Exquisite Porch
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Morean Arts Center
March 12 – May 1, 2016
Exquisite Porch
Amanda Cooper and D. Dominick Lombardi, Curators
Morean Arts Center
St Petersburg, FL

Exquisite Porch is a multi media, multi-artist installation of eight collaborative art works ranging in size from three to 34 feet. The model for the exhibition is the Surrealist parlour game Exquisite Corpse, which is believed to have started some time around 1925. For those who are not aware, Exquisite Corpse is most often played with either three or four participants. The idea is to fold a piece of paper in equal parts so each person has a section. The first person draws either the top or bottom making sure that some of the lines in their drawing slightly overlap the next section. Then the paper is passed to the next person who can only see the few lines that overlap their section and not what the first person has previously drawn. Then, after the second person draws they do the same to the next section, hiding their part and so on.

Our exhibition varies greatly for two reasons. The first difference is that each artist is given strict parameters as to where their drawing begins and ends on the paper. For instance, one artist will be given what is described as a middle section of a seventeen part 34 foot long drawing. Their paper size is 24 x 24 inches and the connecting points that join their drawing to the drawings to the right and left of their work must be 12 inches apart. The exact location of these connecting points along the two sides of the paper is up to the artist to decide but they should be 12 inches apart.

The second most distinctly different aspect to the Exquisite Porch exhibition is the fact that the works are not all on one piece of paper. This allows each artist optimal freedom of time and media working in their own studio as well as the freedom to use any type of paper or surface they want or prefer. In fact, some have used canvas, others fabrics, and still others have used torn or handmade paper as well as wood veneer. As long as the works can be connected end to end and pinned to the wall the choice is totally up to the artist.
As a result, the overall look of the longer installations of drawings is more suggestive of James Rosenquist’s Pop Art masterpiece *F-111* (1964), or more specifically the concept of composing *F-111* than it is an *Exquisite Corpse* drawing, while the smaller grouping of works in this exhibition will tend to look more like the original Surrealist works of art.

My co-curator, Amanda Cooper, selected artists from central Florida while I chided in with artists largely from the New York area with a few exceptions. For those who would allow it, each work of art in the exhibition and this catalog will be accompanied with date and place of birth of each artist instead of your usual title, media and size. This was done in order to help bring a more socio-cultural aspect to the exhibition so that each artist's own unique journey can be remembered. After all, Central Florida and the New York City area are culturally rich and should be celebrated for that fact.
34 Foot Long Collaboration
17 artists

All Exquisite Porch photos courtesy of Dale Leifeste
Ed Tadiello  
B. 1950, Englewood, NJ

Sabrina Small  
B. 1968, Philadelphia, PA

Edgar Sanchez Cumberas  
B. 1971, Santurce, Puerto Rico

Lawrence Flood  
B. 1957, Bronx, NY

Rheannon Cheri  
B. 1990, Bakersfield, CA
Michalyn Monson  
B. 1981, Ridgewood, NJ

Patricia Collins  
B. 1956, Medford, MA

Brandon Geurts  
B. 1991, Dayton, OH

Christina Varga  
B. 1971, Milwaukee, WI
24 Foot Long Collaboration
12 artists
Calan Ree
B. 1970, Long Island, NY

Hu Renyi
B. 1977, Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, China

Chris Chambers
B. 1960, New York, NY

Cynthia Mason
B. 1975, Groton, CT
3 Foot Long Collaboration
3 artists
Anne LaPrade Seuthe  
B. 1959, Worcester, MA

Marcia Neblett  
B. 1970, New York, NY

Norm Magnusson  
B. 1960, Waukegan, Illinois
15.5 Foot Long Collaboration
10 artists
10.5 Foot Long Collaboration
7 artists
Mary Ting  
B. 1961, New York, NY

Walter Matthews  
B. 1986, Tampa, FL

Neverne Covington  
B. New York, NY

Kjeld Tidemand  
B. 1948, Oslo, Norway
8 Foot Long Collaboration
8 artists
Betsy Orbe Lester  
B. Erie, PA

Gigi Lage  
B. 1987, Miami, FL

Steven Purtee  
B. 1948, Logansport, IN

Zane York  
B. 1978, Fremont, NE
20 Foot Long Collaboration
10 artists
7 Foot Long Collaboration
7 artists
Kevin Connolly Gillespie  
B. 1975, Johannesburg,  
South Africa

Justin Nelson  
B. 1985, Astoria, OR

Babs Reingold  
B. Caracas, Venezuela

Leslie Giuliani  
B. 1957, Philadelphia, PA