

**Lower
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ARTISTS KATARINA JERINIC AND NAOMI MILLER OPEN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY AS
ART PROJECT -- *THE WORK OFFICE (TWO)*
SUPPORTED BY A LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL SWING SPACE GRANT**

APRIL 23– JUNE 3, 2010

156 WILLIAM STREET

**APRIL 23-JUNE 3; WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 4-8PM; FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, AND
SUNDAYS, 12-6PM**

PAYDAY PARTIES: APRIL 23, MAY 7, AND MAY 21, 6-8PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

New York, NY, April 8, 2010—Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) *Swing Space* presents *The Work Office (TWO)*, a collaboration between artists Katarina Jerinic and Naomi Miller, who will present a multidisciplinary art project disguised as an employment agency. Informed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the Great Depression in the 1930s, *TWO* is a gesture to “make work” for visual and performing artists, writers, and others by giving them simple, idea-based assignments that explore, document, and improve daily life in New York. From their temporary storefront office at 156 William Street, *TWO*'s administrators, Jerinic and Miller, hire employees, exhibit work, and distribute Depression-era wages during end-of-the-week Payday Parties. Free and open to the public.

The project was born of an appreciation for the WPA and recurring comparisons in the news media between that era and today. With the current economic recession in mind, *TWO* revisits the approach the 1930s federal government took to alleviate the effects of the Depression on daily life. Artists were employed to make art—alongside infrastructure and other projects to rebuild the country—and were seen as a valuable labor force. Despite recent wistful references to the WPA, it seems implausible in contemporary U.S. culture that artists would be remunerated for their work in this way. *TWO* is a wry contemporary realization of this model.

TWO will employ approximately 10 artists per week for three work weeks. All completed assignments will be on view in the office for two weeks and on the project's website: www.theworkoffice.com. Hired employees are given a week to turn in their assignments, for which they will be paid \$23.50, the weekly wage for an artist in the Federal One Project (the arts division of the WPA). Payday Parties will be held on the following Fridays: April 23rd, May 7th and May 21st. The public will be invited to view the week's works and learn about the

project. The Payday Parties are inspired by the socializing that occurred between artists as they waited in line to collect their wages at the WPA office. They also provide a forum for *TWO* artists and the general public to interact and exchange ideas.

The Work Office (TWO) is accepting applications on a rolling basis until April 30, 2010. To apply, please visit www.theworkoffice.com/html/apply.html

The Work Office (TWO) is made possible by LMCC's *Swing Space* program, with space at 156 William Street donated by Capstone Equities. Funding is provided by the Black Rock Arts Foundation, and donations from many generous individuals.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Katarina Jerinic is currently an artist-in-residence at the Center for Book Arts, New York. She participated in the Bronx Museum's AIM program and was a resident at MacDowell Colony and the Experimental Television Center. She has a MFA from School of Visual Arts in Photography and Related Media (2002) and a BA in American History from American University (1995). Exhibitions include Nurtureart, Rotunda Gallery, and DUMBO Art Under the Bridge Festival, Brooklyn, NY; Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY; Fox Art Gallery, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Center for Book Arts, New York, NY; and Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA.

Naomi Miller is a photography-based artist whose work involves both interior monologues and communal conversations, looking at how and why community is created. Past projects include a self-designed residency named after her car and panoramic life-sized photographs of social gatherings. Her recent group exhibitions include Printed Matter and Homestead Gallery, New York, NY; Steven Wolf Fine Arts and Royal Nonesuch Gallery, San Francisco, CA; WORKS/San Jose, San Jose, CA; and Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven, CT. She holds a MFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute (2004) and a BA from Clark University (1996), and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

ABOUT LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has been a leading voice for arts and culture downtown and throughout New York City for over 35 years, producing cultural events and promoting the arts through grants, services, advocacy, and cultural development programs. www.LMCC.net.

ABOUT SWING SPACE

Founded in 2005, *Swing Space* matches the resources of New York City's real estate community with the energy of the city's artists and their need to make and present work. Unused office floors, storefronts, and sub-basements are infused with creativity as studios, rehearsal rooms, and exhibition/performance spaces.

For more information about Swing Space and upcoming events, please visit www.LMCC.net/swingspace.

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