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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 4 – March 11, 2017:

David Klein Gallery, 1520 Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, is pleased to announce the opening of *Organizational Strategies for the After Life: Gina Reichert & Mitch Cope*. A reception for the artists will take place on Saturday, February 4th, 6 – 8 pm.

Organizational Strategies for the After Life is a collaborative project by Gina Reichert and Mitch Cope, the husband and wife team formerly known as Design 99. Reichert and Cope have been working in their Detroit neighborhood for six years, collecting a warehouse full of objects left behind by former neighbors and their predecessors. With the assistance of several spirit beings, such as the *Mischievous Cleaners*, the *Kitchen Dwellers* and the *Vacationers*, the artists have processed and transformed the found objects into a series of sculptures, videos, drawings and paintings.

In this project Reichert and Cope explore the question: *“What if the things we use and collect in our lives carry more than a representation of what they mean to the individual who owns them, but also carry a small part of their spirit? Or if the things spirit attaches a part of them to us? When one or the other departs or is lost does the other need to follow and also be buried in a ritualistic way or does it need to find a new purpose? Who is responsible for developing a sacred ritual for the burial of things? Is it a literal burial, or do some things need a new life? To be reincarnated as things for new things.”*

They further note: *Ultimately this body of work is about our neighbors and how you never really know what goes on behind those walls, those layers of skin. The distance from house to house in our neighborhood is generally six feet. You get to know your neighbors pretty well within six feet and yet of course there are always secrets. Secrets that no one knows not even the closest of relatives and friends... Perhaps In death you can no longer hide your secrets except for the new secrets and mysteries that were just created by the very act of dying. That tension of truth and mystery, spirituality and the finite is of great interest to us.*

Reichert & Cope began collaborating in 2007 as Design 99. They opened a retail storefront space with the intent to investigate new models of contemporary art and architectural practice. Design 99 offered over-the-counter design consultations and \$99 house calls. In 2009 Reichert & Cope closed the storefront to focus on small-scale projects in the neighborhood where they'd lived since 2005, founding Power House Productions (PHP) to facilitate the work of artists, art and culture in the development of their community. Focusing on overlooked spaces, underutilized resources, and seemingly negative conditions PHP developed these former problems into positive assets, establishing a network of Project houses on Detroit's North East Side, including the *Power House*, *The Playhouse* and the *Sound House*. Striking a balance between pragmatism and playfulness, the team continues their investigation in the role of art and aesthetics in their community. PHP is supported by local and national funders including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kresge Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Gina Reichert holds a Master of Architecture degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art and a Bachelor of Architecture from Tulane University. She has worked for architecture firms and community organizations in Cincinnati, New Orleans, New York and Detroit. She is a 2016 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow, and one of the organizing members of Detroit Culture Council. She is a founder of Power House Productions in Detroit. Reichert was born in Ohio and has lived in Detroit since 2002.

Mitch Cope, a native Detroiter, has lectured widely throughout the US and Europe at notable institutions such as the Pulitzer Foundation, the United States Artists Assembly, the U.S. Embassy in Turkmenistan, the Gerrit Reitveld Academie, Netherlands, and the Dutch Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. His work has been shown in the United States and abroad at KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Berlin, and Kunsthalle Dresden, Germany. He is a founder of Power House Productions in Detroit. Cope holds a BFA from College for Creative Studies, Detroit and an MFA from Washington State University

Reichert and Cope have exhibited at such notable institutions as the Van Abbemuseum (The Netherlands), Smart Museum (Chicago), MOCAD (Detroit), US Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, Detroit Institute of Arts, and Mattress Factory (Pittsburgh). Their work has been published widely including Domus, New York Times, Juxtapoz, Hyperallergic. They have been awarded the Juried Grand Prize at ArtPrize, a Creative Capital Grant, Resonant Detroit Grant from Ford Foundation, and a Kresge Arts in Detroit Fellowship.

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For further information please contact:

Christine Schefman, Director
David Klein Gallery
1520 Washington Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48226
313-818-3416
www.dkgallery.com
Christine@dkgallery.com