

& how too

Art Builder's Collaborative

Mike Hill

Wm. Scott Kester

Gallery 400

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*This latest proposal by Art Builder's Collaborative (ABC), **& how too**, continues to explore existing relationships between physical space and individual memory. The collaborative's manipulation of traditional materials and forms will spur a rich and ample dialogue blurring current distinctions between art and achitecture as independent influences on the exhibition experience. The archetype for this particular piece is a specific site (Robbin Lockett Gallery) and responds to the connection between the achitectural features which compose and the socio-historic events which have taken place in that environment.*

The Exhibition Gallery currently enjoys the reputation as a malleable site for contemplation and reflection, seemingly architecturally mute and static, it sets the stage for art to take the role of star. Hill and Kester propose to expose and exaggerate the stillness of Gallery by uncovering the inherent art/architecture relationship that lies within it. By exploring the region of interiors, its relationship to and effect upon the external and visiting public, the Gallery 400 exhibition space will act as a metaphor for the potential of stimulus (usually provided by an exhibition) in the absence of it.

*The format and use of materials for **& how too** will be modest and raw and serve successfully as camouflage as well as embellishment. The structure of the installation is intended to evoke an initial correspondence to Robbin Lockett Gallery and will induce an immediate experiential viewer response. The materials of the piece—due to their usual pedestrian employment, yet sleek aesthetic appeal—will speak to the connection between the organic and the static, in addition to that between the essence of objects and their manifestations. This stripping the preciousness away from the elusive, utopian, gallery space by using simple, disclosed operations alludes to ABC's idea of process uncovered and its subliminal effect on the viewers experience.*

*The framework for **& how too** is based on the emphasis of transformation, exchange, displacement, and past representation that depends on associative meanings. In recent installations, ABC's investigations have addressed the excavation of a fictitious gallery/exhibition history. These projects have dealt with that which is hidden—which lies beneath gallery efforts to clear space from evidence of past events freeing it for new ideas, experiences, and innovations. On this behalf, the collaborative used the gallery wall to juxtapose fragmented structural elements of (hypothetical) exhibitions past with the cover of the newly repaired and, as yet, unadulterated white surface. This deconstruction successfully recontextualized the viewers recognition of pre-existing space or events, hence revealing the relationship between structure and memory and initiating the dialogue concerning the origin of one regarding the conclusion of the other. **& how too** seeks to build upon this rhetoric between reflection and recollection as well as further manifesting the considerable affinity between the construction of intellectual notions and physical structures.*