

# SiTE:LAB

Booth C17

**William Lamson** *all that is solid melts into air*

UNTITLED. Miami Beach

Nov 30 – Dec 4, 2016

SITE:LAB is thrilled to be participating as one of the not-for-profit/artist-run exhibitors in the 5th edition of the UNTITLED art fair in Miami Beach, featuring a site-specific installation by William Lamson.

*All that is solid melts into air* is an installation for the UNTITLED art fair that connects this temporary exhibition space to the coastal geography in which it is located, its geologic history and our tenuous place within it. Over the course of the fair, the installation will function as an active experiment, a site of material transformation as salt water collected from the ocean continues to crystallize onto glass vessels and panels, aided by oscillating fans that accelerate this geologic process. At the same time, ultrasonic humidifiers will transform sea water into fog, a mineral vapor that will collect on the glass panels to reveal a fine powder of ancient dust. Other elements in the installation include prehistoric sharks fossils cast in sand collected from the beach, photograms made from salt formations, and illuminated crystalized spheres lit from within which take on the appearance of a planetary body. *All that is solid melts into air* is a collision of processes, materials and forms spanning deep geologic time and continuing to the present moment.

The title of this work was written by Marx and describes the fundamental instability of social conditions for workers as a result of a constantly changing means of production. While the recent election would suggest that this phrase continues to describe the social effects of neoliberal policies, we have reached a point where these words are no longer merely a poetic statement of social conditions, but are now a prophetic description of the material conditions of our changing planet.

William Lamson is an interdisciplinary artist whose diverse practice involves working with elemental forces to create durational performative actions. Set in landscapes as varied as New York's East River and Chile's Atacama Desert, his projects reveal the invisible systems and forces at play within these sites. In all of his projects, Lamson's work represents a performative gesture, a collaboration with forces outside of his control to explore systems of knowledge and belief. Lamson's work has been exhibited widely in the United States and Europe, including the Brooklyn Museum, The Moscow Biennial, P.S.1. MOMA, Kunsthalle Erfurt, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, and Honor Fraser Gallery in Los Angeles. In addition he has produced site-specific installations for the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Center For Land Use Interpretation, and Storm King Art Center. His work is in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and a number of private collections. He has been awarded grants from the Shifting Foundation, the Experimental Television Center, and most recently he is 2014 Guggenheim Fellow. His work has appeared in ArtForum, Frieze, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the New Yorker, Harpers, and the Village Voice. William Lamson was born in Arlington, Virginia and lives in Brooklyn, New York. He earned his MFA from Bard College, and he teaches in the Parsons MFA photography program and at the School of Visual Arts. For more information visit [www.williamlamson.com](http://www.williamlamson.com).

SITE:LAB is a nomadic all-volunteer arts organization that has produced over 20 temporary site-specific art projects, usually in underutilized downtown buildings in Grand Rapids, MI. Previous projects have used locations as diverse as an abandoned natural history museum, a once-grand downtown hotel, vacant commercial buildings, a nature preserve, and most recently, an entire city block. SITE:LAB was the recipient of the ArtPrize juried award for best venue in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and exhibited the winner of the ArtPrize grand prize juried award in 2012, 2013, and 2015. For additional information regarding SITE:LAB please contact Paul Amenta at [paul@site-lab.org](mailto:paul@site-lab.org)

