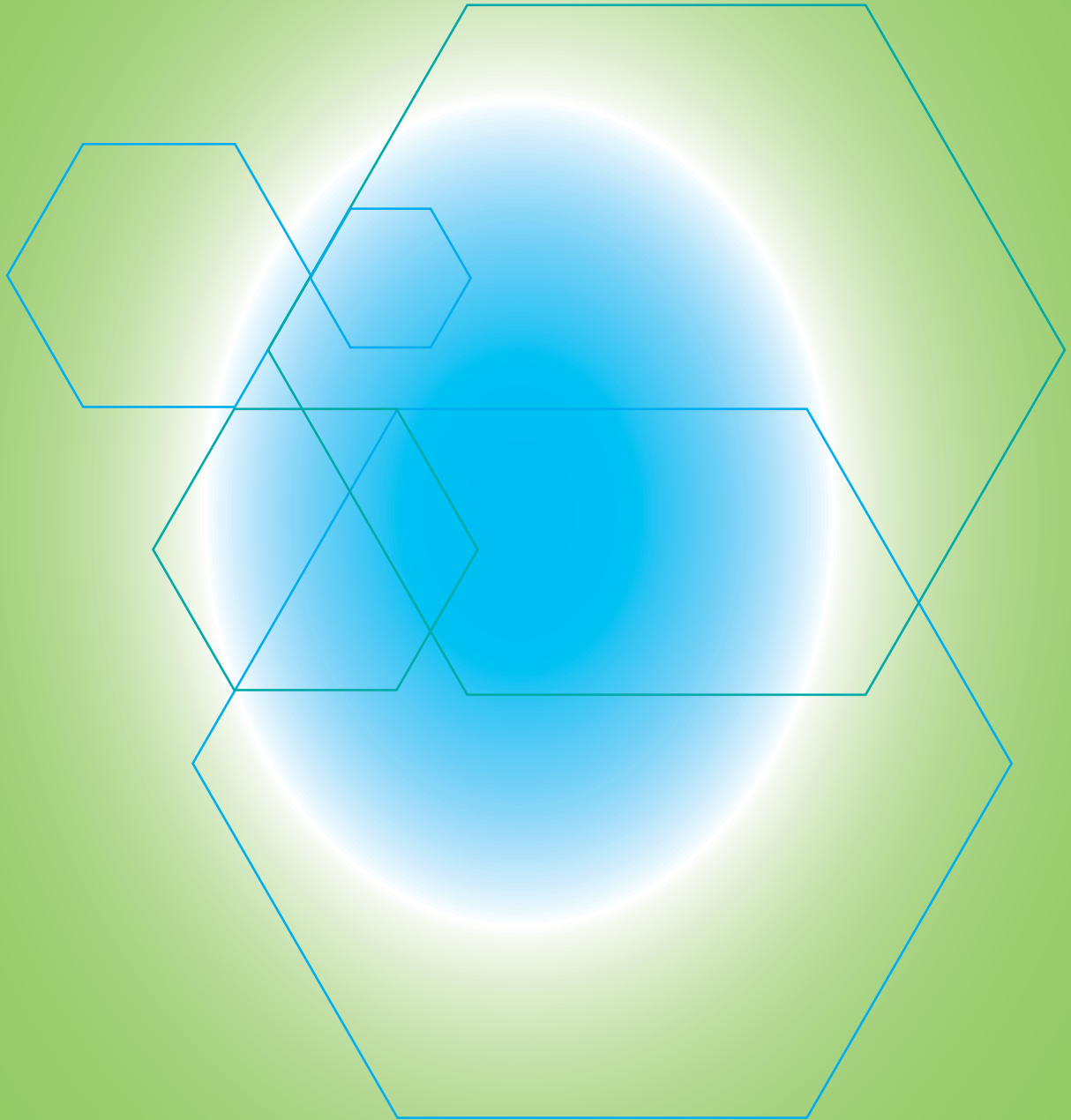


# Our Ocean is a Park

To be fully reused, appropriated, and/or stolen



v.2 Summer 2012

# Introduction



I debated for sometime whether or not to make a catalog for Our Ocean is a Park (OOIAP). It became clear to me that much of what is behind the concept wasn't being properly translated, so the decision became very clear. I have the text in segments to emphasize the core concepts of the second year of the show. Due to rain the show took place on September 22nd 2012. Below is the e-mail that was first sent out.

