

from the 1980s, all designed by Tim Kerr, have been re-photocopied and will be posted around Austin on poles and message boards. They will provide a ghost history of hardcore, overlapping the city's current music scene and calling attention to Punk bands and clubs that in nearly all cases no longer exist.

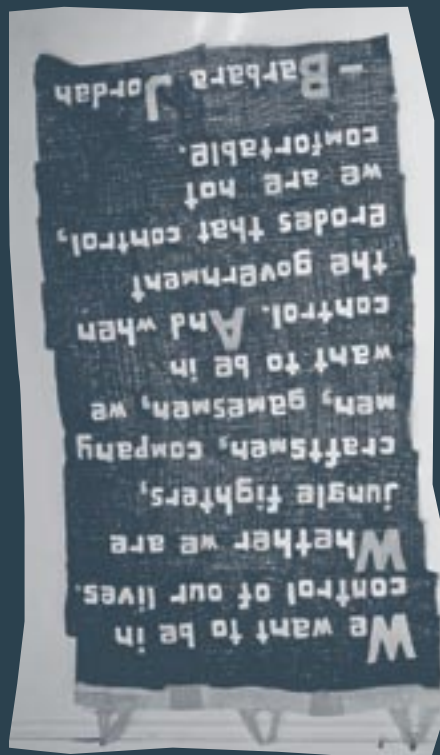
As is always their way, with their new projects in Austin, Temporary Services casts the artist as activist and brings tangible social purpose to the practice of making and exhibiting art. All of the aspects of Temporary Services' activity in Austin, including working with pre-used plastic, tie into the get-it-done spirit embodied by both Ms. Jordan and the Punks. Making something useful (hope, groundbreaking legislation, groundbreaking lyrics and harnessing youth culture, intervening in public to shed light) out of something useless (despair, racism, plastic) is a common theme.

Temporary Services's new booklets and banners can be seen at testsite (502 W. 33rd St., [www.fluentcollab.org/testsite/index.php/contact](http://www.fluentcollab.org/testsite/index.php/contact), 453-3199) and DOMY Books (913 East Cesar Chavez, [www.domystore.com](http://www.domystore.com)) from November 16th to December 22, 2009. This poster, Temporary Services' publications, and a display of Punk memorabilia will be on display at DOMY Books; an extensive array of past publications by Temporary Services spanning ten years will be installed in the galleries at testsite and will hang from trees outside the home where they will be more accessible to passersby.

Harper Montgomery is an independent writer and curator living in New York. She was an assistant curator in the Print Department at The Museum of Modern Art between 1998 and 2003, and North American curator of the San Juan Poly/graphic Triennial in 2004. As a curator, she has commissioned projects by Daniel Joseph Martinez, Francis Alÿs, and Instant Coffee, among other artists and collectives. She has written for InterReview, and is a critic for Art Nexus. Currently, she is writing a dissertation on avant-garde artists in Mexico City and Buenos Aires in the 1920s in the Art History Department at the University of Chicago.

**Temporary Services**  
**P.O. Box 121012**  
**Chicago, IL 60612**

the residence housing testsite's exhibition space. Numerous flyers and Punk lyrics are featured on a series of banners hanging inside



been properly recognized nor documented. In the area of development, Temporary Services has showcased creative ways to reuse and recycle mundane and environmentally hazardous materials in ways that allow us to circumvent (and rebel against) consumerism. They have created free clothing boutiques, indoors and on the street. In a collaboration with an incarcerated artist named Angelo, Temporary Services has shown the impressive array of inventions that prisoners construct out of limited materials. Personal Plastic is an ongoing project in which Temporary Services has looked for creative ways to transform plastic shopping bags into useful items for everyday use, such as wallets, signs, and packing beds. "sasages" (an ecologically friendly alternative to packing beds).

In Austin, Temporary Services is investigating two aspects of the state's cultural and political history that embody its radical independence: the development of hardcore Punk music in Austin during the early 1980s, and the speeches of Barbara Jordan, and the great, late United States representative from Texas. Towards this purpose, they will present two new publications drawn on interviews, memoirs, and artifacts contributed by Punks. One booklet will celebrate the band the Dicks and a separate booklet will extensively interview Austin-based musician and artist Tim Kerr, who has played guitar for bands including the Big Boys and Poison 13. Temporary Services will also apply these dual interests to a new series of banners. Fabricated from discarded plastic bags, these recycled textiles are part of the group's ongoing investigation into new uses for plastic bags: Personal Plastic. Quotes drawn from politician Barbara Jordan and Punk lyrics are featured on a series of banners hanging inside the residence housing testsite's exhibition space. Numerous flyers

