

Future Nomad is a post-script to the urban nomad movement of the 1960s and 1970s when self-conscious design culture was made accessible to the uninitiated through publications like Ken Isaacs' *How to Build Your Own Living Structure*. Artists in Future Nomad have produced artworks – sculptural, architectural, interventionist, diagrammatic, and conceptual – to put forward formal and aesthetic responses to new modes of mobility in a globalized age. Initially inspired by a series of books from the early seventies entitled *Nomadic Furniture 1 & 2*, the exhibition includes nomadic structures that take up minimalism, adaptable architecture, religious observance, geographic boundaries, and territorial claims. In their introduction to the first edition of *Nomadic Furniture*, authors Victor Papanek and James Hennessey suggest the scale of the human body as the starting point for developing furniture designs, which is how several artists in the exhibition began their projects. Although *Nomadic Furniture* and *How to Build Your Own Living Structures* contributed to a wider appreciation for the urban nomad movement, the idealism of this design trajectory has been undoubtedly eclipsed by the mass production of designer consumer goods and new technological and political conditions. Even so, Papanek, Hennessey, and Isaacs' designs are all too familiar; their templates can be found in high and low design culture, from the artwork of Andrea Zittel to Ikea furniture designs.

Lieven de Boeck (Belgium), Carlos Bunga (Portugal), Caitlin Masley (New York), R. Scott Mitchell (California), Brian O'Connell (New York) in collaboration with Daniel Reisman (Minnesota), Shinique Smith (New York), Saso Sedlacek (Slovenia), Alessandro Nassiri Tabibzadeh (Italy), and vydavy sindikat (New York) have made artworks that have modular, portable, and collapsible qualities, taking into account living conditions of the 21st Century. Artists in the exhibition have generally chosen to work with found, recycled, and cheap materials to highlight how the reconfiguration of everyday life – from urban development to shifting borders – augments our experience of mobility. Some artists in the exhibition address the repetition of the built environment's design, while others express optimism about the possibilities afforded by mobility, and several artworks capture the confusion produced by forced movements from one urban center to another. The exhibition also features a Relaxation Cube based on a Nomadic Furniture design, built by Philadelphia based designers Keith Wilkins and Paul Mangan. Scheduled as Vox Populi's final show in the Gilbert Building on Cherry Street, Future Nomad is an appropriate sendoff as the gallery prepares for its next venue. Future Nomad has been curated by Sara Reisman.