

Art in America

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Mechanisms

In business, the process known as "disruption"—in which industry newcomers go from creating products or services for fringe consumers to eventually usurping the position of market leaders—is only disruptive to a degree, as it leaves corporate values of efficiency and profit intact. "Mechanisms," one of the largest shows the CCA Wattis Institute has ever organized, seeks to reclaim interruptive tactics for art, where, since the birth of modernism, innovation has served knottier ends. Some twenty artists, including William Pope.L, Louise Lawler, Lutz Bacher, Cameron Rowland, and Trisha Donnelly, contribute around a hundred works that throw wrenches into a capitalist system devoted to speed and productivity. A second part of the show will be held at the Secession in Vienna in summer 2018.

CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco, Oct. 12, 2017–Feb. 24, 2018.