

JESSICA HANKEY

Situating herself at the nexus of building, community, and institution, Jessica Hankey explores architecture as social space. In this photographic and historical investigation of the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive building, designed by Mario Ciampi and completed in 1970, Hankey explores sentiments around the building in light of BAM/PFA's imminent relocation to downtown Berkeley. Photographs of the building's construction are paired with a monocular—a visual aide—framing a structural gap that has developed since the building's inception. A soundtrack intended to be heard while walking through the building includes interviews with BAM/PFA members, staff, artists, and critics. A film largely composed of archival footage prominently features the first and current directors, Peter Selz and Lawrence Rinder. The resulting multimedia presentation brings together forms that are often associated with documentary—interviews, photographs and archival material—without attempting to reconcile the ambiguities and contradictions that arise among these accounts. In this work and others, Hankey inserts herself into institutions with a sensitivity and curiosity both disarming and tenacious, forming what she calls a “collaboration” by culling institutional archives, attending staff meetings, and photographing spaces, people, and events. The multiplicity of experiences, desires, and visions that she uncovers in organizations that might seem to have a single mission speaks to the instability of institutional identity. For Hankey, the gaps between individual experience or anecdote and collective narrative offer the possibility for subtle, creative embellishment and intervention. By rooting her investigations in architectural space, she draws on the persistent complexity of the ever-shifting relationships between and among people and their environments.

- Sarah Cowan

Jessica Hankey: *Untitled*, 2014; pigment print; dimensions variable; courtesy of the artist.



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