

OPEN MIND ART SPACE

11631 Santa Monica Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA 90025
424.273.5088 | info@openmindartspace.com | www.openmindartspace.com

GALLERY GRAND OPENING: **OPEN MIND ART SPACE**
February 27, 2016

GROUP EXHIBITION: **Erik Benjamins *Free Smells* & Kristen Dikio *Public Cards***
February 27 through March 26, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION: **Saturday, February 27th, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

(LOS ANGELES, CA) - February 27, 2016 marks the grand opening of **Open Mind Art Space**, a new art gallery and exhibition space that brings fresh contemporary art to West Los Angeles from a diverse blend of talented emerging artists. For its inaugural exhibition, Open Mind Art Space will feature works by two Los Angeles-based artists, Erik Benjamins and Kristen Dikio. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, February 27th from 6-9 pm, and the exhibition will be on view through March 26th.

The exhibition is organized around the concept of impermanence. The change and unpredictability that we encounter throughout our lives can be powerful and positive platforms for self awareness and communication. For ***Free Smells***, Benjamins will showcase a selection of photographic, sculptural and sound work completed over the last four years in addition to a newly created neon sculpture, and for ***Public Cards***, Dikio will exhibit a new, interactive installation that will invite participation from viewers.

Erik Benjamins' practice adopts material and content from across the visual, performing and culinary art communities to explore our relationship between the home and away place that is often tumultuous and unpredictable. He is inspired by and engages with individuals from within and well beyond the art community. Recent collaborators have included a classically trained perfumer, a husband and wife pair of singers, the mayor of Santa Fe, and a few nationally respected chefs. He received his MFA in Studio Art from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston/Tufts University and his BA in Communication Studies and Studio Arts from Loyola Marymount University, here in Los Angeles. <http://erikbenjamins.com>

Kristen Dikio creates experiences through constructed objects, performances, and installations that are accessible to an inclusive audience. Through engagement, the viewer is unified with the exclusive, rarefied gallery space. She explores themes regarding collaboration, public and personal space, and finding inherent beauty in seemingly insignificant moments. Her process challenges passive viewing by inviting the audience to exert its curiosity, oftentimes contributing to the outcome of the work. The viewer becomes an indispensable and productive element in the creative process, establishing a give-and-take dynamic that yields infinite outcomes unique to each participant. She received her MA in Sculpture from California State University, Northridge and her BA in Studio Arts from Loyola Marymount University. <http://www.kristendikio.com>

Open Mind Art Space seeks to facilitate a curatorial process that allows its artists to create impactful work. The mission of Open Mind Art Space is to inspire and challenge the local Los Angeles community by providing a comfortable, engaging space for reflection and dialogue. The newly renovated 724 square-foot space is also available for short-term rent for private events, creative workshops, or pop-up retail. <http://www.openmindartspace.com>