CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD:
QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Post-Disciplinary Futures: For the Best Way to Predict the Future is to Make it.

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• Abstract (300 words):
As the complexity and problems of the world proliferate so does the making of things that matter. As architects, designers and urbanists have become more sought after than ever and the decisions related to creation and making need to be increasingly explicit in order to produce meaningful and healthy products, experiences, urban spaces, places, and buildings. For the best way to invent the future is to make it. And the best way to predict the future is to create it. Post-disciplinary is becoming more and more the norm in today’s marketplace. Post-disciplinary means our voices are disparate and unique incorporating multiples and futures, speculations and actualities, accounting for the varied people, places, and settings we have come from and will become.

What is the future of practice that makes disciplinary boundaries archaic? A post-disciplinary approach envisions the future of cities: urban environments, spaces, and the public realm by probing cities and how they evolve and function. Can we shape the future of the city by thinking and making things in more critical ways? What does your future look like, the city you move in, the environments you interact with? What is a citizen centered public realm that brings you outside onto the street, into a community?
Besides the health of the city one also has to consider the health of the planet, the connection between the development of urban spaces, the distributed proximities and networks that link major urban cities with their surrounding suburbs and rural locales. All development must become healthier and safer because of the fragility of the planet, and the delicate nature of man’s relationship to it; a relationship that has been further exposed to be precarious and fraught with tension by the current COVID-19 epidemic. How can we learn from the past and present in order to envision the future, to speculate and develop a post-disciplinary situation that accentuates and activates possible futures.

In order for real change to occur, what will be the processes and procedures that need to be acted upon and initiated by designers, architects, and urbanists? How will we begin to reshape the current world, it’s ecology and the environments connected to it, so that there will be an actualization of the potential for meaningful and healthy products, experiences, urban spaces, places, and buildings to truly initiate and promote novel approaches and procedures for the betterment and welfare of the planet and the people who inhabit it. What will the new sustainability look like, the post-disciplinary approach that pushes on the borders and boundaries of preconceived notions of what can be accomplished through the various guises of the built environment.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Studio Gregory Hurcomb’s work is driven by our curiosity in the meeting point of the fine arts (including but not limited to installation, sculpture, photography, film, and painting), architecture, and design.

Gregory W. Hurcomb was born in 1977. He grew up in New York City, NY, and New Jersey. He received his Masters in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania School of Design in 2010. He also earned a certificate of General Studies in Photography from the International Center of Photography in New York City in 2000 and a Bachelor of Arts with High Honors from Rutgers University in English Language and Literature/Letters in 1999.

In 2010, he moved to San Francisco, CA, and founded Studio Gregory Hurcomb. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally, including New York City, USA, Berlin, Germany, and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Currently, you can find him operating creatively between the Sally and Don Lucas Artist in Residency Program (LAP) at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, CA, and California College of the Arts, where he is an Adjunct Professor II in the Architecture Division.