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Director's Foreword

The Possible is an experimental platform for creativity, collaboration, and community. It is an expansive and generous project embracing designers, craft makers, audiences, and artists.

The Possible extends beyond the galleries to include audio and video recordings, field trips, mail art, and this catalog itself, designed by Public Fiction, a project of Lauren Mackler and Luke Fischbeck. The creative spirit framed by *The Possible* is especially strong in the Bay Area today but it also exists throughout the country and has roots extending back to the Bauhaus and the Arts and Crafts movement. At its heart, the project grew from a fundamentally optimistic attitude towards art, culture, and society.

David Wilson, guest curator of *The Possible*, is no stranger to the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA). His work was exhibited here as part of the MATRIX series and was accompanied by a fantastic group of L@TE Friday Night events for which David assembled dozens of tremendously talented people across a variety of disciplines to create new work, in collaboration with the audience. Indeed, David is unusual in being both a wonderful visual artist in his own right – specializing in drawings and watercolors of landscapes and natural forms – as well as a gifted producer and curator. We are so grateful to him for lending his talents to BAM/PFA for this exhibition.

The timing of this exhibition coincides with our preparations for a momentous move to a new location in downtown Berkeley, a site that will be much more accessible and where we will welcome larger and more diverse audiences. *The Possible* has served, in part, as a laboratory for what will be

possible at our new location. Thanks to Director of Engagement Aimee Chang, *The Possible* has included Kids Club, a gallery specially designed to engage children and families. We look forward to extending and continuing to evolve the insights and opportunities presented by Kids Club as well as other facets of the exhibition.

The Possible has been a phenomenally extensive collaboration involving hundreds of individuals. We are thankful to everyone who participated, generously sharing time, resources, creativity, labor, and insight. The BAM/PFA staff and Board of Trustees embraced the project without hesitation—no small feat considering the myriad ways in which this exhibition runs counter to normal museum practice. I am personally grateful to them for their support and participation. I would like to give a special word of thanks to the project's lead funders who gave so generously and trusted in the possibility of art to make this unusual project a success: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts; Donna and Gary Freedman; Carla and David Crane; a Craft Research Fund grant from The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design, Inc.; the LEF Foundation; and Joachim and Nancy Hellman Bechtle.

A special thank you to Karen Bennett, who oversaw our school field trip program, and to the artist educators who made each visit such a success: Kim Bennett, Jamila Dunn, and Heide Miller. Thanks are also due to Suzanne McCulloch, visual and performing arts supervisor for the Berkeley Unified School District, for her advice and support. For their help in getting students to BAM/PFA by bus we thank the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, Terry Bloomsburgh, and Erendira Sanchez.

Lawrence Rinder
Director, BAM/PFA