

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

A TRAVELING SHOW

For Teachers

On view

10.08.16–01.15.17

Social Practice emphasizes engagement and invites collaboration in the creation of participatory art.

- Matt Keegan (b.1976) and Kay Rosen (b.1943) are artists of two different generations who have known each other for almost a decade.
- Nearly eight years ago, after meeting up regularly, Keegan (based in New York) initiated a mail exchange with Rosen (based in Gary, Indiana).
- Every few weeks they mail a package to each other that could contain drawings, collages, photographs, print clippings, small sculptures, found objects, etc. A sampling of these exchanges is on display in the exhibition *A Traveling Show*.
- The mailings often include wit and humor, personal stories, or direct links to their personal artwork.
- These mailed exchanges display a behind-the-scenes view of a friendship and how two artists create a dialogue to inspire each other and the artwork they are both creating individually.
- Keegan studied interdisciplinary programs that focus on [social practice](#).
- Keegan works with several different kinds of media and thinks about how to create artwork outside of his studio space.
- Rosen was trained in linguistics but turned away from academia and chose art.
- Rosen is most interested in exploring language visually through color, scale, materials, and composition.
- Some of the influences on Rosen’s work include: minimalist artists, modern systems in music and dance, and an early job at a newspaper that introduced her to type and font.
- Along with the mailed exchanges, *A Traveling Show* explores several of Keegan’s and Rosen’s individual artworks.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What influences your creative process?
2. Do you have friends who influence you creatively?
3. What was the last letter you wrote or sent in the mail?
4. How does receiving a letter, postcard, or package differ from receiving an e-mail or text message?
5. How do you correspond and keep in touch with your friends? Do you save your exchanges? What would your correspondence look like if it were on display?
6. How can you use words and language to show meaning through the choice of color, size, and composition?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

VISUAL ART—Research the history of mail art. How have artists (and how can you) expand the idea of mail art? How does sending something through the mail change the object or the experience of the object?

LANGUAGE ARTS—How can words take on a visual presence? Can the meaning of a word change depending on how it is displayed visually? Write a letter to a friend and send it in the mail.

What response do you get from them?

HISTORY—How has the way we communicate changed over time? How does current technology impact communication? How would your life be different if you had to communicate without today’s technology? How have different artists and historical figures influenced and inspired one another through their correspondence?