



JONATHAN SCHIPPER: *CUBICLE*

OPENING CELEBRATION

Thursday, October 6th, 2016, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Gallery Talk by Jonathan Schipper at 6:00 PM

GALLERY TALK AND LUNCHEON

Friday, 7 October at Noon
Gallery talk by Jonathan Schipper

On view through 4 December 2016

HOUSTON, Texas, (August 23, 2016) — Jonathan Schipper, known for his time-based, kinetic installations, will create *Cubicle*, a new installation for Rice Gallery. Schipper's works reveal the flow of time as imperceptible until, as in life, we see the physical evidence of its passing. In his *Slow Inevitable Death of American Muscle*, 2008, two full-size automobiles crush into one another to simulate the force of a 30 mph head-on collision slowed down to unfold over several days. For *Cubicle*, Schipper will construct an office setting that will undergo subtle, yet inescapable changes over two months. The opening celebration will take place on Thursday, October 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and will feature remarks by Jonathan Schipper at 6:00 pm. Complimentary snacks and beverages including ale courtesy of Saint Arnold Brewery will be served. The event is free and open to the public. Paid parking (credit card only) is available directly in front of the gallery on the Fondren Visitors' Lot and near the Rice Stadium. For more information see the VISIT page at ricegallery.org or call 713.348.6069.

Schipper notes the role of physics in his work, saying, "The most static object is still in motion at a molecular level and the world is always changing. Even if the object was this perfect thing that stayed the same, we as a society change how we view it. My installations are about destruction and creation, and they generally have no static point. It is the process of changing them that is the point." *Cubicle* will be Schipper's newest work in his ongoing *Slow Room* series. For his installation, *Slow Room*, 2014 in *State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now* at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Schipper drew upon the museum convention of the period room, where from behind a barrier visitors see a staged room offering what seems to be a glimpse into the past. Schipper scoured thrift stores and secondhand shops to create a cozy-looking, old-fashioned American living room with striped wallpaper, yellow floral print couch and matching chairs, coffee table, knick-knacks, and even a small piano. Each

Above: *Slow Inevitable Death of American Muscle*, 2008

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Rice Gallery

object was connected to a string threaded through a tiny hole in the room's rear wall. Behind the wall, a mechanical winch Schipper had modified pulled everything into the hole. Repeat visitors over the four-month course of the exhibition could track the plodding collapse of the once staid-looking room into a chaotic clump of debris.

Attracted to the creative power of destruction as well as cultural obsolescence, Schipper chose a cubicle-filled office space for his Rice Gallery installation as a symbol of a not-too-distant past. What began as a utopian promise of increased workplace comfort and privacy for employees has now fallen out of fashion with the reemergence of the open-plan office. With its utopian veneer stripped away, the basic office cubicle may conjure despair and entrapment. In *Cubicle*, Schipper will take this loaded symbol and subject it to his signature method of ongoing mechanical stress.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jonathan Schipper was born in Chico, California in 1973. He received a BFA in sculpture from San Francisco Art Institute in 1996, an MFA from Rinehart School of Sculpture at Maryland Institute College of Art in 1998, and was awarded a fellowship from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine in 2001. Schipper has exhibited throughout the United States and Europe, including the Swiss Institute, New York, New York; Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, Texas; and Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland. He lives and works in New York and is represented by Pierogi, New York.

HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES AVAILABLE

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SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

Rice Gallery exhibitions and programs receive major support from the Rice University Art Gallery Patrons. Additional support comes from Rice Gallery Members; the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the Robert J. Card, M.D. and Karol Kreymer Catalogue Endowment; and the Leslie and Brad Bucher Artist Residency Endowment. The Gallery receives partial operating support from the City of Houston; KUHF-FM and Saint Arnold Brewing Company provide in-kind contributions.



Slow Room, 2011

GALLERY TALK AND LUNCHEON

A gallery talk will take place at noon on Friday, October 7 followed by a light lunch for all who attend. Both are free and open to the public and no reservations are necessary.

HOURS

Rice Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Thursday until 7:00 PM, and Sunday, noon to 5:00 PM.

CLOSED THANKSGIVING WEEK: Rice Gallery will be CLOSED November 21-28.

GALLERY ADMISSION IS FREE.

LOCATION AND PARKING

Rice Gallery is on the ground floor of Sewall Hall and is reached using Campus Entrance 1 located at the intersection of Main Street and Sunset Boulevard. Paid parking (credit card only) is available in the Founder's Court Visitor Lot directly in front of Sewall Hall.

For other parking options visit: rice.edu/parking

By METRORail: Hermann Park/Rice University Station.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Wheelchair access is on the south (left) side of the building. Rice Gallery is fully accessible.