## The e-mail

Dear Fellow Fine Artist, et al;

I invite you to participate in a somewhat guerrilla Fine Art act/exhibition/happening, Saturday, September 8th in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY US of A. I know this is a bit last minute for some, I hope that does not stop you from participating.

The exact location is the southeast quadrant of Prospect Park, see attached image for more details of where the installations will be.

There is no official permit for this project, nor is it associated with any other organization.

### The Details/rules:

1. Optional meet at the park on Sunday, August 19th 2012 to discuss the locations of each Fine Artwork. This is primarily so we can make a map of where each artist's work will be installed, and also to figure out other logistics. To reiterate, this group meet day is optional we can meet up on other days.



2. Due to no security being enforced and the nature of the setting where work will be shown, participating artists must be OK with their materials and/or art work being stolen, destroyed, or vandalized. Any materials used must be safe for the park and its visitors. Think light weight, mobile work, example: cardboard. Also work that can be installed out of harms way, example: in a tree.

3. All physical materials left need to be reused by a different participating Fine Artist in a future Fine Art work, not related to this exhibition. Exact details of this to be discussed later.

4. Installation happens on Friday, September 7. All work must be de-installed by Sunday, September 9.

5. Please do not post this on the internet or make paper fliers, only email and direct word-of-mouth to others to promote, or extend participation. An official e-mail will be sent, once all Fine Artist participants have been accounted for.



Rain date for exhibition is Saturday, September 22.

Meet up for logistics and planning is Sunday August 19th, 2012 at 2 pm at the intersection of Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. If people are interested in having brunch before heading to the park, let me know.

As stated above, please feel free to forward this to any Fine Artist who you think may want to participate. Please e-mail back if you have any questions. Please e-mail back at your soonest possible convenience to be accounted for as a participant in the project.

I hope your schedule and interest allow you to participate.

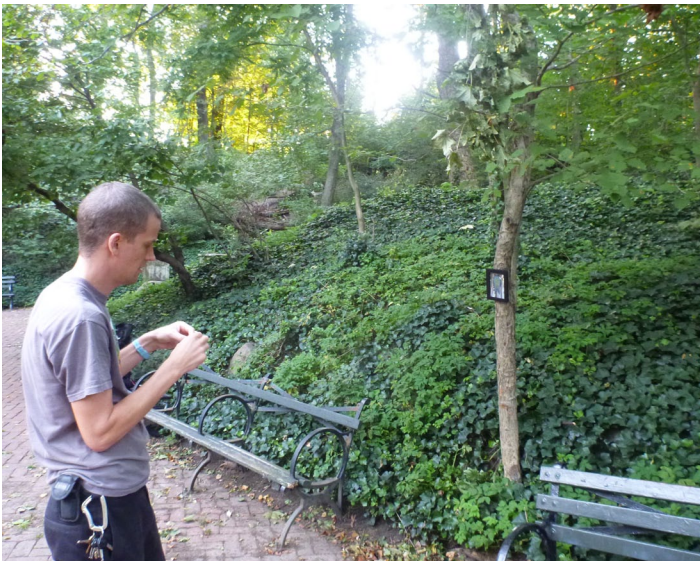
My very highest regards,  
Ben Knight



# Park experience, Art experience, Human Experience.

## The Park

Prospect Park is a great city park, in my opinion the best city park in the world. Not only do an amazingly diverse group of people enjoy the park, it also contains some of the most incredible intimate areas of any park. The Vale of Cashmere is a particular location that welcomes intimacy. "The Vale" has had weddings, film shoots, etc... It welcomes creative activity.



## Discovery

The park allows for unique findings. The first time this happening/show came into thought was over time spent in a remote part of the park. The show is also all about discovery in that the visitors come to the park thinking they are having a park experience and discover and reveal creative integrations and interventions. Like John Fekner's Detective show from 1978 (see website) this is a show about detecting.



## Framing by nature

When a Fine Artist installs work in an architectural setting you have certain contextual structures (mental, physical, etc...) that need to be adjusted for. Here the art is at the mercy of the elements, but only for a short time.



## Sustainable

As the Fine Artist, Christopher X J. Jensen (who works mainly as a scientist/professor) has said many times "Changing human behavior is the key to creating a sustainable world." Being sustainable is not about being rooted in the physical. There are many brief shows that do not care about the remains of the materials of the artwork (see Burning Man). This show denies the object as possession. The art shown is something that must be repurposed.

