

## **Industry of the Ordinary**

Adam Brooks, born 1959, New York, New York  
Mathew Wilson, born 1967, Reading, England

Live and work in Chicago, USA and Somerset, England

### **Selected Exhibitions and Performances:**

Ongoing

<http://www.industryoftheordinary.com>

#### **2019**

*Ordinary Relic*, site specific permanent installation, Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago, Illinois (MW solo)

*If you've got a blacklist, I want to be on it*, Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (solo public performance)

#### **2018**

*Industry of the Ordinary—Demo(cra)tic*, Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo, California (solo show, public art installation and performance)

*Tourist/Refugee & Genuflect*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois (solo installation and performance)

*Lachrymose*, Daley Plaza, Chicago, Illinois (solo public performance)

*Future History*, WERK, Birmingham, England

*Work in Progress*, Chicago Artist's Coalition, Chicago, Illinois

*Demo: demolition*, Demo projects, Springfield, Illinois

#### **2017**

*There is Always an Alternative*, Platform 102, Moonens Foundation, Brussels, Belgium

*Inverse Performance Festival*, San Luis Obispo, California

*The Subject Is Chicago*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois

*History and Forgetting*, Silent/Funny, Chicago, Illinois (solo performance sculpture and permanent installation for the City of Chicago Year of Public Art)

*Body Work*, Loyola University Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Rapid Pulse: 5 Years*, Defibrillator, Chicago, Illinois

#### **2016**

*Whiskey and Kisses*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado (solo performance)

*The Greenlands Project*, Birmingham, England (solo residency and permanent installation)

*Industry of the Ordinary*, Antena, Chicago, Illinois (solo show)

*Industry of the Ordinary*, Chamber, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (solo show)

*Prayer (for Springfield)*, Demo projects, Springfield, Illinois (solo show)

*Of Roses and Jessamine*, Neiman Center SUGS Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*With and In Difference*, Performance Art Houston, Texas

*Nothing is Impossible*, Defibrillator, Chicago, Illinois

*Prayer (for Bentonville)*, Inverse Performance Festival, Northwest Arkansas

*Sports in Art*, Maloney Art Gallery, Morristown, New Jersey

*Synapse*, Inner Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

#### **2015**

*Jesus by the Lake*, Chicago, Illinois (solo project, ongoing) [www.jesusbythelake.com](http://www.jesusbythelake.com)

*Water in Art, Water After Borders*, UIC Institute for the Humanities, Chicago, Illinois

*Relative*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois (solo performance)

## 2014

*Venetiaanse Gaanderijen*, Ostend Pavilion, Ostend, Belgium (project identity and principal image)

*RISK: Empathy, Art and Social Practice*, Glass Curtain Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

<http://students.colum.edu/deps/glass-curtain-gallery/exhibitions/risk-empathy-art-and-social-practice/index.php>

[RISK catalogue available here](#)

*Tragedy*, Missoula and Bozeman, Montana (solo performances)

## 2013

*Goods and Services (reprise)*, Exposition Chicago opening night performance, Chicago, Illinois

*Emerging Tactics*, RECESS, Portland, Oregon

*Good Service*, Studio Gang, Chicago, Illinois

*Goods and Services*, Council on Foundations annual meeting, Chicago, Illinois

*Guns and Butter*, UIS Gallery, Springfield, Illinois (solo show)

*Rube Goldberg's Ghost*, Glass Curtain Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

## 2012

*Industry of the Ordinary: Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, mid-career survey, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois (solo exhibition/residency/series of performances and collaborations, runs until February 2013) <http://www.industryoftheordinary.com/html/culturalcenter.html>

*Memory Over Forgetting*, Exposition Chicago opening night performance, Chicago, Illinois

*Rapid Pulse International Performance Festival*, Defibrillator Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (solo performance)

*Sight and Sound*, Billboard Art Project, Richmond, Virginia

*Foreign Affairs*, Expo Chicago 2012, Chicago, Illinois (solo performance)

*Performance Series*, British Consul General's residence, Chicago, Illinois

*Starving Artist*, Chicago Artist Coalition, Chicago, Illinois

*Butter Raiser*, Maria's, Chicago, Illinois

*Evil is Interesting*, Antena, Chicago, Illinois

*Arts and Crafts*, Public House, Chicago, Illinois

## 2011

*Industry of the Ordinary*, Watkins College of Art, Nashville, Tennessee (solo show)

*Wicker Park/Bucktown Mural Project*, Chicago, Illinois (long-term installation)

