



SOMARTS
cultural center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SOMArts Cultural Center presents
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE SERIES:
NEW FRONTIERS AND SEISMIC UPHEAVALS
IN CURATORIAL PRACTICE**

*Moderated discussion examines new curatorial initiatives addressing
cultural shifts, Monday, Dec. 5, 6:30pm*

San Francisco, CA, November 29, 2011—SOMArts Cultural Center invites curators and artists to discuss the changing role of curators at the *Community Leadership Roundtable Series: New Frontiers and Seismic Upheavals in Curatorial Practice* on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:00pm. The conversation, moderated by SOMArts Executive Director Lex Leifheit, will begin with a short introduction to the guest speakers, followed by a 45-minute moderated discussion. At 8:00pm the dialogue will shift to include the audience in the discussion. The talk will be preceded by a networking reception from 6:30pm to 7:00pm with a cash bar and light snacks; admission is free.

Leifheit commented, “Over the past year several institutions in the Bay Area have highlighted the growing responsibility that falls on curators when organizations, artists and communities face a crisis of supply and demand. The Roundtable Series looks at three specific organizations—SOMArts Cultural Center, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, and Wesleyan University—and how individuals in dramatically different organizations are leading new curatorial initiatives that address this cultural shift.”

Possible discussion topics include: How does curation make innovation possible? How can “under the radar” art makers tap into curatorial platforms to gain visibility and resources? How have cultural shifts affected curatorial practice? How should curator/artists prioritize curatorial responsibilities? What role does technology play?

Guest speakers for the Community Leadership Roundtable Series include Lydia Bell of The Institute for Curatorial Practice In Performance at Wesleyan University (ICPP), Justin Hoover of SOMArts Cultural Center, and Owen Levin of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.

About Lydia Bell

Bell is a writer, editor and curator based in Brooklyn, New York. She is a Curatorial Fellow at Danspace Project and a student in the inaugural class



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of the ICPP, which brings together artists, curators, scholars, presenters and cultural leaders to encourage innovative and relevant curatorial approaches to presenting time-based art.

The ICPP offers a Professional Certificate Program, an intensive, nine-month, low-residency academic program with instructors from Wesleyan, MoMA, Danspace Project, and the Walker Art Center. For more information about the program and how to apply, please visit www.wesleyan.edu/icpp.

About Justin Hoover

Hoover is a Bay Area-born artist and curator with expertise in developing collaborative and experimental community-based curatorial projects including event-based performance happenings, site-specific installations and temporal exhibition strategies.

In addition to his personal artistic practice, he is Curator & Gallery Director for SOMArts. He received his Master of Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, his Master of Fine Art in New Genres from the San Francisco Art Institute.

He came to curatorial practice through merging his time-based art practice with his administrative and organizational skills. For five years he directed the Garage Biennale, an alternative space that focused on monthly one-night-only exhibitions in his family's garage in Pacific Heights. He has shown his art and curatorial work nationally and internationally in China, Belgium, England, and the U.S.

About Owen Levin

Levin has broad experience in the film business, with stints in acquisitions, international sales, marketing, publicity, distribution and production for companies including Miramax Films and The Shooting Gallery. Most recently, Owen worked as COO and Line Producer for Stick Figure Productions, a documentary film and television company in New York.

He is delighted to be helping connect quality films and engaged audiences through the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival as Interim Executive Director. Owen has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vassar College and is a Masters candidate in Arts Administration at Columbia University.

CALENDAR LISTING

What: Community Leadership Roundtable Series: New Frontiers and Seismic Upheavals in Curatorial Practice

When: Monday, December 5, 6:30pm–8:30pm

Where: 934 Brannan St. (between 8th & 9th)

How Much: Free admission

More information: <http://www.somarts.org/newfrontiers/>



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ABOUT SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTER

SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) was founded in 1979 and operates the South of Market Cultural Center, one of four city-owned cultural facilities in San Francisco.

SOMArts supports exhibitions, performances, classes and other collaborations that serve its mission: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

For more information about upcoming events, space rentals and technical services, visit www.somarts.org or call 415-863-1414. SOMArts programs are supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Community Arts and Education Program, with funding from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and The San Francisco Foundation.

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