



Sammy Chong, *GREEN*, 2015

25th Drawing Show
The Gig Economy: Depictions of Life and Responses to Work in the Digital Bazaar

Robert Moeller
Invited Curator and Juror

Mills Gallery at Boston Center for the Arts
551 Tremont Street, Boston
November 4, 2017–January 7, 2018

Opening Reception Saturday, November 4 | 7–10 pm

Boston Center for the Arts opens its Fall 2017 exhibition season in the Mills Gallery with the 25th iteration of its signature Open Call Drawing Show, juried and curated this year by artist, writer and independent curator Robert Moeller on the subject of The Gig Economy.

Artists: Rory Fitzgerald Bledsoe, Alex Callender, Sammy Chong, Furen Dai, Carol Greenwood, Yikui Gu, Georgina Lewis, Andy Li, Robert A. McCann, Tim McCool, Hans van Meeuwen, Melaney Ann Mitchell, Yorgos Papafigos, Aaron Pennington, Brian Reddy, Chris Revelle, Carlos Enrique Rodriguez, Justin C. Rounds, Pat Shannon, Sophia Sobers, Jxmie Timms and Mandy Cano Villalobos

Also featuring “Talk to an Expert” with digital labor specialist Mary L. Gray

The rise of the gig or sharing economy was heralded as a disruptive moment in how new services and ideas were presented to consumers and how these services were parceled out and monetized. Falsely embedded in this concept was a supposed ethos of freedom, a cavalier insistence on independence that allowed people to work for whomever they wanted whenever they wanted while either supplementing their income or working for a living wage. In many cases, the opposite is true: the companies that created these platforms often incentivize working longer hours while offering no benefits and insisting upon the “contractor status” of their employees. Proprietary algorithms, running behind glossy and easy to use apps are constantly directing an increasingly isolated workforce to complete task after task, with numbing efficiency.

This exhibition seeks to portray and explore the emotional, economic, and truly disruptive nature of work based on this new technology-centered model. Responses range from depictions of micro-economies like bottle collecting and prostitution, to abstract assessments of smart technologies and digressions on connectivity and isolation. A pen is attached to a computer mouse and activities are mapped. The lurid and often celebratory nature of the sexualized “Selfie” is examined via a series of drawings that recast new modes of intimacy and sharing.

[Read full press release here.](#)

About the Boston Center for the Arts Drawing Show

Since 1979, the Drawing Show has been a widely anticipated hallmark of visual arts programming at Boston Center for the Arts (BCA). This juried exhibition has allowed BCA to work with more than 500 artists and invited curators. Throughout the Open Call submission process, proposals are welcome from artists everywhere.

Holiday Schedule

The Mills Gallery will be closed the following days:

November

- Wednesday, November 22

- Thursday, November 23
- Friday, November 24

December

- Friday, December 22
- Saturday, December 23
- Sunday, December 24
- Saturday, December 30
- Sunday, December 31