*Whiskey and Kisses/Go-Betweens*, MDW Fair, Chicago, Illinois

*Visual Phrasing*, Maloney Art Gallery, Morristown, New Jersey

*Mash Flob*, performance series at Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois

*The Search*, Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Hang In There*, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, Illinois

*Performance Series*, British Consul General's residence, Chicago, Illinois

*Work With Me*, A+D Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Out of Site*, public performance series organized by Defibrillator Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Chain Letter*, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles, California

## 2010

*History as Idea*, Nebraska State Historical Society, 1% for Art Commission, Lincoln, Nebraska (permanent installation)

*Don't Piss on Me and Tell Me It's Raining*, apexart, New York, New York

*ORD[i]NANCE*, Urban Environment Office, London, England

*Spark*, Defibrillator, Chicago

*ACRE: Country in the City*, Heaven Gallery, Chicago

*X-treme Studio*, A+D Gallery, Chicago

Artists in residence, Anchor Graphics, Chicago, Illinois

Visiting artists, ACRE, Steuben, Wisconsin

**2009**

*Modern Wing Opening*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (solo performance)

*Super Market*, Northeastern Illinois University Gallery, Chicago (solo show)

*ArtChicago*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Dis/Believer: Reconciling Science and Religion in Contemporary Art*, Glass Curtain Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Site/Unseen*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois (rejected)

*39 Verbs*, Packer Schopf Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (organized)

*Supermarketing*, multi-site project in the United States, England, France, Italy and India

**2008**

*12x12*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (solo show)

*Allan Kaprow—Art as Life*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

*Journeys*, Chicago Public Library Public Art Commission, Chicago, Illinois (permanent installation)

*Celebrity and The Peculiar*, Gahlberg Gallery, College of DuPage, Illinois (solo show) (catalog)

*Reflections*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Public Address*, Phaiz, Chicago, Illinois

*The Drawing Show*, Beverly Art Center, Chicago, Illinois

*Off the Beaten Road*, A+D Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*Five Years on the Run*, Orleans St. Gallery, St. Charles, Illinois

*ArtXposium*, West Chicago, Illinois

**2007**

*Mapping the Self*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

*Imaginary Time*, Waterloo Center for the Arts, Waterloo, Iowa (solo performance)

*Approach* (curated by Research and Development), Ai Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*D.I.Y.*, A+D Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*ArtChicago*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

*The Art World is Flat*, Pritzker Pavilion, Chicago, Illinois

*College Art Association*, New York, New York (solo performance)

*The Nature of Art*, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, Indiana

*God's Punk*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois

**2006**

*Ruby Satellite*, UCR/California Museum of Photography, Riverside, California

*Smoke and Mirrors: Photography and Performance*, Ohio University Art Gallery, Athens, Ohio

*Propagation*, Polvo, Chicago, Illinois

*Takeover*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois

*Site/Unseen*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois

*Intimate and Epic*, Lurie Garden, Millennium Park, Chicago, Illinois

*Basel Miami*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Miami, Florida

*Fancy Dress Ball*, Links Hall Exhibition Space, Chicago, Illinois (solo performance)

*Faith—Industry of the Ordinary*, University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois

*Society For Contemporary Art Auction*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

*Ballroom Blitz*, James Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

*@rtNight*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois

**2005**

*Version>05*, Chicago, Illinois

*Nova Young Art Fair*, Chicago, Illinois (solo performance)

*PAC Edge Performance Festival*, Performing Arts Chicago, Athenaeum Theater, Chicago, Illinois

*Early Adopters*, Three Arts Club, Chicago, Illinois

*Book Launch*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, Illinois

**2004**

*A More Perfect Union*, The Renaissance Society, Chicago, Illinois

*Fine Words Butter No Cabbage*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois

*Outer Ear Festival of Sound*, Experimental Sound Studio, Chicago, Illinois

*PAC Edge Performance Festival*, Performing Arts Chicago, Athenaeum Theater, Chicago, Illinois

*Midwestern Photographer's Project*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, Illinois

*Faith, Sonic Performance*, WLWU radio station

*Open Studio*, Chicago Public Art Program, Chicago, Illinois

*Image/Action*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, Illinois

**2003**

*Dropping 163 lbs: Daley Plaza*, Chicago, Illinois

**2002**

*32 minutes on La Salle*, Chicago (MW solo)

**2001**

*Contextual*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois (catalog) (AB)

**2000**

Salina Art Center, Salina, Kansas (catalog) (AB solo)

*The Body in Photographs: A Recent Gift from Eileen and Peter Norton*, Bard College, Center for Curatorial Studies Museum, New York (AB)

