



For Immediate Release
October 15, 2018

BRIC PRESENTS
Penelope Umbrico: *MONUMENT*
in the Gallery at BRIC House

Part Installation, Part Residency: An Exhibition Demystifying Our ‘Black-Box’ Technologies



Penelope Umbrico: *Monument*
Curated by Elizabeth Ferrer
BRIC House – 647 Fulton St, Brooklyn
Exhibition on View: November 29, 2018-January 20, 2019
Opening Reception: Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 7-9pm

Brooklyn, NY, October 15, 2018: BRIC, celebrating 40 years as the leading presenter of free cultural programming in Brooklyn, presents **Penelope Umbrico: *MONUMENT***, an exhibition in the **Gallery at BRIC House** exploring the monolithic state of our current technologies in relation to their obsolescence. Starting with the idea that all technologies are in effect “black boxes” to most users who engage with them, Umbrico will present a major installation and other works that will act to demystify them. The centerpiece of the exhibition will be a 20 foot long wall of broken semi functional LCD TVs that reveals their insides while serving as a platform for video programming and/or a backdrop for performances. The exhibition will be on view from **November 29, 2018 – January 20, 2019** with an opening reception on **Wednesday, November 28, 2018 from 7-9pm.**

While revealing the hidden aspects of our “black-box” technologies, the project attempts to speak to our ever-accumulating e-waste and the rapid pace at which digital hardware becomes obsolete. A space will be set aside in the Gallery for the community to recycle their unwanted e-waste. Visitors bringing in electronic screen devices will be invited to disassemble them and create a portrait of the inside of the device. Umbrico will create a site-specific installation with the disassembled e-waste that will evolve as new material comes in.

In collecting unwanted e-waste from participants, the Gallery at BRIC House will become a temporary e-waste up-cycling collection center in which visitors can bring in an object, and disassemble and transform that item. The upcycled objects will then be displayed in the gallery, and the contributor can take photo documentation of the disassembled item, to share on social media.

Penelope Umbrico will treat this exhibition as a kind of residency. Throughout the exhibition, she and other artists will often be on site, working with this material and creating objects from e-waste that will be exhibited in the evolving display. Umbrico and other artists will also work with members of the public who will be invited to bring their own broken or unused devices, to take apart and transform into new creations.

Gallery Hours & Admission

- Admission to BRIC's Contemporary Art exhibitions is always FREE and open to the public.
- The Gallery at BRIC House is open: Tue – Sat, 10AM-6PM; Sun, 12-6PM; Closed Mondays.

Associated Public Programs:

The following FREE public programs will take place in conjunction with the exhibition.

Coffee & Conversation

Saturday, December 1 | 12pm

A gallery tour and conversation with the artist about her new exhibition at BRIC House.

Panel Discussion

Wednesday, December 12 | 7pm

A discussion between Umbrico and artists Jean Shin, Mary Mattingly, Eva and Franco Mattes, and Josh Tonsfeldt, who all employ obsolete technology in their work.

Residency Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays, 2-6pm

BRIC encourages people to drop by the gallery, where the artist will assist members of the public in disassembling (and therefore demystifying) old technological devices.

E-Waste Drop Off

Dates TBA

Visitors can drop off their old technology (LCD TVs, iPods, Smartphones, Kindles, etc) to be recycled and reused for future art projects.

About Penelope Umbrico

Penelope Umbrico utilizes search engines, web platforms, common software applications, and imaging technologies to create multi-disciplinary works that explore screen space, light and electronic signal in relation to the material detritus of technology. Her work navigates between producer and consumer, local and global, the individual and the collective with attention to the technologies that are produced by, and produce, these forces. Umbrico's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is included in the collections of the Guggenheim Museum; LACMA; Metropolitan Museum of Art; Milwaukee Art Museum; Museum of Modern Art New York; SFMOMA, among others. She is the recipient of many awards, including a Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program Residency, a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her monographs are published by Aperture, NY, and RVB Books, Paris. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

About BRIC

BRIC is celebrating 40 years as the leading presenter of free cultural programming in Brooklyn, and one of the largest in New York City. The organization presents and incubates work by artists and media-makers that reflects the diversity of New York. BRIC programs reach hundreds of thousands of people each year.

BRIC's main venue, BRIC House, offers a public media center, a major contemporary art exhibition space, two performance spaces, a glass-walled TV studio and artist work spaces.

Some of BRIC's most acclaimed programs include the BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival in Prospect Park; groundbreaking media initiatives, including BRIC TV, BRIC Radio, and Brooklyn Free Speech; and renowned contemporary art exhibitions. BRIC also offers education and community-building programs at BRIC House and throughout Brooklyn.

In addition to making cultural programming genuinely accessible, BRIC is dedicated to providing substantial support to artists and media makers in their efforts to develop work and reach new audiences. BRIC is unusual in both presenting exceptional cultural experiences and nurturing individual expression. This dual commitment enables BRIC to most effectively reflect New York City's innate cultural richness and diversity.

Learn more at BRICartsmedia.org.

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