

CUE

ART FOUNDATION

Hope Ginsburg
Curated by Regine Basha

March 24th – May 7th, 2011

Opening reception Thursday, March 24th, 6 - 8pm

“The materials [Ginsburg] brings in—felt, sponges, bees, and other organic matter—are often symbolic in their porousness, liquidity, or material properties and are as significant to the work as the gatherings that form around them...Ginsburg’s position as an artist, or ‘maker’ resembles a community organizer and activist with a strong belief in the potency of visual and tactile forms.”

— Regine Basha

Virginia-based artist Hope Ginsburg constructs immersive, participatory environments driven by her interest in the often-concurrent roles of student and teacher, and in modes of collaborative learning. Ginsburg’s installations often assume familiar shapes—a science lab, a flea market, a classroom—however, each project takes on an autonomous life, propelled forward by the on-going contributions of its participants. In a body of work that spans over a decade, Ginsburg has engaged contexts such as corporations, universities, and farms, imagining who she can be within them. Adopting roles such as employee, student, teacher, and researcher, she has made sense of these contexts through direct participation and has generated projects in the form of contributions, oppositions, and propositions. Ginsburg’s *Sponge* project, which began at MIT in 2006, was born of that institution’s culture of pedagogy, experimentation and learning by doing. Her shift in identity between student and teacher as she moved into the role of professor has continued to fuel the *Sponge* project for the past five years.



Spongespace, 2008, Wall painting, wool
Installation view at Solvent Space,
Richmond, VA
Photograph Courtesy of Myeongsoo Kim



Sponge HQ (apiary, library), 2010
Photograph Courtesy of Terry Brown

Ginsburg’s project at CUE Art Foundation incorporates selected aspects of the past five years of *Sponge*—a fluid, ever-expanding series of workshops, labs, and object-making gatherings. The project, sustained by a network of co-artists, collaborators, and visitors, has migrated and evolved since its first iteration, to its more permanent, central headquarters at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. *Sponge*, as Ginsburg describes “has generated experimental approaches to learning and teaching... providing open waters for the conspicuous mixing of disciplines.” The ideas most central to *Sponge*—the taking in of information, the digestion of an experience, the cycle of learning something and then teaching it to another—will reverberate throughout the exhibition, each element extracted from or a document of a *Sponge*-related event. Working across media and disciplines, Ginsburg, and her network of collaborators and participants, explore what it means to teach, to learn, and to know.

(More, over)

For additional information, please contact Ryan Thomas, Programs Coordinator, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org

Free catalogues available.

Exhibition-related Programming:

Feltmaking for Nomads

Where: Trade School at 32 Prince Street

When: Saturday, April 9th, 2:30-5:30pm

Feltmaking for Nomads is a three-hour felt-making workshop in which participants will produce a piece of felt with an inlaid design of their choosing. With their newly acquired skills, participants may go on to make bowls, socks, or a weatherproof house for life on the steppes. The workshop will briefly cover the history, technology, and mythology of wool felt which may or may not have originated on Noah's Ark. Participants will get very clean making felt, and should wear clothes that can withstand soap and hot water. Materials will be provided. Nomadic futures will be conjured.

For more information, please visit tradeschool.ourgoods.org

ARTIST'S BIO:

Hope Ginsburg grew up outside of Philadelphia and received her BFA in Sculpture from the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA. After attending the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, ME, she moved to New York City, where for the next eight years she produced research-based installations and performances. She then moved to Cambridge, MA to study at MIT where she received a Master of Science in Visual Studies. Ginsburg has exhibited her work at venues such as MoMA PS1; The Baltimore Museum of Art; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH; SculptureCenter, New York, NY; Kunst-Werke, Berlin, Germany; Solvent Space, Richmond, VA; Julia Friedman Gallery, New York, NY; and Parlour Projects, New York, NY. Ginsburg served on the advisory board of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies from 2004 – 2006, and has been on the board of Mildred's Lane in Beach Lake, PA since 2008. In the fall of 2007, she moved to Richmond, VA, where she is Assistant Professor in the Art Foundation and Painting & Printmaking departments at VCUarts. Her project *Sponge* (2007 – present) is currently headquartered at the VCUarts Anderson Gallery.

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers who are themselves selected by a rotating advisory council from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

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