

# TAKING MEASURES

LEAH BAILIS | ANNA NEIGHBOR | CHAD STATES

## *Taking Measures*

Leah Bailis, Anna Neighbor & Chad States

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Exhibition Dates:* April 11 – May 10, 2009  
*Opening Reception:* April 11, 2009, 7 – 10 pm  
*Artist Discussion:* May 5, 2009, 7 pm  
moderated by Stamatina Gregory  
Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow, ICA  
*Gallery Hours:* Saturdays 12 – 4 pm or by appointment

FLUXspace is pleased to present *Taking Measures*, a group exhibition featuring work by **Leah Bailis, Anna Neighbor, and Chad States** from **April 11 – May 10, 2009**. There will be an opening reception for the exhibition on **April 11, 2009** from **7 – 10 pm**. FLUXspace will also host a discussion with the artists, moderated by Stamatina Gregory, currently the Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow at the Institute for Contemporary Art, on **Tuesday, May 5, 2009** at **7 pm**.

The core of *Taking Measures* resides in the notion of a psychological mediation: mediation between prescribed purpose and desirous overflow. In each of the three artists' works, this negotiation is physically manifested, with some works suggestive of the realms of possibility, re-definition, and rebellion, while other pieces draw more heavily from ideas of confinement, pre-determination, and control.

**Anna Neighbor's** photographic series depict spaces that are public enough that anyone can access, but secluded enough that they must be sought out. This desire and resulting purpose for seeking out such a private place in a public setting suggests a certain psychological urgency, causing the areas photographed to vacillate between the public and private domains, the innocuous and the quietly rebellious, restriction and wildness.

**Chad States'** text pieces are suggestions, which operate as invitations to a game for which the rules and purpose are unclear. But the invitation itself, and the sense that one is now in possession of a secret, is seductive. The directions are reminiscent of instructions to buried treasure, reclusive teenage hangouts, or gay cruising sites. They facilitate a psychological journey or rite of passage that begins with the text and ends with the viewer.

**Leah Bailis'** sculptures meticulously re-create mass-produced structures with fragile, temporal materials such as cardboard and Styrofoam. The illusion of the materials acts as a protective skin between the public and private realm, while the fastidiousness of its construction suggests a psychological state gone painstakingly awry, wavering between control and chaos. The structures consequently feel simultaneously incomplete and finished, inviting and isolating, tender and cold. As the viewer second guesses both the origin and purpose of the structures, the push and pull of confinement, possibility, and presentation collapse into one another.

Ultimately, the work in *Taking Measures* raises questions regarding the process of re-presenting and re-writing the self, and how the boundaries between public and private necessarily and subsequently shift in the process.

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FLUXspace is a Philadelphia based 501(c)3 contemporary arts space which provides artists, curators, and instigators the opportunity for unrestricted and uncensored experimentation, professional presentation, and critical dialogue for the purpose of exploring and creating new art practices and media. FLUX consists of an exhibition space, an artist residency program, as well as public programming including artist lectures, panel discussions, workshops, movie nights and performances.