



Jan Tichy, *Changing Chicago (26th Street)*, 2011, video, 8 mins., courtesy the artist and Richard Gray Gallery

Join the conversation about *After Today* by calling our 24/7 response line. To participate call 312-600-7624 and answer one of the questions below. Your responses will be recorded and posted in the *After Today* exhibition and online at aftertodaychicago.tumblr.com.

1. Share your response to an artwork in this exhibition.
2. Tell us about a change that you've seen in the city.
3. After today, what is one change you would you like to see in Chicago?

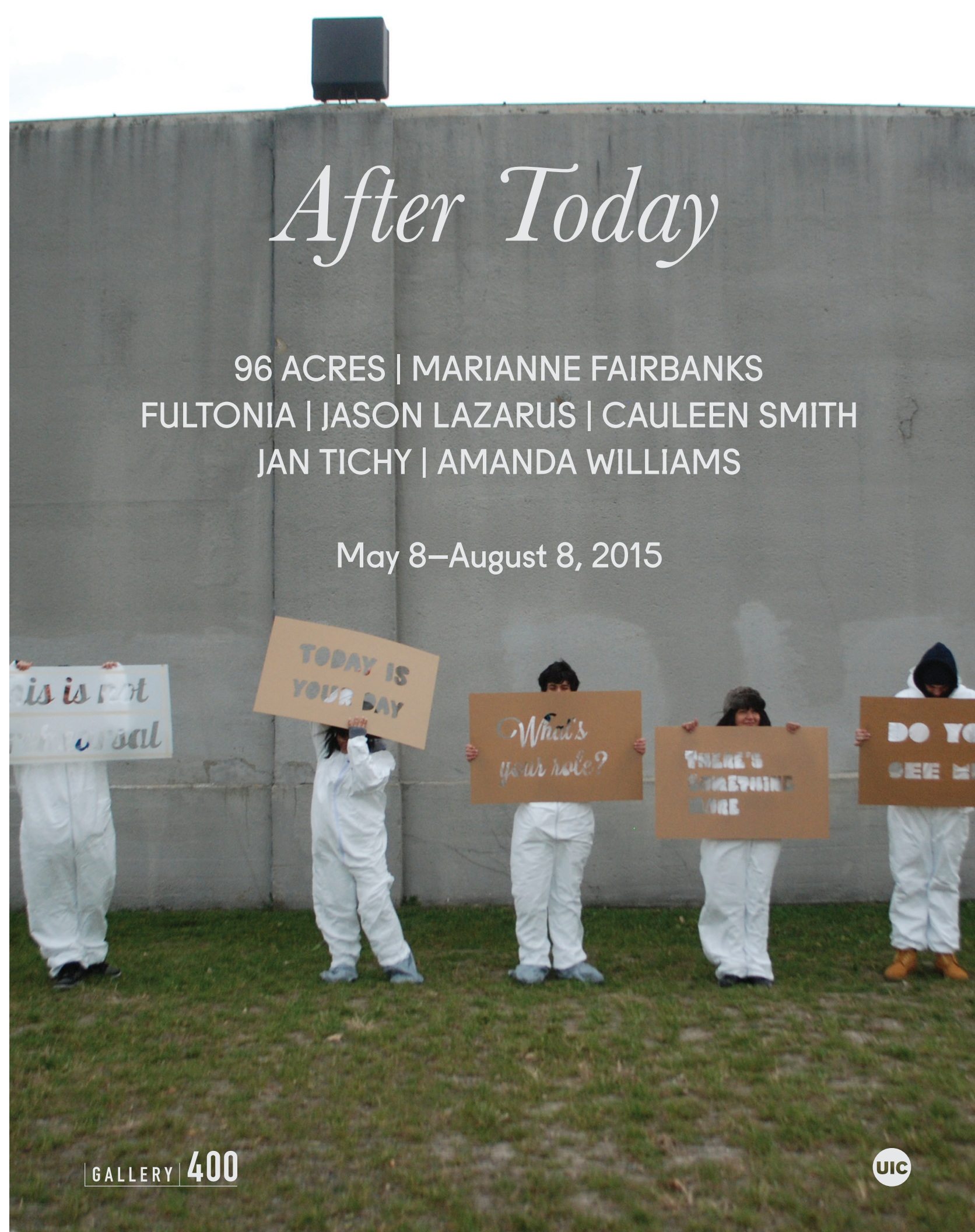
After Today is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Additional support is provided by the School of Art and Art History, the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, University of Illinois at Chicago, and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. The Daryl Gerber Stokols and Jeff Stokols Voices Series Fund provides general support to Gallery 400.



Gallery 400
College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts
School of Art and Art History
University of Illinois at Chicago
400 South Peoria Street
Chicago, IL 60647

Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 12-6pm

312-996-6114
gallery400.uic.edu



After Today

96 ACRES | MARIANNE FAIRBANKS
FULTONIA | JASON LAZARUS | CAULEEN SMITH
JAN TICHY | AMANDA WILLIAMS

May 8–August 8, 2015

Chance [The Rapper] is connected aesthetically and spiritually to Gwendolyn Brooks, Lorraine Hansberry, Studs Terkel and Kanye West, when he rhymes on “Nostalgia” from his mix-tape *10DAY*:

Round here we lose best friends like every week / I like to think we playin’ a long game of hide and go seek / And one day maybe ... I could lead them / Kids of the Kingdom singing about freedom ...

