Wish I Were Here Pillow Installations

ARTspace “Art in Public Realm Symposia

Saturday, February 25, 2012, noon-1pm

College Art Association (CAA) Annual Conference

Los Angeles Convention Center

West Hall Main Entrance

1201 S. Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90015

http://conference.collegeart.org/2012/artspace/

The Los Angeles based knit graffiti collective Yarn Bombing Los Angeles (YBLA) will participate in Un-Space Ground: a site specific outdoor visual and performance art event curated by Deborah Oliver and Ed Woodham as part of ARTspace “Art in Public Realm” Symposia during the CAA Annual Conference. All ARTspace events are free and open to public.

### The CAA Annual Conference brings together art professionals and academicians to exchange information and network during sessions, receptions, reuinions, award ceremonies, book fairs, professional development workshops and job interviews. Partaking in a major professional event such as the CAA Conference often is an all consuming, dizzying and exhausting occasion for most participants. Oftentimes, attendees find themselves trying to keep up with a demanding schedule, running from room to room, navigating nondescript environments.

In this context, YBLA will produce an interactive site-specific installation project where comfortable pillows are dispersed in the hallways outside the presentation rooms and on the concrete seats outside the conventions center to add a warm texture and color to the otherwise sterile environment. The pillows would offer the conference participants a comfortable place to sit and relax whether they might be catching their breath, reflecting on the ideas they just picked up at a session or contemplating on how their qualifications are in accord with the needs of the institution they are applying for employment. These pillows would carry the inscription “wish I were here” to allude to the escape they instigate, whether it might refer to a fantasy, aspiration, longing or feelings of exclusion. Another possible interpretation of “wish I were here” can be being physically present but mentally or emotionally absent. The writing would also acknowledge those who are physically absent from the CAA Conference.

Other current YBLA projects include Forest, For The Trees, a built-forest environment on public display until May 6, 2012 at CAFAM windows, looking across Wilshire Boulevard towards the La Brea Tar Pits, famous grounds of now extinct species. www.cafam.org

Yarn Bombing 18th Street, a catalog for a knit graffiti event at the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica, CA featuring over sixty local and international artists is available for sale at amazon.com and lulu.com. ISBN 978-1-105-49465-9

For more information on YBLA please visit www.yarnbombinglosangeles.com

Yarn Bombing Los Angeles (YBLA) is a group of guerilla knitters who have been collaborating since 2010 to stage public installations and performances to help expand the definition of public art to include street art, and street art and graffiti to include yarn bombing.

YBLA embodies an eclectic mix encompassing all ages, genders and backgrounds and likes to expand by working together with other local, regional and international artists and institutions. YBLA events have taken place at 18th Street Arts Center, MOCA, Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) as well as international biennials.

Monthly meetings take place every 3rd Saturday, 2-5 pm at CAFAM 5814 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles., CA.

For more information on YBLA please visit www.yarnbombinglosangeles.com

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What is yarn bombing?

Yarn bombing aka knit graffiti or guerrilla knitting is a form of self initiated public art to personalize and add humor to otherwise cold and drab urban settings while making personal or socio-political statements.

In its seemingly odd juxtaposition of knitting and graffiti, often associated with opposing concepts such as female, granny, indoors, domestic, wholesome, soft vs. male, enfant terrible, outdoors, public, underground, edgy, yarn bombing recontexualizes both knitting and graffiti, both of which are marginalized forms of expression that fall outside “high” or “serious” art.

Yarn bombing is necessarily ephemeral due to materials used and perhaps the most environmentally friendly graffiti because it can easily be removed with a pair of scissors and no damage left behind.

For more information on yarn bombing and view work samples please visit http://www.yarnbombinglosangeles.com/