

“Fate of the Machinery”

A Gallery Based Project by Kate Levy

12 September – 10 October, 2015

Background

Over the past year, artist and documentarian Kate Levy has been mapping the deindustrialization of Detroit through the history of industrial auctions from 1955 to 1999. The project has a personal dimension for Levy since her family built a significant global business as the predominant industrial auction house in the city. In this role they worked with companies to liquidate outdated assets that ranged from primary manufacturing equipment to the contents of retail stores. Levy is acutely aware that the wealth generated from these activities enabled her to pursue an education, and hence a career, in the arts.

During her month-long residency at 9338 Campau, Levy will construct a “working memorial” —researching the many auctions that her family’s business conducted during its fifty years in existence. Through this exercise, Levy seeks to understand her family’s relationship to deindustrialization and her own role in Detroit’s economic trajectory. During the residency, Levy will utilize the gallery as an open work space, and intends to facilitate panel discussions, reading groups, interviews and performances.

Biography

Kate Levy uses extensive place-based research to explore issues of social justice through video, photography and artist books. Her short, and full-length videos on water and gentrification issues in Detroit have been widely influential, and exemplary in their ability to raise awareness of important issues in a timely manner. Elsewhere she has done work on the impact of the oil boom on North Dakota, and land ownership issues in Kenya. She has an MFA in Advanced Photography from ICP-Bard in New York, and is part of the performance collective Detroit Homeland Security with fellow artists Bryce Detroit, and Shanna Merola.