**1999**

*Men of the World in Seattle*, Center for Contemporary Art, Seattle, Washington (MW solo)

**1998**

*DeNaturalized*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois (AB solo)

**1997**

*Aeroplanes*, Vilnius University, Lithuania (MW solo)

**1996**

*Art in Chicago Since 1945*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, (catalog) (MW solo)

*Degrees of Morality*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, Illinois (AB solo)

**1994**

Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (AB solo)

*Daley Plaza Event for Earth Day*, Chicago, Illinois (MW solo)

*Freedom Wall Project*, Chicago, Illinois (catalog) (AB solo, permanent public installation)

Muranushi Lederman Productions, New York, New York (AB solo)

**1991**

*Men Exchanging Fluids*, Cameraworks Gallery, San Francisco, October (MW solo)

Abel Joseph Gallery, Chicago, Illinois (AB solo)

**Selected Bibliography (see also [IOTO Press](#) for complete bibliography):**

*NewCity's Art 50: Chicago's Artists' Artists*, September 2018

<https://art.newcity.com/2018/08/30/art-50-2018-chicagos-artists-artists/2/>

*With and In Difference, Top Five, December 8, 2016*, GlassTire, Texas Visual Art

<http://glasstire.com/2016/12/08/top-five-december-8-2016/>

*Emergency Index: An Annual Document of Performance Practice, volume 3, documenting 2013*, published Jan. 2015, pages 24-25

*NewCity's Top Five of Everything: 2014, Top Five New Gallery Projects—Ordinary Projects*, 24 December 2014

<http://art.newcity.com/2014/12/24/newcitys-top-5-of-everything-2014-art/>

*Three Awesome, Incredibly Odd Art Projects in Chicago*, Jason Foumberg, 13 October 2014  
<http://www.chicagomag.com/arts-culture/October-2014/Three-odd-awesome-art-objects-to-see/>

*NewCity's Art 50: The Top Artists in Chicago*, 18 September 2014  
<http://art.newcity.com/2014/09/18/art-50-2014-chicagos-artists-artists/>  
<http://art.newcity.com/2014/09/18/art-50-2014-chicagos-artists-artists/5/>

*Bad at Sports Top Weekend Picks*, 4 September 2014, Stephanie Burke  
<http://badatsports.com/2014/top-7-weekend-picks-95-97/>

*Portrait of the Artist: Macon Reed at Ordinary Projects*, Matt Morris, 16 June 2014  
<http://art.newcity.com/2014/06/16/portrait-of-the-artist-macon-reed/>

*Bad at Sports Top Weekend Picks*, Stephanie Burke, 29 May 2014  
<http://badatsports.com/2014/top-5-weekend-picks-530-61/>

*Eye Exam: Chicago Art News (Ordinary Projects launch)*, 23 May 2014  
<http://art.newcity.com/2014/05/23/eye-exam-chicago-art-news/>

*Best of 2013, Top Arts and Culture Stories in Chicago*, Laura Pearson (ed.), 20 December 2013, Time Out Chicago  
<http://www.timeoutchicago.com/things-to-do/chicago-blog/16517836/best-of-2013-top-arts-and-culture-stories-in-chicago?package=16515991>

*Guns and Butter*, Justine Fowler, 1 February 2013, Springfield State Journal-Register, page B1

*The Incomplete, Self-Generating Exhibition*, Abraham Ritchie, 1 February 2013, Bad At Sports  
<http://badatsports.com/2013/the-incomplete-self-generating-exhibition/>

*Interview: Guns And Butter, An Art Exhibit At UIS*, Rachel Otwell, 30 January 2013, WUIS Radio

*Industry of the Ordinary at the Cultural Center*, Lauren Weinberg, 17 January 2013, Time Out Chicago, <http://www.timeoutchicago.com/arts-culture/art-design/15990311/industry-of-the-ordinary-at-the-chicago-cultural-center>

*Industry of the Ordinary: Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, Haddon Pearson, 13 January 2013, Haddon Pearson Blog, <http://haddonpearson.blogspot.co.uk/2013/01/industry-of-ordinary-lannysilverman.html>

*Top 5 Art Exhibitions in Chicago of 2012*, Alicia Eler, 28 December 2012, Hyperallergic, <http://hyperallergic.com/62668/top-5-chicago-shows-of-2012/>

*Top 5 Art Exhibitions in Chicago in 2012*, Jason Foumberg, 20 December 2012, NewCity Art, <http://art.newcity.com/2012/12/20/newcitys-top-5-of-everything-2012-art/>

