

# LIBRARY SCIENCE

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## For Immediate Release

ARTSPACE

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August 12, 2011. Artspace is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition *Library Science*, conceived by Rachel Gugelberger, Senior Curator, Exit Art, NY. The exhibition contemplates our personal, intellectual and physical relationships to the library, with a focus on how these interactions are changing as libraries adapt to the digital world. From its socio-cultural meaning to its architectural space and classification tools, the library informs the methodology and practice of the artists in *Library Science*, presenting the work of 17 artists in a variety of media including drawing, photography, sculpture, installation, painting and web-based projects.

The exhibition title refers to Eleanor Antin's "Library Science" of 1971, a conceptual work that appropriated library classification methods to represent and archive the identities of living women. Additionally, the title refers to the field of Library and Information Science, specifically, studies on library resource usage, human interaction with library systems, information organization and retrieval technologies and the acquisition, cataloging, classification and preservation of library materials.

While some of the artists in *Library Science* explore traditional libraries, others utilize the Internet as a digital library. Several artists contemplate evidence of physical use or explore the poetic connections between the organic and the synthetic, instinct and knowledge. Artists include: Erica Baum (NY), Jorge Méndez Blake (Mexico), David Bunn (CA), Chris Coffin (NY), Madeline Djerejian (NY), Melissa Dubbin & Aaron S. Davidson (NY), Philippe Gronon (France), José Hernández (NJ), Candida Höfer (Germany), Nina Katchadourian (NY), Reynard Loki (NY), Loren Madsen (CA), Allen Ruppertsberg (NY), Mickey Smith (NY), Blane De St. Croix (NY), Xiaoze Xie (CA).

*Library Science* seeks to encourage librarians to forge relationships with artists and support the creation and presentation of new artwork by providing assistance with research and access to information. In conjunction with the exhibition at Artspace, Connecticut artists were invited to

submit proposals for research residencies towards creating site and situation-specific projects at local libraries. Selected artists are: Colin Burke (The Whitney Library of the New Haven Museum), Heather Lawless (The New Haven Free Public Library), Andy Deck & Carol Padberg (Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University), and Tyler Starr (Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library at Yale). In addition, an exhibition at The Institute Library, timed to open with Library Science, will feature a series of new library-based portraits made by Meredith Miller and Rob Rocke. All participating institutions are in walking distance from the gallery.

In addition, a statewide film festival of movies in which the library plays a starring role will be presented in partnership with the Connecticut Library Consortium. The project will also reach out beyond New Haven to library patrons throughout Connecticut via an online exhibition catalogue. *Library Science* is generously supported with funding from The Andy Warhol Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the David T. Langrock Foundation, and a Strategic Initiative Grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

The online catalog will feature essays by the curator, and by Jennifer Tobias, Reader Services Librarian at Museum of Modern Art and Andrew Beccone, founder and director of the Reanimation Library, as well as images, artist information and the most up-to-date list of films and the libraries where they can be seen. It will launch November 7, 2011 at [www.libraryscienceexhibition.org](http://www.libraryscienceexhibition.org)

Artspace is New Haven's largest independent visual arts venue, showcasing a mix of local and national artists in a downtown corner storefront in the historic Ninth Square district. Our mission is to catalyze artistic efforts; to connect artists, audiences and resources; and to redefine art spaces.

End



Image credits: (left) Madeline Djerejian, Untitled (Bibliophile), 1996 (middle) Erica Baum, Untitled (Suburban Homes), 1997 (Right) Candida Höfer, Biblioteca Geral da Universidade de Coimbra IV, 2006