



February 8, 2012

## ***Couched Constructions* will move viewers beyond their comfy seats**

### Herron School of Art and Design and the JCC offer joint programming hinged on sustainability

Sometimes a couch is just a piece of furniture and sometimes, through the eyes of a visionary, a couch becomes a source of alternative building materials, a commentary on our prodigious solid waste stream and a view into the lives of the most economically disadvantaged citizens of our city.

*Couched Constructions*, a new exhibit opening at Herron School of Art and Design's Eskenazi Hall on March 2, will challenge the viewer's concept of the couch's purpose. The free public reception begins at 5:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. outside the Berkshire, Reese and Paul Galleries in Herron's Grand Hall. The exhibition continues through April 19.

*Couched Constructions: Part 2* opens March 6 and runs through May 4 at the JCC. The public is invited to a reception on Wednesday, March 21, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for complimentary refreshments and the opportunity to meet the artists in the JCC Art Gallery. The Arthur M. Glick Jewish Community Center is located at 6701 Hoover Rd. on the north side of Indianapolis.

The works in both shows are being created out of couches retrieved from the curbsides of Indianapolis. They are meant to be explored by visitors who may reconsider their relationships to conventional items and, in a broader sense, to the ephemera of our lives. The exhibits implore us to rethink the purposefulness of standard objects and to find ways to reuse them.

Wes Janz, professor of architecture at Ball State University and the exhibition's curator, included a number of architects by training among the artists in both shows.

Herron Gallery Director Paula Katz said she was "blown away" by Janz's exhibition *Big/Small* at the Swope Museum in Terre Haute. "The depth of exploration achieved in sustainability issues was tremendous," she said. "I knew this was the type of learning I wanted to bring to Indianapolis."

#### **Full slate of companion events**

Interest in the sustainability issues examined by the *Couched Constructions* exhibits has triggered a full slate of companion events at Herron and the JCC:

#### **Opening day events at Herron School of Art and Design**

Workshops and a panel discussion around themes of the exhibition, such as structures built from found materials, will take place at Herron on March 2:

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Image courtesy of Herron staff

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Herron Galleries are free and open to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

#### Parking Information

Guests of Herron School of Art and Design should park in the Sports Complex Garage, just west of Herron. Park in the visitor side of the garage and bring your garage ticket to the Herron Galleries for parking validation, courtesy of The Great Frame Up.

Parking in the surface lot requires an IUPUI parking permit.

#### **Found Objects Workshop** led by

**Ana de Brea**, Ball State University

**Shaun Krenzke**, Graduate Architect, Crown Point

**Donna Sink**, Architect/Educator, Indianapolis

**Andrea Swartz**, Ball State University

**Parker Williams**, Graduate Architect, Indianapolis

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **Lunch with participants**

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

#### **Conversation** with *Couched Constructions* exhibitors.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public, but reservations are kindly requested for the opening day workshops. For more information or to R.S.V.P., please contact Herron Gallery Director Paula Katz at [katzp@iupui.edu](mailto:katzp@iupui.edu) or at 317-278-9419.

#### **Related Events at the JCC**

*Couched Constructions: Part 2* is the kick-off of a three-event series called *Repurposing the Stuff of our Life*, all happening at the JCC in the month of March. The programming was developed collaboratively between the JCC, IndyTalks, Herron School of Art and Design and Heartland Truly Moving Pictures.

#### **Film Screening: *Waste Land***

In collaboration with Heartland Truly Moving Pictures

Monday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

\$5 Public / \$3 JCC members

Tickets available online at [www.JCCindy.org](http://www.JCCindy.org), by phone at 251-9467 or at a membership desk. Tickets available at the door, space permitting.

Lucy Walker's award-winning documentary features the *catadores*, garbage pickers who survive amidst the rubbish of Rio de Janeiro's enormous landfill.

#### **IndyTalks *Our City Under the Radar: Neighborhoods on the Edge***

A moderated panel discussion and community conversation

Wednesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public

There are as many as 10,000 abandoned houses in Indianapolis. Add to that the number of neighborhoods where homeowners live in fear of foreclosure. The decisions our officials make about what to do with these properties will shape the future of Indianapolis.

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The evening will begin with a moderated panel discussion and Q&A with community leaders, and then will move to moderated roundtable discussions so everybody will be able to share their thoughts.

IndyTalks Participants to Date:

**Moderator-**

**Erika Smith** - Indianapolis Star columnist

**Panelists –**

**Olon Dotson** – Associate Professor of Architecture at Ball State University

**Frank Hagaman** – Chairman of the Land Bank of Indianapolis

**Wes Janz** – professor of architecture @ Ball State University

**Table Discussion Leaders –**

**David Andrichik** – Owner of Chatterbox Tavern and community activist

**Michael Hurst** – Program Director of Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention

**Tim Irwin** – Artistic Director of Heartland Truly Moving Pictures

**Paula Katz** – Director and Curator, Herron Galleries, Herron School of Art and Design

**Anne Laker** - Assistant Director of Public Programs, Indianapolis Museum of Art

**Wil Marquez** - Architect, urban designer and owner of “With Purpose”

**Shauta Marsh** - Co-founder of Big Car

**Mary Milz** - Eyewitness News City Beat Reporter, WTHR Channel 13

**Suzanne Rothenberg** – Sr. Neighborhood Liaison for Mayor Ballard

**Jim Walker** – Co-founders of Big Car.org

***Couched Constructions* and *Couched Constructions Part 2***

Exhibition Participants

**Anne Filson** and **Gary Rohrbacher**, University of Kentucky <http://www.filson-rohrbacher.com>

**Rod Fluker**, Tuskegee University <http://www.rodfluker.com/>

**Kurt Gohde** and **Kremena Todorova**, Transylvania University

**Timothy Gray**, Ball State University <http://www.grayarchitecture.com/>

**Charmalee Gunaratne** (Kansas City), **Kate Lengacher** and **Rebecca Staley** (Indianapolis) <http://www.ecoabet.org/>

**Wes Janz** with **Tayler Mikosz** and **Ashley VanMeter** <http://onesmallproject.org/>

**Kevin Lair**, IU-Columbus <http://www.mod-eco.net/> and <http://www.westbrookdesign.com/>

**Paul Puzzello**, **Oksana Tretyak**, and **Wil Marquez**, Indianapolis <http://www.wpurpose.com/>

**Cory Robinson**, Herron School of Art & Design, Indianapolis <http://coryrobinsonstudio.com/home.html>

**Janice Shimizu** and **Josh Coggeshall**, Ball State University <http://cogworkshop.com/>

**Sean Starowitz**, Kansas City <http://thepaintswatch.blogspot.com/>

Herron Gallery Director Paula Katz said “This is such an exciting opportunity for partnerships on so many levels. It is thrilling to have so many participants. A big thank you goes to Jeremy Efroymson and the Efroymson Family Fund, a CICF fund, for their support of and interest in the project.”