

# Dr. Lisa Vinebaum

## *Crafting the Social: Reskilling to Change the World (or at least get us talking)*

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

Stone Auditorium, Woldenberg Art Center, Tulane University



Mandy Cano Villalobos, *Voces (Voices)*, hand embroidered shirts, installation view and detail.

This talk will consider craft's potential to create social bonds, with an emphasis on projects that mobilize textile techniques like sewing, quilting, knitting, beading, and weaving — to bring people together, foster dialog, share skills and information, empower local communities, and demand social change. Today more than ever, contemporary artists are using craft to foster new types of community and social interactions — some more temporary and others, more durational. On the one hand, today's participatory and collaborative turn in fiber and craft, is taking place in an era characterized by the individual, the decline of face-to-face communication, and digitally mediated "social" networks. On the other hand, craft has long operated in a tenuous space between the individual and the collective. By looking at important contemporary and historical developments, the presentation will consider the impacts of industrialization, deskilling, and divisions of labor on textiles and the handicrafts. Arguing that craft can help foster cooperation and strengthen social bonds, the talk will also consider socially engaged projects by artists as a type of reskilling. A selection of past and present case studies will be presented, including historical textile bees, projects by artists Anne Wilson, Nadia Myre, Carole Frances Lung, Aram Han Sifuentes, and Lashawnda Crowe Storm.

**Dr. Lisa Vinebaum** is a Chicago-based critical writer, artist and educator. She is an Assistant Professor in the department of Fiber and Material Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Associate Editor of the journal *Textile: Cloth and Culture* (Routledge). Her investigations explore precarity and the performance of labor under late capitalism; and connections between contemporary fiber, social practices, and social change. Published book chapters and catalog essays include contributions to the *Handbook of Textile Culture* (Bloomsbury), *The Companion to Textiles* (Wiley Blackwell), *Danica Maier: Grafting Propriety From Stitch to Drawn Line* (Blackdog Books), and *Caught in the Act II* (YYZ Books). Lisa Vinebaum holds a PhD from Goldsmiths, University of London (UK).

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