

## Barbara Kasten/Chicago

Over the course of July, 2018, Chicago-based artist Barbara Kasten was the summer resident of Illinois Institute of Technology's S. R. Crown Hall, normally used as studio space for architectural students. Kasten activated Mies van der Rohe's iconic building with a new series of sculptural constructions that then became the subject of a series of photographs that dematerialize architectural space into abstraction. Using the space as her studio and co-opting the students' Mies-designed worktables, Kasten altered the constructions during the course of each photographic shoot, extending and elaborating them as she shot them. The process is a commentary on the experimentation that takes place in this pedagogical space during the academic year. Kasten's sculptural constructions were on view in S.R. Crown Hall during this month-long photographic process, and the artist plans to exhibit the resulting photographs of this residency at a later date to be determined.

In a complex map of ideas and intentions, Kasten connects the building's history and function with her own work. The Institute of Design, founded by László Moholy-Nagy in 1937, and originally called the "New Bauhaus," merged with IIT in 1949. The school's rich legacy as a platform for experimentation and innovation resulted in developments in architecture, design, and photographic practices. Kasten's activity in S. R. Crown Hall draws a through-line from the Bauhaus's ethos and IIT's original conception to the students that work in the space today, building a new environment based not only on her own vision, but also Moholy-Nagy's, Mies van der Rohe's, and those of future architects and designers.

Artist/City is Bortolami's experimental programming initiative that pairs an artist with an American city. Taking place in unconventional settings for longer durations than the standard gallery exhibition, these site-responsive projects grant artists freedom to present their work according to their own creative vision. Previous projects include *Daniel Buren/Miami*, *Eric Wesley/St. Louis*, *Tom Burr/New Haven* (alternatively titled *BODY / BUILDING*). Current projects include *Jutta Koether/Philadelphia* and *Ann Veronica Janssens/Baltimore*.

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