

SUBTEXT PROJECTS presents

*NOVEMBER HOUSE*

CONTACT  
INFORMATION

Subtext Projects

[www.subtextprojects.org](http://www.subtextprojects.org)

email:

[subtextprojects@gmail.com](mailto:subtextprojects@gmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2009

FORT WORTH –Subtext Projects is proud to present *November House*, an experimental studio-based project that includes Fort Worth-based artists Christine Bisetto and Terri Thornton. In *November House* the daily nature of making art is paramount. For this project, both artists will plan it into their schedules to visit an unoccupied house and make art every day during the month of November. The vacant house affords both artists the time and space to reevaluate their relationship to the studio and their process. As Bisetto states, “The one constant is that we, each of us, according to our own crazy schedules will use the space, but we have to go to the space every day. We may have overlap where we are there at the same time and we may be there alone.” The structure of this set of daily practices is open and fluid; there are no set rules and no agendas. Only two artists coming to a set location each day – whether for ten minutes or four hours – and purposefully producing work.

Throughout this project several trajectories will be examined: the physical space of the studio and its sway on the art made within it; the effect of two artists working in the same location; and the notion of experiment and novelty within two already established art making practices. The artists have referred to *November House* as a prime opportunity to take part in a non-verbal dialogue that will come with repetition and time. Recalling the early studio pieces of Bruce Nauman, where banal, everyday activities of life in the studio become the art, Bisetto and Thornton conceptualize this project as a time to bring their ideas and experiences to the studio, “leave[ing] remnants or things that record time spent there.”

Both artists are keenly aware that the act of making art, like any practice, is strengthened by commitment. For those artists fortunate enough to have time and a specific space set aside to produce work, the studio can act as a refuge, a location for thought and action,

and a site of inspiration and fortification. That the nature of Bisetto and Thornton's activities in the house/studio is undefined, and their final destination unmapped, is a prime situation to examine just what is expected and what results from "studio time."

Indeed, the studio is often synonymous with privacy and personal expression. But it is also a space of seclusion and regrouping – away from the vagaries of life. According to Thornton, who welcomed Bisetto's idea to turn her vacant rental home into a temporary studio space, she initially conceived of this open concept project "pertain[ing] to space and time as well as private/intimate, public/shared. You don't get much broader than that, but with *November House* those universal notions seem quite focused and personal." As each artist travels through her day, small revelations and quiet happenings will no doubt be uncovered and, perhaps, will find their way into Bisetto and Thornton's individual studio activity. Mindful persistence in art making spurs an awareness of the minutiae of daily life, which lends itself to more art making and further mindfulness.

Acting as a mediator between the artists experience in this project and the public, Subtext Projects will record the work and presence of Bisetto and Thornton with photographs taken several times each week during November. These photographs will be featured on the group's website, [www.subtextprojects.org](http://www.subtextprojects.org). In addition, Subtext Projects will conduct a set of interviews with the artists regarding their experience with *November House* following the close of the experimental project, which will also be available on the website.

*November House* will be comprised of the artists making the journey to the studio each day; thus what they do and produce while there will make up the work in the exhibition. Following the logic that this project is unrestrained by rules and preset ideas regarding its path, there may or may not be a traditional "opening night" for the exhibition. The artists will take stock of what they've experienced at the close of the month and a decision will be made as to whether *November House* necessitates such a formality. Subtext Projects will send a second release alerting the public to such plans once they are made.

This exhibition is the second involving Subtext Projects and is facilitated by Alison Hearst and Erin Starr White. They are both art historians and writers living in Fort Worth, Texas.