
PRESS RELEASE

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Art Basel will present a new Messeplatz installation by Oscar Tuazon in Basel this June

For the duration of Art Basel, 'Zome Alloy', a new structure by Los Angeles-based artist Oscar Tuazon, will be installed on Messeplatz in Basel. An adaptation of Steve Baer's 'Zome House' (1972), the architectural structure will house a series of events throughout the week – a second version of the 'Alloy Conference' that was held in 1969.

'Zome Alloy' is a lightweight structural wood shell, designed to accommodate the crowds of people that visit the fair and engage them in the question of what a house can be. Open along the entire south-facing facade, the pavilion takes the form of a single-family home opened to the public. Partially clad in aluminum, the structure is de-mountable and can be seen as an architectural system ready to go into production – a demonstration 'zome'. The 'zome' system produces volumes that, unlike geodesic structures, can be stretched and elongated.

With this new work, **Oscar Tuazon** (b. 1975, Seattle) builds on the work of inventor, solar engineer and architect **Steve Baer** (b. 1938, Los Angeles). After studying physics and mathematics at ETH Zurich, Baer moved to Albuquerque, becoming one of the architects of Drop City, often referred to as the first hippie commune. In 1968 Baer published Dome Cookbook, which describes the mathematical system for creating stretchable polyhedrons, or zonohedra.

In 1971, Steve Baer and his wife **Holly Baer** built a zome home for themselves, a cluster of 11 fused volumes with a floor area of 215 square meters organized in a U-shape around an east-facing courtyard, outside Corrales, New Mexico, where they live today. The shell of the structure consists of lightweight honeycomb panels clad in light-reflecting aluminum. The clustered, stretched organic forms can be seen as an analog precedent for much of the digitally generated fluid surfaces of contemporary architecture, though the house was built entirely by hand. The house is also an early example of a passive solar-energy system and served as a laboratory and testing ground for Baer's innovative work in passive solar technologies. Zomeworks, founded and operated by the Baers, continues to be a leader in this field.

Tuazon's 'Zome Alloy' is the zome stripped down to the bones, an updated version of the original Baer house using contemporary technology. Using a 3D survey of the Baer house, Tuazon developed a structural panel system that will be manufactured in Switzerland using robotic cutting and assembly technology.

During Art Basel the installation will host the second Alloy Conference. The first Alloy Conference, organized by Steve Baer, took place near La Luz, New Mexico in 1969 with participants from nearby communes and included contributions from **Steve Durkee**, **Lloyd Kahn**, **Peter Rabbit**, and **Stewart Brand** on energy, structure, materials and alternative building systems. The second edition of the conference, organized by Tuazon, will bring together individuals experimenting at the forefront of engineering and architecture to address those same questions today.

NOTES TO EDITORS

'Zome Alloy' Opening Hours

Monday, June 13, 2016, 4pm to 7pm
Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 11am to 8pm
Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 11am to 8pm
Thursday, June 16, 2016, 11am to 7pm
Friday, June 17, 2016, 11am to 7pm
Saturday, June 18, 2016, 11am to 7pm
Sunday, June 19, 2016, 11am to 7pm

About Oscar Tuazon

Oscar Tuazon is an artist living and working in Los Angeles. Tuazon is represented by Galerie Chantal Crousel, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Maccarone, dépendance, and Standard (Oslo). Recent solo exhibitions include projects at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Le Consortium, Dijon; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Institute of Contemporary Art, London; Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland; and the Public Art Fund, New York. His work has been included in the Whitney Biennial and the 54th Venice Biennale. Un Pont, a permanent work commissioned by Les Nouveaux commanditaires, is currently being built in Valdoie, France.

About Steve Baer

In 1960 Steve Baer was stationed with the US army in Germany for three years. After discharge from the army, he and his wife, Holly, settled in Zurich, Switzerland, where he worked as a welder and attended Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, studying mathematics. Here he became interested in the possibilities of building innovative structures using polyhedra (non-rectangular polyhedrons).

Baer and his wife moved back to the United States, settling in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Baer initially worked as a welder of trailer frames for the Fruehauf Trailer Services company. He soon went into business by founding a small company called Zomeworks with Barry Hickman and Ed Heinz. The partners experimented with constructing buildings of unusual geometries that they came to call 'zomes', often using heavy sheet metal as the main exterior material. Some of the earliest experiments were carried out in cooperation with members of the communities Drop City and Manara Nueva.

Steve Baer was a key organizer of an important grassroots Western-American conference, Alloy, focusing on these matters. Because the conference was spotlighted in the Whole Earth Catalog, Baer and Zomeworks became better known among solar enthusiasts in the United States. Baer also was known as the author of Dome Cookbook and Zome Primer.

About Art Basel

Art Basel stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary works, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. In addition to ambitious stands featuring leading galleries from around the globe, each show's singular exhibition sectors spotlight the latest developments in the visual arts, offering visitors new ideas and new inspiration.

Partners

UBS, global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for more than 20 years. As Art Basel's global network expanded, UBS increased its lead partnership to include all three shows: Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. In addition, UBS has a long and substantial record of engagement in contemporary art: as a holder of one of the world's most distinguished corporate art collections, as an active partner in global contemporary art projects such as the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, and as a source of information and insights through the UBS Art Competence Center, UBS Arts Forum and its new contemporary art news-focused app, 'Planet Art'.

Art Basel's Associate Partners, supporting all three shows, are Davidoff – the prestigious Swiss cigar brand, whose Davidoff Art Initiative encompasses residencies, art dialogs and grants; Audemars Piguet – the independent high-end watch manufacturer, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission; and NetJets – the world leader in private aviation. BMW, the renowned car manufacturer, has co-developed with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey, enabling the winning artist to design a journey of creative discovery. Additionally, Art Basel is supported globally by Ruinart, Official Champagne Partner, and Sennheiser, Official Audio Partner.

Art Basel's show in Basel has partnerships with Baloise Group, AXA ART, Vienna Tourist Board and ARVI. Art Basel's Media Partners are The Financial Times and Neue Zürcher Zeitung. For further information about partnerships, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Important Dates for Media

Preview (by invitation):

Tuesday June 14, 2016 and Wednesday June 15, 2016

Public days

Thursday, June 16, 2016, 11am to 7pm

Friday, June 17, 2016, 11am to 7pm

Saturday, June 18, 2016, 11am to 7pm

Sunday, June 19, 2016, 11am to 7pm

Press accreditation:

Online registration for press accreditation is now open.

Please note that as of 2016 it will no longer be possible to accredit onsite. Therefore it is important to register online by June 12, 2016. Please visit artbasel.com/accreditation.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Basel, June 16-19, 2016

Miami Beach, December 1-4, 2016

Hong Kong, March 23-25, 2017

Media information online

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from artbasel.com/press.

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