



There Is Nothing To Divide Us If We Do Not Exist

Badlands Unlimited, CFGNY, Gidra, Renée Green, Sara Knox Hunter and Guadalupe Rosales
June 2 - July 26

Chen's is pleased to present the inaugural group exhibition, *There Is Nothing To Divide Us If We Do Not Exist*, featuring Badlands Unlimited, CFGNY, Gidra, Renée Green, Sara Knox Hunter and Guadalupe Rosales.

The artists and organizations in this exhibition engage publishing and archiving in expanded forms to remap modes of cultural representation and narratives of presence. Through a variety of methods, the material practices involved strive to circulate the complexities that frame individual and communal visibility and agency.

The name of the exhibition has been titled after *There is nothing to divide us if we do not exist* (2016), a book of poetry by Sara Knox Hunter.

Chen's would like to acknowledge and thank The Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center of the Japanese American National Museum, The Hirasaki National Resource Center of the Japanese American National Museum, Mika Tajima, and Motel for their assistance with this exhibition.

This exhibition is organized by Alex Ito and Howie Chen.

Badlands Unlimited (founded 2010) publishes e-books, paper books, and artist works in digital and print forms. Historical distinctions between books, files, and artworks are dissolving rapidly. We publish and produce new works by artists and writers that embody the spirit of this emerging dissolution.

CFGNY (founded 2016) is an ongoing dialogue between Tin Nguyen and Daniel Chew on the intersection of fashion, race, identity and sexuality. CFGNY continually returns to the term "vaguely Asian": an understanding of race as a specific cultural experience combined with what it feels like to be perceived as Asian. CFGNY does not wish to represent what it means to be Asian in the singular; instead, it encourages the visualization of the countless ways one is able to be Asian.

Gidra (1969-1974) was an Asian American monthly newspaper-magazine that ran from 1969-1974. The publication discussed various topics such as Asian American representation, art, social justice, activism and

coalition with other community groups. The group was known for their anti-war and anti-capitalist stance that inspired global movements towards decolonization.

Renée Green is an artist, writer, and filmmaker. Green's most recent project, *Pacing*, was a two-year engagement with the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, Cambridge, Mass. She's the author of *Other Planes of There: Selected Writings* (Duke University Press, 2014), and a Professor at the MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology, School of Architecture & Planning.

Free Agent Media (FAM) (founded 1994) is a dream company and will fulfill the wishes of those it represents. We will revive the attitude of gift exchange between the company and those represented by the company. We operate in the interstices of late capitalism and are under no delusion that there ever exist free gifts. Those represented must sign an agreement acknowledging that crucial premise. While FAM is a dream company it nonetheless is a producer of things. The things it produces are media products, such as our inaugural product, *Camino Road*. FAM gives shape to dreams. It will publish books which may ordinarily have difficulty being placed but which we believe can be linked to a market waiting to be tapped. We do not believe in the dictum that to sell one must appeal to the lowest common denominator. Markets and audiences are made and there are a variety of them. The sizes of these markets are unknown and not possible to assess from market surveys. We gamble on the circulating moods of the times, while minimizing the possibility for losses. Thus we produce paperback books, books on computer disks, CD-ROMs, and videos 1 . We will expand or contract when necessary. We are an internationally based company and when possible produce multiple language editions and when timely we produce tie-in merchandise." [Excerpt from Renée Green's 1995 statement, "Free Agent Media," in *Other Planes of There: Selected Writings* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014), 94]

Sara Knox Hunter is a writer, musician, and artist based in Queens, NY. She is the founder and director of Summer Forum for Inquiry + Exchange. Her collection of sci-fi poetry, *There is nothing to divide us if we do not exist*, (Dominica) was published in 2016

Guadalupe Rosales is an artist and archivist based in Los Angeles. She holds an MFA from The School of The Art Institute Of Chicago. Rosales is the founder of *Veteranas and Rucas* and *Map Pointz*, both digital archives found on Instagram. She has exhibited at The Brooklyn Museum (Brooklyn NY), Vincent Price Art Museum (Los Angeles CA) and The Philbrook Museum (Tulsa OK). She has lectured at various institutions such as UCLA, Vincent Price Art Museum, The Getty, The New Museum, New York University and The Graduate Center in New York. In 2016, Rosales took over The New Yorker's social media for a week and was one of the top rated takeovers of the year. Her role as Artist in Residence taking over LACMA's Instagram feed was featured in the LA Times, Artsy and Artforum. Rosales has an ongoing project developing an archive of photographs, objects and ephemera related to the 90's Los Angeles Latinx party crew scene and Chicanx youth culture. By preserving artifacts and memorabilia, Rosales' work deconstructs and reframes marginalized histories, offering platforms of conversation and agency of self-representation.