Carey Young

Since 2003, visual artist Carey Young has developed a number of artworks that are also functional legal instruments, and which have conceptualised and explored law as an artistic medium. Young collaborates with legal advisors to make artworks in installation, video, performance, print, sculpture and photography which also operate as bespoke legal instruments, and which have been exhibited internationally. These works have embodied such diverse forms as contracts, disclaimers, offers, licenses, cautionary statements and a will, and addressed disparate legal fields including human rights, inheritance law, intellectual property and law relating to outer space. Experimenting with ideas of time, space and physicality in relation to law, Young’s body of artistic work explores law as a separate kind of ‘reality’, one with its own inherent subjectivities and points of breakdown.

In related projects, she has also created a number of artworks in video and photography which explore courthouse architecture and the female judiciary in relation to performance and ideas of framing and being framed. Through an illustrated paper, Young will discuss several of these projects and their implications and context as works of art and ‘works of law’. As such, she will consider some ways in which visual art can address, expand and confound the growing discussions around an aesthetics of law, whilst also posing broader questions around the relations between jurisprudence, performance, gender, representation, site and fiction.

Speaker bio
Carey Young’s artistic work has been exhibited widely, including at Tate Britain, Centre Pompidou, Whitechapel Gallery, Dallas Museum of Art, MoMA/PS1 (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis) and the New Museum (New York). Her work is included in the public collections of the Tate Gallery and the Centre Pompidou amongst others, and is represented by Paula Cooper Gallery, New York. She has given lectures on her artistic work at MoMA (NYC) and Tate Modern and in law conferences at Princeton, Harvard, Birkbeck and the École Nationale de la Magistrature, Paris, amongst others. A monograph on her work, Subject to Contract, was published by JRP Ringier in 2013. She teaches at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Law, Birkbeck, University of London. www.careyyoung.com