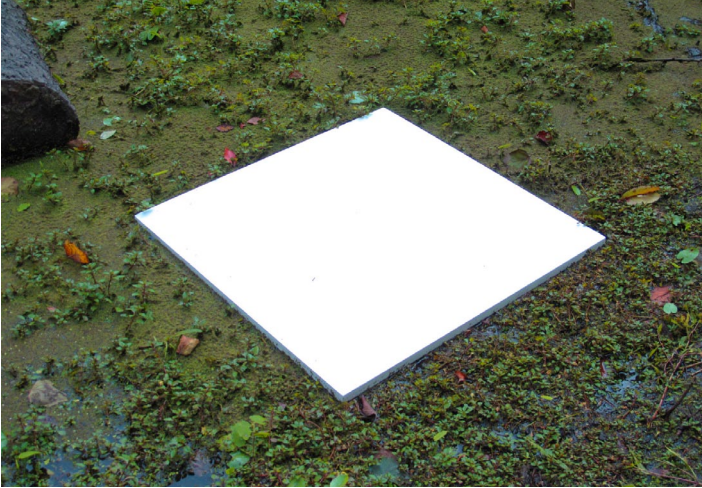
## Modesty

I am interested in how various cultures understand this concept. Since this project is about being secretive, unknowns, and mystery: the possibility of making monumental work or anything that is way beyond human proportions is impossible. To produce less is to give more.





# Brian Higbee and Future Living Projects



Title: **An Object for a Future I'll Never See**

Size: 24"x24"x3/4"

Materials: Wood and Acrylic Latex

Date: 2012

For more information click on the websites below:

[futurelivingprojects.com](http://futurelivingprojects.com)

[brianhigbee.net](http://brianhigbee.net)

Brian Higbee and the Future Living Project's contribution to the show, *An Object for a Future I'll Never See*, came in the form of a SuperStudio-esque object. Much like SuperStudio's 1969, *Continuous Monument* (see website) it questions the limits of an object and how we perceive and conceive it's dimensions. Does the object extend to the center of the Earth? Or possibly to the other side of the Earth? Similar to Piero Manzoni's *Socle Du Monde* (Pedestal for the World) [see website] we are to question the space and context around the object, more than the object itself.





# Christopher X J. Jensen



Title: **meditations on what it means to live a life worth being proud of**

Size: Framed work: Six - 5"x7" collages

Materials: Paint, paper, glue, wood, metal, cardboard, glass, thread

Date: 2012

For more information click on the website below:

[christopherxjjensen.com/my-so-called-portfolio/](http://christopherxjjensen.com/my-so-called-portfolio/)

These six collages are meditations on what it means to live a life worth being proud of. Our time is relatively short and our capacity to enact change is limited, but our actions can express values and intent that give life meaning. A life well lived is worth struggling with and, eventually, letting go of. Our actions are swallowed up by the world, utterly blurred and forgotten, but they push what exists ever so much closer to what we have hoped for.

-Christopher X J. Jensen





# Ben Knight



Title: **Relational Data Based**

Size: variable

Materials: Wood and household paint

Date: 2012

For more information click on the website below:

[benknight.net](http://benknight.net)

The work contextually started from Brian Higbee's last year contribution, "Tip of the Iceberg" (see website) to Our Ocean is a Park. This component was painted and installed upside down for my work. The triangular design is a play on the materials and the circumstance of the site. The title references and questions a type of computer database (see website) and Relation Art/Aesthetics (see website).





# Acknowledgments and colophon

Special thanks to Brian and Chris for participating.

Special love to Rachie and Javi for you letting me be me and giving me extra time to put this together.

Thanks to the Fine Artists who encouraged me and expressed interest in the show, but for various reasons were unable to fully participate: John Fekner, Glen Eden Einbinder, Vandana Jain, Mike Estabrook, Holly Burns, Abigail Isolda, etc...

Extra special thanks to those unknown viewers/experincers who may never see this catalog and know the full extend of all the parameters of the show. YOU made it.

Please think about your possible contribution/art work to the May/June 2013 - version 3 of the show.

Bell Gothic typeface by Chauncey H. Griffith solely used.

All text by Ben Knight unless otherwise noted.

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