

Storefront for Art and Architecture

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**Storefront for Art and Architecture,
in collaboration with COMPANY, presents:**

TEMPLE OF MANUFACTURING



Exhibition Opening:

Tuesday, June 6th, 2017

6-7 pm: Press and Members Preview [\[RSVP\]](#)

7-9 pm: Public Opening [\[RSVP\]](#)

Exhibition Dates:

June 7 - August 5, 2017

#templeofmanufacturing @storefrontnyc @com_pa_ny

New York, NY -- On Tuesday, June 6th at 7 pm, Storefront for Art and Architecture opens *Temple of Manufacturing* by COMPANY. The installation will be presented at Storefront's gallery space at 97 Kenmare Street from June 7th to August 5th.

COMPANY, a duo comprised of Aamu Song & Johan Olin, has spent the last decade traveling around the world to learn the knowledge embedded in manufacturing communities. *Temple of Manufacturing* is an installation that transforms the Storefront gallery into a sacred space with a series of in situ frescoes and materials, drawings, and objects, as well as new composite objects created in collaboration with local makers they encountered in their travels.

About *Temple of Manufacturing*

That which withers in the age of mechanical reproduction is the aura of the work of art.

Walter Benjamin
The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

In the 1950s, in the midst of modern discourse regarding industrial design, Charles and Ray Eames aimed to produce "the best, for the most, for the least." More than fifty years later, global processes of mass production have complicated the democratic aspirations that the Eames sought to espouse.

In our current interdependent global economy, the designations "Designed by X," "Made by X," "Manufactured by X," "Made in X," and "Product of X" are increasingly complex. While their origins are based in trade agreements and intellectual property rights, they also carry the weight of serving as symbols of economic protectionism, human exploitation, and ecological malpractice, among other issues.

Recently, we have witnessed the re-emergence of more "localized" forms of production. Handmade items, arts and crafts, and light manufacturing have made a resurgence in

our contemporary product-based markets. Among the reasons for this include responses against the perils of global mass production, reactions to the consumerist philosophies of the 80s and 90s, and the preservation of manufacturing processes and their associated identities of place. Combined with increasing preferences and desires for "artisanal" and "local" goods, these phenomena have changed the way we make things.

Temple of Manufacturing presents COMPANY's long-term project: SECRETS. Traveling to remote sites around the world to learn crafting processes unique to particular industries and places, the duo (comprised of Aamu Song and Johan Olin) has collaborated over the last decade with a variety of communities to rethink the very processes and knowledge embedded in these places. Applying this knowledge to new and unexpected designs, COMPANY's work creates an intersection between the mastery of traditional technique and the invention of a new, poetic, and personal material and object-specific vocabulary.

For the installation at Storefront, COMPANY presents its own *Temple of Manufacturing*, an installation that reflects the feeling of sacredness that the duo encountered while visiting spaces of production all over the world. Raw materials, drawings, objects, designs, and process documents are presented alongside a series of frescoes painted in situ that narrate some of the journeys, topics, and works that structure their research.

Temple of Manufacturing presents objects conceived and produced as composite figures from COMPANY's own design methods and their trips to Japan, Russia, Finland, Estonia, and the Amish communities of Pennsylvania. Part an artist's travel log, part a sanctuary for the maker's masters, and somewhere between an archive, an exhibition, and a store (the ultimate temple of contemporary capitalism) the installation reflects upon "the aura of the work of art" (in this case, the design object), and the hidden processes of design research as related to manual versus mechanized production.

"Designed by COMPANY," "Made by COMPANY," "Manufactured by COMPANY," "Made with COMPANY," and "Product of COMPANY," the objects presented in this exhibition are built with love and shared with everyone, maintaining the playfulness that

the Eames brought to the world of making, with an eye toward the ethics of production and global design culture.

Members of the Press

Members of the press are invited to attend a preview of the exhibition on Tuesday, June 6th from 6-7 pm at Storefront's gallery space at 97 Kenmare Street.

If you would like to RSVP for the press preview, arrange an interview with the curators or artists, or cover *Temple of Manufacturing*, contact jk@storefrontnews.org.

About COMPANY

COMPANY, formed by Aamu Song and Johan Olin, is an art and detective agency from Helsinki, Finland. COMPANY has been discovering manufacturing secrets worldwide for over a decade, working as artists, designers, and producers, and running their own shop (Salakauppa) in Helsinki.

About Storefront for Art and Architecture

Storefront for Art and Architecture advances innovative and critical ideas that contribute to the design of cities, territories, and public life. Storefront's exhibitions, events, competitions, publications, and projects provide alternative platforms for dialogue and collaboration across disciplinary, geographic, and ideological boundaries. Since its founding in 1982, Storefront has presented the work of over one thousand architects and artists.

General Information

Storefront for Art and Architecture

Gallery Address: 97 Kenmare Street, New York, NY 10012

Phone: (212) 431-5795

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm

www.storefrontnews.org

Exhibition Support

Temple of Manufacturing is supported by the Arts Promotion Centre Finland (Taike), the Finnish Cultural Foundation, the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, and Frame.

Paint for this exhibition has generously been provided by Farrow & Ball.



General Support

Storefront's programming is made possible through general support from Arup; DS+R; F.J. Sciamè Construction Co., Inc.; Knippers Helbig; KPF; MADWORKSHOP; ODA; Rockwell Group; Roger Ferris + Partners; Tishman Speyer; the Foundation for Contemporary Arts; The Greenwich Collection Ltd.; the Lily Auchincloss Foundation; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; The Peter T. Joseph Foundation; and by Storefront's Board of Directors, members, and individual donors.



Image: *Temple of Manufacturing*. COMPANY (Aamu Song & Johan Olin). Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2017.

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