*Eye Exam: Nose to Air with Celebrity Scent*, Jason Foumberg, 15 December 2012, NewCity Art  
<http://art.newcity.com/2012/12/15/eye-exam-nose-to-the-air-with-celebrity-scents/>

*Bad at Sports* podcast featuring *Industry of the Ordinary* about *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, 11 December 2012  
<http://badatsports.com/2012/episode-380-industry-of-the-ordinary/>

*Buttering Up Obama*, Trevor Ballanger, 5 November 2012, The Columbia Chronicle  
<http://columbiachronicle.com/buttering-up-obama/>

*Obama Butter Sculpture Visits Loop*, Lauren Weinburg, 31 October 2012, Time Out Chicago Exhibitionist Blog  
<http://www.timeoutchicago.com/arts-culture/art-design/15831386/obama-butter-sculpture-visits-the-loop>

*Eye Exam: Butter Me Up, Mister Obama*, Alicia Eler, 23 October 2012, Newcity Art  
<http://art.newcity.com/2012/10/23/eye-exam-butter-me-up-mister-obama/>

*An Artistic Industry of the Ordinary*, Philip A. Harigan, 5 October 2012, Hyperallergic  
<http://hyperallergic.com/57907/an-artistic-industry-of-the-ordinary/>

*From Chicago: Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, Julia Glosemeyer, 1 October 2012, Art Practical  
[http://www.artpractical.com/shotgun\\_review/sic\\_transit\\_gloria](http://www.artpractical.com/shotgun_review/sic_transit_gloria)

*Ordinary Art Leaves Viewer to Answer What it All Means*, Claudine Ise, 6 September 2012, Chicago Tribune, page 4  
[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-09-05/entertainment/ct-ent-0906-ordinary-art-review-20120905\\_1\\_ordinary-art-gallery-sculptures](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-09-05/entertainment/ct-ent-0906-ordinary-art-review-20120905_1_ordinary-art-gallery-sculptures)

*Art and Industry*, Alison Cuddy, 20 August 2012, WBEZ blog,  
<http://www.wbez.org/sections/culture/art-and-industry-august-20-26-101810>

*Review: Industry of the Ordinary/Chicago Cultural Center*, Bert Stabler, 28 August 2012  
<http://art.newcity.com/2012/08/28/review-industry-of-the-ordinarychicago-cultural-center/>

*The Extraordinary Banality of the Ordinary as Art*, Eric Felten, The Wall Street Journal, 10 August 2012, page D12  
[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443537404577579114213909048.html?mod=WSJ\\_article\\_comments#articleTabs%3Dcomments](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390443537404577579114213909048.html?mod=WSJ_article_comments#articleTabs%3Dcomments)

*Industry of the Ordinary at Watkins*, Joe Nolan, Nashville Scene, 3 March 2011,  
<http://www.nashvillescene.com/nashville/industry-of-the-ordinary/Event?oid=2274889>

*Eye Exam: Forging a New Frontier*, Jason Foumberg, New City Art, 22 November 2010,  
<http://art.newcity.com/2010/11/22/eye-exam-forging-a-frontier/-more-6890>

*Historical, and Now Safer Too*, Joe Duggan, Lincoln Journal-Star, 17 September 2010, page B1

*39 Verbs*, Patrice Connelly, New City, 12 October 2009, <http://art.newcity.com/2009/10/12/art-break-helping-verbs/>

*39 Verbs*, Chicago Art Review, 14 November 2009,  
<http://chicagoartreview.com/2009/11/14/minireview-industry-of-the-ordinary-packer-schopf/>

*39 Verbs*, Erik Wenzel, ArtSlant Chicago, 12 October 2009,  
<http://www.artslant.com/chi/articles/show/10744>

*39 Verbs*, Jeriah Hildwine, ArtTalk Chicago, 15 October 2009,  
<http://www.chicagonow.com/blogs/arttalk-chicago/2009/10/39-verbs-at-packer-schopf-gallery.html>

*Collective Bargains*, feature article about *Industry of the Ordinary*'s NEIU show, Lauren Weinberg, Time Out Chicago, September 17-23 2009, page 44, <http://timeoutchicago.com/arts-culture/art-design/68349/collective-bargains>

*Aesthetics*, The Other Journal, Heather Smith, May 2009, page 21

*Critics' Picks-Industry of the Ordinary at the Museum of Contemporary Art*, Time Out Chicago, October 2-8, 2008

*The Five-Year Plan; Breakout Artists 2004-2007: Where are they now?*, Rachel Furnari and David Mark Wise, New City, 24 April 2008

*Ruby Satellite*, Peter Frank, Art on Paper, March/April 2007 (repro.)

