

Eye on Design: Andrea Zittel's Aggregated Stacks and the Collection of the Palm Springs Art Museum

March 14 – July 12, 2015

Palm Springs Art Museum, Architecture and Design Center

Members Only Events

Tuesday, March 17

Special Presentation for Members

5:30 p.m.

Annenberg Theater , Palm Springs Art Museum

Reception

6:30-8 p.m.

Palm Springs Art Museum

Architecture and Design Center



Andrea Zittel, *Aggregated Stacks*, 2011 mixed

media, © Andrea Zittel

With an eye to considering the role of design in our lives, this exhibition combines commissioned original works by internationally known high desert artist and Joshua Tree resident Andrea Zittel and objects from the museum's permanent collection. Working in collaboration with the museum's curators, Zittel selects items from the museum's holdings and integrates them into an installation environment that she has fabricated. Zittel describes her practice as rooted in everyday life. As she writes, "home furniture, clothing, food all become sites of investigation in an ongoing endeavor to better understand human nature and the social construction of needs."

Living in a rural desert setting, Zittel must order most of the daily consumer products she needs online. The *Aggregated Stacks* first suggested themselves to her as she considered how best to reuse the mailing boxes of those goods. As she explains, "After I unpack its contents I eye the box thinking that it is a shame to throw out such a perfect vehicle." Stacking the boxes against the wall, they became an irregular accumulation that she realized was a reflection of her personal needs, habits, and consumption.

Wrapping the boxes in the same plaster material as a traditional body cast, Zittel creates durable clusters of boxes that are simultaneously random in their arrangement and ordered into irregular grids. Positioned on walls as reliefs and as free-standing sculptural islands in the gallery, her stacks provide open storage units to display

holdings from the museum's collection that resonate with the ways she has structured her own life. At the same time, they interrupt the usual museum practice of displaying objects in isolation and removed from daily life, allowing viewers to consider the subjective and arbitrary systems that they use to make sense out of their own experiences.

This exhibition is organized by the Palm Springs Art Museum and is funded in part by the museum's Contemporary Art Council, Myrna Kaplan, and the museum's Architecture and Design Council.