As Chicago goes, so goes the country. And we are here fighting for freedom, for all, for every person from every zip code. We are fighting for the soul of the city, the soul of the country. We are building again, indeed, a second city, as we derive our nickname from the ability to rise after the ashes and great fire of 1871. Chicagoans have the ability to rise like a phoenix. This is a testament to the resiliency of hard working people everywhere.
—Kevin Coval¹

The seven artists’ projects in *After Today* respond to the city of Chicago’s social, political, and economic conditions. At this moment of rapid change and political debate—with increasing income inequality, in the long wake of the 2008 recession, as neighborhoods across the city continue to transform, with new energies in labor movements, as the tech sector expands in Chicago, with the transformations of Chicago’s public sector, as wider attention is paid to police violence, and given the long story of race in the city—the artists address the city’s changes and its possible future. The seven artists, all Chicago-based, use a variety of organizational and material strategies and focus on topics that range across economic effects, collective action, and how the past and present condition desires for the future.

1. Kevin Coval, “Rahm Emanuel’s Chicago, a tale of two cities,” *cnn.com*, April 3, 2014.

From sculptures incorporating fabrics dyed with the plants surrounding foreclosed homes to audio stories of families affected by the Cook County Jail to a sculpture and photographic portraiture project that is designed as a tool to achieve collective goals, the artists’ works mark a specific time in the city, a time informed by both the past and future. From where we are now standing—and looking—these seem to be the fateful and decisive moments defining Chicago and how we can live together here.

After Today is part of an ongoing series of exhibitions and events, *Standard of Living*, which explores shifts in economies and work, as well as other topics relevant to Chicago’s broad communities.

After Today was developed out of suggestions provided by activists, Chicago residents, and UIC scholars. You can join the conversation about changes in the city by calling our 24/7 response line **312-600-7624**.

On the line, please:

Share your response to a work of art in this exhibition.

Tell us about a change that you’ve seen in the city.

After today, what is one change you would you like to see in Chicago?

Responses are presented online at aftertodaychicago.tumblr.com and in the Gallery’s reading room.

Founded in 2012, 96 ACRES began as a community’s critical response to the social and political impact of the largest architecture in the Little Village community, the Cook County Jail. Together with artists, activists, educators, and other community leaders, 96 Acres initiated a series of community-engaged, site-responsive art projects that involved community stakeholders’ ideas about social and restorative justice issues. 96 Acres uses multi-disciplinary practices to explore the social and political implications of incarceration on communities of color and low-income neighborhoods.

MARIANNE FAIRBANKS is an artist, designer, and curator whose work explores collaboration, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and participation. She was a founding member of Mess Hall, an experimental cultural space in Chicago, and co-founder of Noon Solar, a small business that made handbags with integrated flexible solar panels to charge personal electronics.

FULTONIA is an interdisciplinary and iterative project led by Eboni Senai Hawkins with contributions from a host of collaborators. Utilizing multiple modes of production, FULTONIA pushes forth a vision for the legacy of renowned naturopath Dr. Alvenia Fulton. FULTONIA past and present collaborators include: Michael “Tekhen” Strode, Sam Scipio, Aaron Swanton, Erin Borreson, Sojourner Wright, Discopoet Khari B., Seneca Kern, Yamani Hernandez, and Black Girl in Om. *FULTONIA: Mycelia* is anchored by Sojourner Wright, Anna Martine Whitehead, and Eboni Senai Hawkins.

JASON LAZARUS is an artist, curator, writer, educator and currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at SAIC. Much of his recent work is project-based and collaborative. He is a Co-Founder and Co-Editor of Chicago Artist Writers, an online art criticism platform that asks artists and art workers to write traditional and experimental criticism that serves non-profit, temporary, and alternative arts programming in Chicago.

CAULEEN SMITH is an interdisciplinary artist whose work reflects upon the everyday possibilities of the imagination. Though operating in multiple materials and arenas, Smith roots her work firmly within the discourse of mid-twentieth century experimental film. Drawing from structuralism, third world cinema, and science fiction, Smith makes things that deploy the tactics of these disciplines while offering a phenomenological experience for spectators and participants.

JAN TICHY is an artist and educator working at the intersection of video, sculpture, architecture, sound, and photography. Using video projection as a time-based source of light, Tichy creates physical and psychic spaces in which he explores themes of concealment, obscurity, and the seen and unseen. Additionally he has worked with permanent museum collections, such as those of the Museum of Contemporary Photography and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, to produce exhibitions that consider the elusive nature of a collection as a whole by allowing us to freely make connections between individual objects.

AMANDA WILLIAMS is an artist and architect whose work explores themes of personal freedom, value, and identity. She studied architecture and practiced it in the Bay Area for a number of years before turning her full attention to the visual arts. Color is a central preoccupation in her work; her evolving palette derives largely from the urban landscapes she traversed as a child in the South Side of Chicago. Her most recent work focuses on deep explorations of the link between race, color, and space.