



## ALH Artists Inspire Latest Version of Debtfair at Whitney Biennial

by [Paula Newton](#) December 7, 2016



*For Stress, Fear, and Anxiety Bundle (2015), Occupy Museums grouped work by artists who included the words "stress," "fear," and "anxiety" in their Debtfair applications. The piece includes work by Amy Beth Wright, Katherine Culbertson, Marc Newsome, anonymous, Lucas Berd, Claire Webb, Ben Tecumseh De Soto, Greg Scott, Bereniz Martinez, and Lara Anne. Image courtesy the artists.*

As reported by Glasstire a couple of weeks ago in "[Names Familiar to Texas Will be in 2017 Whitney Biennial](#)," [Occupy Museum's Debtfair](#) was included in its list because Art League Houston (ALH) hosted an exhibition of *Debtfair* last year. First presented in 2012, *Debtfair* asked financially strained artists to share their experiences and apply to have their work in the project.

According to [ARTnews](#), the [Whitney version](#) will mimic a [version installed by ALH](#) in 2015 in which a portion of the museum's sheetrock will be removed, and artworks by the applicants will be shown between the exposed two-by-fours. *ARTnews* states:

The goal for the collective will be to find ways of arranging the 30 artworks they select into three groups of ten, which they call "bundles," in reference to the financialspeak that traders use when selling debt portfolios.

ALH has been in the forefront of the Houston art scene in the discussion and action around artists' pay. So congratulations for influencing the next Whitney Biennial!

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2 COMMENTS

DON Q

December 7, 2016 - 13:20

REPLY

Another "Texan," Robert Rauschenberg, provided some of the DNA for this kind of project when he smuggled the artworks of other artists into a Stable Gallery annual show in 1955. Works by Susan Weil and Jasper Johns were concealed in cabinets that could be opened by the viewer. Named "Short Circuit" because it circumvented the artist-selection process. Now in the Art Institute of Chicago, it can be seen here:

http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/artwork/209926

ROBERT PENA JR.

February 28, 2017 - 22:30

REPLY

Don ... that's an amazing tidbit of art history. My love of Robert Rauschenberg grows and grows, the more I study his work.

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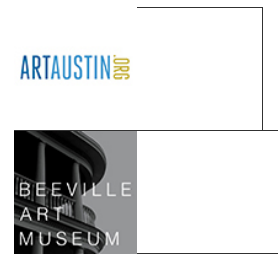
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