# WHAT IS TEMPORARY SERVICES? AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN AUSTIN?

By Harper Montgomery

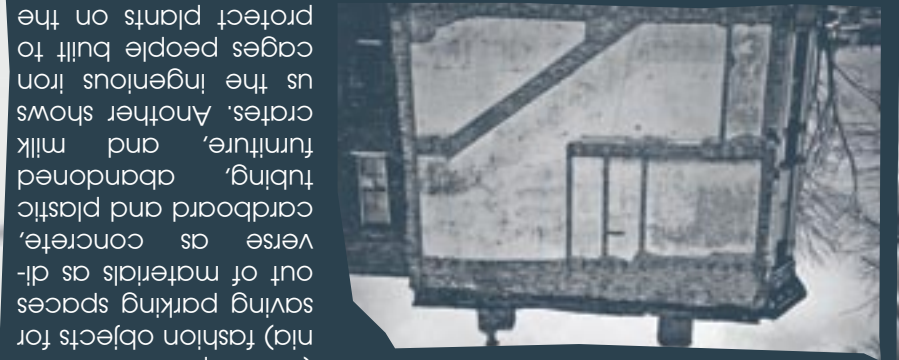
Temporary Services is a group of three people: Brett Bloom, Salem Collo-Julin, and Marc Fischer. They are artists whose projects include books, flyers, posters, photographs, drawings, social events, workshops, a website, and other kinds of objects, situations, and printed materials. While we can find these projects in museums, art galleries, and bookstores, we most often encounter them outside of locations specifically organized with the purpose of displaying and selling art. Temporary Services prefers to show its projects in public spaces like sidewalks, store fronts, plazas and parks. They don't really "exhibit" works in the traditional sense at all, instead occupying or changing a city's existing public spaces by posting signage, distributing booklets, or by physically transforming a space in order to make it more user friendly for the people (for example, for a project called Product Placement, they collected abandoned chairs from alleyways in Chicago and used bike locks to attach them to chain link fences near bus stops that did not have benches in order to create improvised seating areas).



A lot of what Temporary Services does involves challenging how the interests of government and commerce have shaped public spaces, and inviting the audiences that come into contact with their

What is Temporary Services doing in Austin? In addition to changing the way we think about our surroundings, Temporary Services is devoted to research and development. For a series of ongoing publications called Temporary Conversations, they have interviewed artists and musicians whose extraordinary contributions have neither

are left standing. demolished buildings leave on the walls of the adjacent ones that



see how people in Chicago, Mexico City, Athens, and Ljubljana Public Phenomena. In one series of photographs for this project, we spontaneously occur in urban streets in an ongoing project called Temporary Services has documented different ways that creativity

In this spirit, they look to encourage us to experience moments of reflection and contemplation by calling our attention to the beautiful and strange qualities of the streets we pass through everyday. These are feelings we are traditionally supposed to have while standing in front of a painting or sculpture, but Temporary Services is trying to convince us that it is as worthwhile to reflect and contemplate the environments where we work and live, as works of art in a museum.

relevant to us." "The distinction between art practice and other creative human endeavors is ir- to promote the appreciation of creativity in its most egalitarian and hand-in-hand) without official permission. Temporary Services wants them more useful and more beautiful (with the two often going and in different cities have improved their surroundings by making attention to the ways people who live in different neighborhoods projects to participate in this challenge. They are devoted to calling

# TEMPORARY SERVICES

TESTSITE NOV. 16 - DEC. 22, 2008

502 West 33rd Street  
Austin, TX 78705

[www.fluentcollab.org/testsite](http://www.fluentcollab.org/testsite)

Opens Nov. 16, 4-6 PM

## BOOKLETS



10 years - over 80 publications

## PERSONAL PLASTIC



Photos of plastic bags clogging public spaces & private homes  
Large banners made from melted plastic bags  
Oceans filled with microscopic plastic particulates

# TEMPORARY CONVERSATIONS

## DOMY BOOKS

913 E Cesar Chavez  
Austin, TX 78702

[www.domystore.com](http://www.domystore.com)

Nov. 14, 7-9 PM. Join us for the launch of two new booklets in our Temporary Conversations series, and our new book **Public Phenomena**, plus our publishing imprint Half Letter Press.

[www.halfletterpress.com](http://www.halfletterpress.com)

...is a series where each booklet focuses on a single interviewee or subject. They are an opportunity to connect with and spread the ideas of creative people of multiple generations. For these two new publications we chose to focus on two greats of the Austin, Texas, music underground!



Tim Kerr



The Dicks

## PUBLIC TALK

The University of Texas at Austin  
Art Building • Room 1.120  
Nov. 13, 5-6:30 PM

[www.temporaryservices.org](http://www.temporaryservices.org)