

MODERN RUIN

February 20-21, 2010

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 20, 8-11pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Thursday, September 25, 2008 the U.S. Government took over Washington Mutual, selling most of it to JPMorgan Chase.

Roughly a year earlier, at the height of a frenzied economic bubble, Washington Mutual began building a new 1 million dollar branch at 5030 Greenville Avenue, just south of Lovers Lane. Just after its completion, the government seized WaMu, and JPMorgan Chase decided not to occupy the building.

The new building was never opened, never used, and has sat as an empty shell for more than a year.

On February 20, 2010, Modern Ruin-a two-day exhibition organized by Christina Rees and Thomas Feulmer-will open. The two-day exhibition will be the only use for the million-dollar building before the demolition process begins the following week. The bank building is a truly modern ruin - a building that never met its purpose, and only existed as potential activity, potential economy, and hoped-for growth.

Seeking to take advantage of the space-its social and cultural connotations, its materials, and its presence as direct and immediate evidence of the current economic condition-15 artists will create work inspired by and in dialogue with the building. Some artists will alter the building's materials and corporate interior, while others will stage actions and interventions within, and still others will use the background of the space as context for their work.

Artists in the exhibition are:

Frances Bagley  
Tim Best  
Michael Corris  
Thomas Feulmer  
Annette Lawrence  
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Margaret Meehan  
Tom Orr  
Richard Patterson  
Cam Schoepp  
Noah Simblist  
Christoph Trendel  
Terri Thornton  
Kevin Todora  
Jeff Zilm

Please join us for the opening reception/intervention with the artists the night of Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010, 8-11pm. The exhibition will be open to the public on February 20th and 21st, 12-5pm, though in the case of some artists the work left behind will be documentation of the actions that took place the night before.