

RENA BRANSTEN

GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOHN PREUS: NEW WORKS

MAY 13 – JUNE 25, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION MAY 13, 6-8PM



Rena Bransten Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Chicago based artist, craftsman, and builder John Preus. Utilizing salvaged materials from recently closed Chicago Public Schools, Preus has constructed functional sculptural works which revel in the histories embedded in their component parts. Whether these histories are implied, or as literal as a student's writing on an old desk, Preus's process of transforming old to new is both cathartic and political. These objects hold our collective memories.

A swing set made of discarded desk chairs hangs in the exhibition space, reminiscent of the whimsies of youth now stilled by the passage of time. A long, fracture shaped bench carves through the middle of the gallery, while wall pieces of reframed and hand altered blue prints from some of the closed schools serve as bookends to their lifespan.

John Preus is an artist, builder, fabricator, amateur writer, musician, and collaborator. He founded Dilettante Studios in 2010, a design/build studio which relies almost exclusively on second-hand materials. He worked with Theaster Gates as the Creative Director of the Rebuild Foundation, and as the lead fabricator in Gates' studio. In 2012, Preus led a crew of builders from Chicago, Sweden, Egypt and Germany to rehab the vacant Huguenot House in Kassel, Germany for Theaster Gates' dOCUMENTA 13 piece, 12 Ballads for Huguenot House.

Preus holds an MFA from the University of Chicago. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the Heilbronn Kunstverein, Germany, the Portland Museum of Contemporary Craft, the Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, the Smart Museum of Art, Chicago, and the Devos Museum of Art, Marquette, Michigan. Preus was the 2013-14 Jackman-Goldwasser fellow at the Hyde Park Art Center, and received the first place MAKER grant and the Efrogmson Fellowship in 2014. He will be the Kaplan resident at Northwestern University in 2016. Preus lives and works in Chigaco, IL.

Image: *Oracle 4*, 2016, Reframed Chicago Public Schools Blueprint, 31 x 45 inches

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John Preus: New Works

May 13 – June 25, 2016

1



A Modest Enquiry into the Nature of Witchcraft
2015

Salvaged furniture from closed Chicago Public Schools

41 x 63 x 16 in.

2



Archival Framing Member

2015

Reprocessed material from closed Chicago Public Schools

1.5 x 3.5 x 96 in.

3



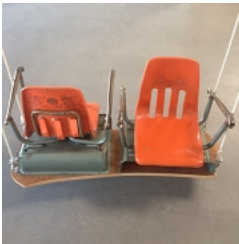
Wall Piece 1

2015–16

Reprocessed material from closed Chicago Public Schools

99 x 96 x 3 1/2 in.

4



Bidirectional Swing Set

2014

Reprocessed material from closed Chicago Public Schools

Dimensions variable

5



Decommissioned Swing Set

2015

Reprocessed material from closed Chicago Public Schools

Dimensions variable

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6



Civil Defense-Partial Dining Set (set of 2)

2015

Salvaged furniture from closed Chicago Public Schools

31 1/2 x 27 x 15 1/2 in.

7



Incidental Panel

2014

Salvaged material

32 1/2 x 18 1/2 in.

8



Incidental Panel

2014

Salvaged material

25 1/2 x 25 in. \$2,000.00

9



Incidental Panel

2014

Salvaged material

37 x 26 in. (94 x 66 cm)

10



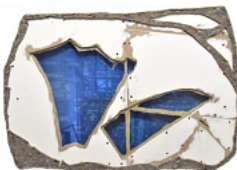
Oracle 3

2016

Mixed media on retired Chicago Public Schools blueprint

26 1/4 x 38 1/4 in.

11



Oracle 4

2016

Mixed media on retired Chicago Public Schools blueprint

31 x 45 in.

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12



Tauroctony

2016

Reprocessed material from closed Chicago Public Schools

22 3/4 x 26 1/2 x 2 in.

13



Chicago Archive Series - Infinite Set

2013-ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

14 x 13 3/4 x 12 1/2 in.

14



Chicago Archive Series - Infinite Set

2013-ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

15 x 14 x 14 in.

15



Chicago Archive Series - Infinite Set

2013-ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

13 3/4 x 13 3/4 x 14 1/4 in.

16



Chicago Archive Series - Infinite Set

2013-ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

13 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 13 1/2 in.

17



Chicago Archive Series - Infinite Set

2013-ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

13 1/4 x 11 3/4 x 11 3/4 in.

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18



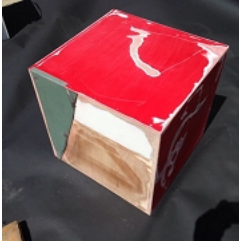
Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

14 x 14 x 13 1/2 in.

19



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

16 x 16 x 16 1/2 in.

20



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

14 1/2 x 13 1/4 x 13 1/4 in.

21



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

15 x 14 x 13 in.

22



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

13 1/2 x 13 x 12 1/2 in.

23



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

14 x 14 x 14 in.

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24



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

14 x 14 x 14 in.

25



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

13 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 13 in.

26



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

14 x 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 in.

27



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

13 x 12 3/4 x 13 1/2 in.

28



Chicago Archive Series – Infinite Set

2013–ongoing

Materials salvaged from closed Chicago Public Schools

11 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 11 3/4 in.