Vibe Overgaard: Spindle City

An artist examines the impact of growth economies through the textile industry

March 17–July 21, 2023

The International Studio & Curatorial Program presents Spindle City, a solo exhibition of work by Vibe Overgaard, curated by Media Farzin. Spindle City takes the textile industry as a context from which to examine the workings and impact of growth economies. It is based on the artist’s research in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and Lowell, Massachusetts, major hubs of industrial cotton production in the United States, and draws on the artist’s background growing up in a Danish town founded as a manufacturing center for textiles.

The exhibition features a video essay, Spindle City, and a series of sculptures made of ceramic, wood, metal, and thread. The circuit is a recurring motif: from the fiber that winds through sculptures that evoke industrial looms, to the animated lines of the video, which symbolically trace a critical path through legacies of capitalism, colonialism, slavery, and the welfare state.

Exhibition curator Media Farzin states, “Spindle City grounds us within the vistas and systems we have inherited from industrial capitalism. It proposes small-scale gestures of agency and responsibility within these received forms. It gestures towards a more thoughtful understanding of global citizenship, social forms organized around the mutual needs of human bodies, communities, and ecologies.”

Public programs will be announced on ISCP’s website and newsflashes.

Vibe Overgaard is a Danish visual artist working broadly with installation, sculpture, performance, video, archive material and critical writing. Her research-based practice focuses on economies seen from a historical perspective. Often researching industry and production relations of a specific location, her work links local circumstances to greater global political questions and critiques. She has exhibited work at Kunsthal NORD, Aalborg, Denmark; Goethe Institut, Ramallah, Palestine; and Floating Projects, Hong Kong, among others. She was an ISCP artist-in-residence in 2022 and 2023 supported by the Danish Arts Foundation.
Media Farzin is a New York-based writer and art historian. She received her BFA in Painting from Tehran University, an MA in Curatorial Studies from Columbia University, and a PhD from the City University of New York. Previous curatorial projects include Nicky Nodjoumi: Fractures, The Third Line, Dubai; Turning Points, Neiman Gallery, New York; and Fluxus Scores and Instructions, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, Denmark. Her project and collaboration with artist Alessandro Balteo Yazbeck was shown at the 12th Istanbul Biennial and later at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her writings have appeared in Art Agenda, Artforum, Bidoun, Frieze, and Modern Painters, among others. She is a faculty member at the School of Visual Arts and is Publications Director at Happy Family Night Market.

Vibe Overgaard: Spindle City is supported, in part, by the Consulate General of Denmark in New York; Danish Arts Foundation; Hartfield Foundation; Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature; and William Talbott Hillman Foundation.

About ISCP:
Founded in 1994, ISCP is the fourth-largest visual arts residency program in the world and a global leader in the field of visual arts residency programs. ISCP supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs. Housed in a former factory in Brooklyn, with 35 light-filled work studios and two galleries, ISCP organizes exhibitions, events and offsite projects, which are free and open to all, sustaining a vibrant community of contemporary art practitioners and diverse audiences. Over 1,800 artists and curators from more than 90 countries, including the United States have undertaken residencies at ISCP.

ISCP does not discriminate on the basis of disability in terms of admission, access, or employment. ISCP programs and activities are accessible to visitors with disabilities. Accommodations are made to the best of the institution’s ability, depending on individual visitors’ needs. To request accommodations, please contact info@iscp-nyc.org or call 718-387-2900.