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Designer in Residence Launches New Interactive Library at Art in General, September 16–November 13, 2010

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General Public Library

A library/reading room project
Organized by Mylinh Nguyen

September 16–November 13, 2010

Opening reception Thursday, September 16, 6-8 pm

Press preview, Thursday, September 16, 12 pm

Art in General is proud to present *General Public Library*, a library/reading room project organized by Designer in Residence, Mylinh Nguyen.

In conjunction with the launch of six 2009-2010 New Commissions books, designed by Nguyen, the General Public Library aims to build a foundation for the expansion of Art in General's publication program by establishing a small library as a resource for future design, art and curatorial residents as well as the general public. To start the library, Nguyen invited designers, publishers, curators, artists, galleries, and musicians to contribute publications to the project, self-published, mass-produced, or otherwise. These contributions reflect the donor's practice, methodology, inspiration and interest. The General Public Library will be ready for browsing and reading in the Storefront gallery from September 16-November 13, 2010. Visitors are encouraged to donate a favorite book to the library during the exhibition.

Like her previous collaborative project, [A Wikipedia Reader](#) (co-edited with David Horvitz), Nguyen approaches the idea of a library with a unique focus on participation and the formation of community. In contrast to a traditional reading room—which can only be accessed for the duration of the show—the online catalogue of the General Public Library (www.generalpubliclibrary.info) allows each visitor to browse and curate their own library

Photo by Jessica Williams.

within an existing and continually growing catalogue. Each donation, as it is made, will be logged into the library cataloging system. As libraries begin to form and overlap, each publication becomes a link between the book donor and other participants in the library. Inversely, when viewing a book, it is possible to see the interests of other participants.

Throughout the course of the exhibition, as visitors create their own selection of favorite books, the library will filter all donations into a catalog of the top 200 most popular books. These books will be added to the General Public Library permanent collection after the duration of the project.

Contributing participants include Art Metropole, aaaarg.org, Ooga Booga, Phillip, Printed Matter, Nieves, 2nd Cannons Publications, Capricious, Hassla, Golden Age, Medium Rare, Oslo Editions, Gottlund Verlag, Eastside Projects, Bedford Press, Stripe SF, New Jerseyy, Matt Keegan, North Drive Press, Project Projects, split/fountain, STUPENDOUS, The Holster, Bart de Baets, Andreas Banderas, Christian Brandt, Task Newsletter, Robin Cameron, Dante Carlos, ETCAMA, For Further Information, Espen Friberg and Aslak Gurholt Rønsen, GRAPHIC, David Horvitz, Marie Jager, Kingsboro Press, Zak Kyes, Lucky Dragons, Manystuff, Jennilee Marigomen, Miniature Garden, Radim Pesko, Laurel Ptak, Rollo Press, Peter Sutherland, Swill Children, Vance Wellenstein, Jessica Williams and YOU.

The General Public Library website, www.generalpubliclibrary.info, is based on Yours Mine Ours, a shared library designed and developed by Brian Watterson, Hank Huang and Zak Klauck.

www.yoursmineours.net

Events

In conjunction to the library/reading room, Nguyen will present a series of contributor programs that shed light on the relationship between design, discourse and visual art practices. Please visit www.artingeneral.org for more information about these events in September.

About the Organizer

Mylinh Trieu Nguyen is a designer and artist based in New Haven, CT. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in Design|Media Arts in 2007, was selected as a design fellow at the Walker Art Center in 2008 and is currently pursuing her MFA in Graphic Design at the Yale School of Art. Some of her past clients include UCLA, Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), Golden Parachutes (Berlin). Her work has been featured in *Apartmento Magazine* Issue #2 (2008), the Live Archive in *The Generational: Younger Than Jesus* exhibition at the New Museum (2009), the *Ooga Booga Reading Room* at the Swiss Institute (2010), and the *Super/Prime PAVILION* (Los Angeles, 2010).

Her collaboration, ASDF, with artist David Horvitz explores the ideas of distribution, collaboration and curation. Their most recent project, *A Wikipedia Reader*, was commissioned by the Art Libraries Society of New York for the Contemporary Artists Books Conference at Printed Matter's 2009 NY Art Book Fair.

Nguyen is Art in General's first Designer in Residence and the designer for the 2009-2010 series of New Commissions books including *Shana Moulton: The Undiscovered Antique*; *Guy Benfield: Night Store*; *Rancourt/Yatsuk: Phase IV*; *Redmond Entwistle: Monuments*; *Isola and Norzi: Liquid Door*; and *Kambui Olujimi: Wayward North*. These books will be available for purchase on the Art in General website in November 2010.

Support

General Public Library features furniture designed by ROLU (Rosenlof-Lucas), a Minneapolis-based design group. The exhibition also features a limited edition Baggu book tote, designed by MN/VW.

ROLU, rosenlof/lucas, ro/lu BAGGU

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About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in Lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and engages the public with their work. Since it was established, the organization has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists may exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers.

Location: 79 Walker Street, NYC, at the southeast corner of Cortland Alley. One block south of Canal Street, between Lafayette and Broadway.

Subway directions: take the 6, A-C-E, N-Q-R-W, or J-M-Z to Canal Street.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm.

Admission: Always free.

Art in General's 6th Floor Gallery and restrooms are wheelchair accessible, and we can provide assistance to visitors with disabilities as requested.