

For Immediate Release**AWOL Announced Inaugural Exhibition – “Town”**

On View August 7 – August 29, 2015
Reception for the artists Friday August 7, 7 – 10 pm



Mike Dee “Cactus flower light box diptych” 2015

July 16, 2015, Los Angeles, CA – AWOL, event and project space in El Sereno announced today its inaugural exhibition, “Town”. The show features the artists, Mike Dee, Jim Ovelmen, Jaime Scholnick, and Osvaldo Trujillo, and their recent works.

The four artists works and careers are contrastingly different, yet their paths have crossed when recently relocating to El Sereno, after the displacement from their respective studio spaces. The art geography in Los Angeles has shifted east and west, north and south, over the decades along with urban economics. In only the last few years, many artists were displaced from downtown or northeast Los Angeles studios toward more affordable areas. The juxtaposition of Dee’s “Cactus flower light box diptych”, Ovelmen’s projection work “Reclaimed”, Scholnick’s sculptural towers, and Trujillo’s sculpture/installation, “Change”, using left-over tiles/stones from the former tile shop, come together as an odd and illuminating puzzle. In addition, AWOL is an architecturally peculiar space. This former-tile-shop-turned-project-space aims to be an addition to the urban and residential *mélange* that characterizes this East Los Angeles town.

“Town” will be on view from August 7 – August 29. Reception for the artists, 7 pm – 10 pm, Friday August 7, 2015. AWOL is located at 4937 Alhambra Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90032. Hours: most Fridays and Saturdays 1-5 pm during exhibition or by appointment only.

About the artists

Michael Dee began taking photos regularly when he left his studio in El Sereno in February 2015. Dee's dog walks and trail hikes to Needles Rest in Tujunga Canyon became opportunities for image creation. The early photos were shot on a cell phone, which led to super wide angle and full frame dslr images. For this body of work Dee has been primarily interested in intuitive color theory, spring bloom peculiarities, and psychedelic film tropes. It is his hope that the photographs will function as a visual equivalent to the longer instrumental soundtrack pieces that he has been writing this year. Dee received his MFA from Kent State University in Ohio and his work has been exhibited extensively in galleries and museums, including Garboushian Gallery, Western Project, Gagosian, and Los Gato Museum.

Jim Ovelmen is an internationally recognized artist living in Los Angeles. His mixed-media work has been shown all over the world. Most recently, his multi-media shows at museums and venues in Asia, include: "Western Skies" at Fringe Taipei, also at PØST Los Angeles, 2015, and the Chung Shan Creative Hub in Taipei in 2012 and 2014. His work was featured in the 2010 Aichi Triennale in Japan, as well as numerous galleries and museums in the United States and Europe. Showing drawing, painting, and video in New York and Los Angeles, his animations and musical performance work has been featured at FilmForum Los Angeles, Pacific Asia Museum, Torrance Art Museum, Kristi Engle Gallery, PØST Gallery, Kristine Koenig Gallery in Vienna, and Artist Space in New York. He is also an Associate Professor of Art at California State University Los Angeles.

Jaime Scholnick is a visual artist working in a variety of mediums and forms. She received her MFA from The Claremont Graduate University. After a five year expatriation to Japan to study papermaking, Ms. Scholnick returned to Los Angeles in 1999. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums nationally and internationally at PS1 Long Island City, PØST, Angles Gallery and Bank Gallery, Los Angeles, at the Torrance Museum of Art and the Tall Wall Gallery at the University of La Verne, CA. In Japan she has shown at the Gallery Kobo Chika, Tokyo. She was the recipient of the Imadate Art Field Artist in Residence, Imadate Japan. Ms. Scholnick lives and maintains a studio in Los Angeles. Currently she is represented by CB1 Gallery, Los Angeles.

Oswaldo Trujillo is an artist and educator living and working in Los Angeles. The artist has covered many facets of Los Angeles life and history. Currently an interest in Los Angeles as a center of aerospace and technology as well as a center for occult and spiritual thought has been a catalyst for recent work. Mr. Trujillo is currently represented by CB1 Gallery in Los Angeles.

About AWOL

AWOL was founded by media veteran Nicole Wang, and artist Jim Ovelmen in 2015. Based in El Sereno, California, AWOL is dedicated to artist projects, events, ideas, and irregular connections. AWOL is located at 4937 Alhambra Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90032. www.awolimited.com. Hours: most Fridays & Saturdays 1 –5 pm during exhibition or by appointment only.

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