.

HCCC encourages further dialogue concerning Houston's development with its inaugural speaker series and, as a component of artist Carrie Schneider's project *Hear Our Houston*, *Sprawl* incorporates a series of walking tours featuring craft in the city's suburbs. craftshouston.org

— Sara Spink



THE GETTY—ARCHITECTURE IN FOCUS

On view at the Getty Center in Los Angeles from October 15 to March 2, 2014, *In Focus: Architecture* explores the historical interdependency and ongoing mutual influence of architecture and photography. Including rare early nineteenth-century photographs, the exhibition also premieres significant recent acquisitions. The show's exploration begins with film's unprecedentedly detailed recordings of architectural details by the likes of Gustave Le Gray and the Bisson brothers in the nineteenth century. Photographs of architectural sites—such as Durandelle's images of the construction of the Eiffel Tower and J.B. Greene's of ancient Egypt—fueled the enthusiasm for touristic photographs that

erupted at the turn of the twentieth century. Eugène Atget's documentations of pre-modernized Paris are among the works transitioning the show to the modern period, where photographs of buildings—and architecture itself—shifted in tandem with the avant-garde experimental developments of twentieth-century photography. Works by Andreas Feininger, Walker Evans, William Christenberry, and Peter Wegner exemplify this change, demonstrating that architecture and photography continue to influence one another in the present. getty.edu

— Sara Spink

DRAMATIC FRAC CENTRE OPENS IN ORLÉANS

In France, the Turbulences—FRAC Centre celebrates its opening on the former Substances militaires site in Orléans. Designed by the Parisian firm Jakob and MacFarlane, the building's exterior reflects the institution's mission to showcase contemporary art and architecture and encourage interdisciplinary dialogue. Encased in anodized aluminum, the structure is partially covered by an interactive "veil of light" produced by Electronic Shadow and programmed in real time. Inside, a new permanent gallery displays the center's renowned collection, while temporary exhibition rooms, a pedagogical workshop area, and a documentation center herald its status as an architectural research laboratory.

The inaugural event, "Naturalizing Architecture," the 9th ArchiLab international architecture meeting, encompasses two symposiums and projects by forty architects, designers, and artists—on view to February 2, 2014. The event explores the interrelationship of architecture and science, and the impact on the field of new design processes and tools for digital manufacturing. frac-centre.fr

— Sara Spink



TOP: CATHY CARVER PHOTO LEFT: LOUIS-ÉMILE DURANDELLE PHOTO/1. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES RIGHT: NICOLAS BOREL PHOTO