



For Immediate Release:

Lior Shvil
PROTOCOLS

An Art in General New Commission
Curated by Kristen Chappa

Exhibition: September 12 – November 21, 2015

Upcoming PERFORMA 15 performances:

Saturday, November 14, 4-6pm

Saturday, November 21, 4-6pm

Art in General

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Lior Shvil, *Protocols*, 2015. Courtesy the artist.

Art in General is pleased to present *PROTOCOLS*, a New Commission by Lior Shvil in the 6th floor gallery. Performances are programmed in conjunction with Performa 15.

Shvil's New Commission *PROTOCOLS* includes a large-scale installation inspired by military counter-insurgency (COIN) training courses, activated by a series of improvisational theater workshops and live performances based on combat procedures throughout the run of show. Reflecting on the psychological effects of the built environment, Shvil's installation echoes specialized facilities made to imitate the urban terrain of conflict areas. These sites become alternate realities, or stage sets, for the soldiers in them, playing insurgents and civilians in each "mission." The biomechanics and squad positioning perfected in training exercises are of key interest to the artist, as they are inherently tied to architectural context, and part of his larger investigation in deconstructing relationships between site, history, narrative, and testimony.

Audience members are invited to work directly with the artist in collaboration with Improv Director/actor Hollis Witherspoon via an open call for non-professional performers. Participants rehearse scripts, exercises, and routines based on Army training manuals and Shvil's own military experience. Stereotypes embedded in specific roles and choreographies are investigated and challenged, with opportunities for new understanding to develop. These workshops and performances, rooted in social theater, are free and open to members of the public as spectators or actors. Throughout this evolving exhibition, audience members will be offered a rare opportunity to both witness and take part in creating content and meaning.

Lior Shvil was born in Tel Aviv, Israel and lives and works in New York. In 2010, he received his MFA from Columbia University. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture, and has completed a Post Graduate program in Art and Design from the Bezalel Academy, Jerusalem. Shvil has recently been included in exhibitions at the ICA Museum, Philadelphia, PA; The RFC Museum, Miami, FL; The Neuberger Museum, Purchase, NY; SculptureCenter, Long Island City, NY; and Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY. Solo exhibitions of Shvil's work have been held at High Desert Test Sites, Joshua Tree, CA (2015); Givon Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel (2014); CAGE, New York, NY (2014); Andrea Rosen Gallery 2, New York, NY (2011); and Recess, Brooklyn, NY (2010).

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The New Commissions Program is made possible by the Trust for Mutual Understanding; National Endowment for the Arts; Jerome Foundation and the Milton and Sally Avery Foundation. Support has also been provided by Commissioners' Circle leaders Jeffery Larsen and Joseph Bolduc; Commissioners' Circle supporter Cher Lewis, and Commissioners' Circle members Roya Khadjavi-Heidari, Mary Lapidés, Richard Massey, Ron and Lucille Neeley, and Leslie Ruff.

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