*Ruby Satellite*, Jeffrey Ryan, Frieze, March 2007 (repro.)

*Anything but Ordinary*, Chrissy Mahlmeister, Columbia Chronicle, 22 January 2007

*Industry of the Ordinary: Featured Artists for Chicago Artists Month 2006*, Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Chicago, (repro.)

Online catalog for *Propagation* show at Polvo, Chicago, October 2006, including video interview with Sabrina Raaf, (repro.)

*Bad at Sports* podcast featuring *Industry of the Ordinary*, 24 July 2006,  
<http://badatsports.com/2006/episode-47-industry-of-the-ordinary/> (repro.)

*Breakout Artists: Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers*, Michael Workman, New City, 27 April 2006 (repro.)

Chicago Artist Resource, *Artist Story*, *Industry of the Ordinary*, January 2006,  
<http://www.chicagoartistsresource.org/artist-stories/industry-ordinary> (repro.)

*Industry of the Ordinary*, Bridge magazine feature article, Issue #17, February 2006 (repro.)  
*Ten Chicago Artists Everyone Should Know*, Art Letter, Chicago Life, NY Times, 16 Oct. 2005  
*Best of Chicago*, New City, September 29, 2005  
*Textbook: Notes Around the Margins*, Link's Hall, 2005, essays by Corey Postiglione and Susan Snodgrass (repro.)  
Whitewalls, *Fine Words Butter No Cabbage*, Winter 2005 (repro.)  
Critic's Choice, *Chicago Reader*, April 17, 2003 (repro.)  
*Gestures in the Paradise of the Ordinary*, Men of the World Press, Fall 2000 (repro.) (MW)  
*Remembering the entertaining enigmas of Men of the World*, Chicago Reader, March 31, 2000 (MW)  
*Agitator: Contemporary Art of Propaganda*, Susan Snodgrass, C, Summer 2000, Page 40 (repro.) (AB)  
*Men of the World*, New York Press, October 14, 1997 (repro.) (MW)  
*Language And Text Up Against The Wall*, Public Art Review, Summer 1995, Page 18 (repro.) (AB)  
*Earth Day Performance*, Chicago Tribune magazine, July 30 1995, Page 23 (repro.) (MW)  
*Adam Brooks: Only Words*, James Yood, Glass, Spring 1995, Page 28 (repro.) (AB)  
*Art Attack 'Kills' 100 in Daley Plaza*, Chicago Sun -Times, April 19, 1994 (repro.) (MW)  
*Adam Brooks*, Muranushi Lederman Productions, Kim Levin, Voice Choices, Village Voice, 8 February 1994, Page 69 (AB)  
*Men of the World: 10 days in May*, P-Form, Summer 1993 (repro.) (MW)  
*Installations for New Spaces*, Kathryn Hixson, Flash Art, March/April 1992, Page 148 (AB)  
*Culture, Identity and Colonialism*, Whitewalls #31, 1992, (repro.) (MW)  
*Adam Brooks, Abel Joseph*, Joe Scanlan, Artscribe, Summer 1991, Page 72 (repro.) (AB)  
*Adam Brooks, Abel Joseph Gallery*, James Yood, Artforum, April 1991, Page 130 (repro.) (AB)  
*The Blasted Word; Adam Brooks at Abel Joseph Gallery*, Lynda Barckert, Chicago Reader, 1 February 1991, Section 1, Page 34 (repro.) (AB)

#### **Selected Awards:**

City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Grant, 2017  
Illinois Arts Council New Performance Forms Artist Fellowship, 2019, 2006  
Illinois Arts Council, Artist Project Grant, 2012  
Illinois Humanities Council, 2005  
Faculty Development Grant, Columbia College Chicago, 2019, 2018, 2015, 2012, 2005  
Faculty Development Grant, University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois, 2005  
Illinois Arts Council Visual Arts Fellowship Grant, 1997, 1990 (AB)  
Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, City of Chicago, 2005 (MW)  
Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, City of Chicago, 2005, 1999, 1996, 1993, 1990 (AB)  
Travel Grant, *Museum in Progress, Vienna*, Austrian Government, 1993 (AB)

#### **Selected Collections:**

Gabriel Mayer, Munich, Germany  
Aaron Levine, Washington, D. C.  
Andreas Waldburg-Wolfegg, Chicago, Illinois  
Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, Illinois  
Victoria and Steven Burns, Los Angeles, California  
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (AB)  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (AB)  
Bard College, Center for Curatorial Studies Museum, New York (AB)  
Peter Norton, Santa Monica, California (AB)