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Do it at Utah Museum of Contemporary Art

Shelley Carpenter



do it began as a conversation between artists Christian Boltanski and Bertrand Lavier and Curator Hans Ulrich Obrist, who was interested in the idea of an open-ended exhibition format that was flexible enough to transform with each location and enactment. To test the concept, Obrist invited 12 artists to submit instructions which were translated into 9 languages and circulated internationally as a book. With more than 50 stops worldwide, do it has become the largest collection of DIY, instructional works to date, including newly commissioned pieces from artists selected by Obrist and ICI.

do it's presentation is less concerned with notions of reproduction or materiality of the artworks. Rather, this exhibition is about revealing the nuances of human interpretation in its various iterations. Based on written instructions by renowned artists as a point of departure, UMOCA's reenactment of do it is uniquely site-specific to Utah through the engagement with the community and use of resources available locally.

do it is a traveling exhibition conceived and curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, and organized by Independent Curators International (ICI), New York. The exhibition and the publication, do it: the compendium, were made possible, in part by grants from the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, and with the generous support from Project Perpetual and ICI's International Forum and Board of Trustees.