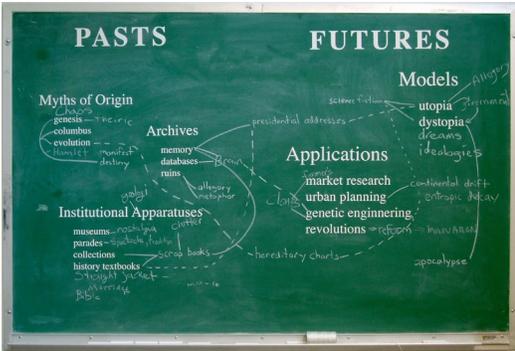


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THE LIBERTY OF EMPIRE
MATTHEW FRIDAY
January 7 - February 12, 2011

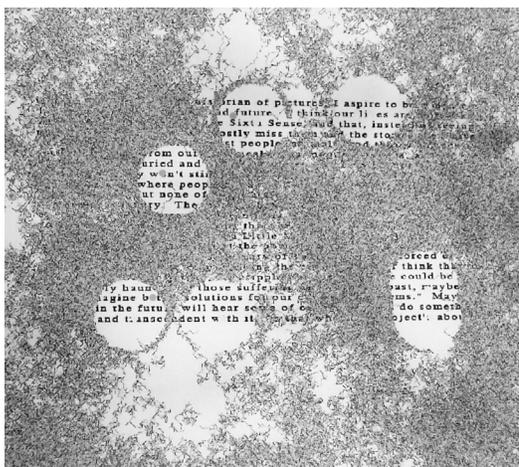


1708 Gallery kicks off the new year by transforming into a laboratory space for Matthew Friday's site-specific, interactive installation *The Liberty of Empire*, which focuses on bringing the history of Thomas Jefferson into the present. The exhibition opens on Friday, January 7 and will be on display through Saturday, February 12. Join us for the First Friday opening reception on January 7 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., which will include an artist talk at 7 p.m.



Utilizing the cultural, environmental, and economic theories of Thomas Jefferson as a framework, Friday is interested in both stimulating and investigating the past within the context of contemporary social relations. His activation of the forgotten aspects of Jefferson's legacy, such as the president's dislike of capitalism, his budding interest in ecology, and his fascination with anarchist utopias, allows the artist to present a critical examination of current American society.

The Liberty of Empire takes the form of a provisional laboratory in a multi-step project that first involves asking local citizens what elements they think are relevant to the practice of history. These responses are then fed into a specifically designed computer program that will create diagrams of this information, which will be layered over a site-specific ink-wash mural of Jefferson's architectural plans for Monticello. During the course of the exhibition, drawings will slowly accumulate, obscuring the historical image of utopia depicted on the wall. *The Liberty of Empire* becomes an archive of drawings and diagrams as the past is replaced by new maps of potentiality.



Matthew Friday is currently the Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Art at State University of New York at New Platz and is an active member of the international research and consultation collective spurse. He received his B.F.A. in Studio Arts at the University of New Mexico, his M.F.A. at Indiana State University, and attended the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program. His exhibitions and work have been reviewed in such publications as the *New Art Examiner* and *Art Papers*. For more information about Matthew Friday, please visit his website: www.matthewfriday.net

IMAGE CREDITS: details from Matthew Friday's site-specific installation, *The Agency for the Assembly of Invented Communities*, 2008, Urban Arts Space, Columbus Ohio

1708 Gallery is a non-profit arts organization committed to presenting exceptional new art. 1708 Gallery is committed to providing opportunities for artistic innovation for emerging and established artists and to expanding the understanding and appreciation of new art for the public.