Fredy Pearlman and the Detroit Printing Co-op
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Danielle Aubert is an Assistant Professor of graphic design in the department of Art & Art History. She was the recipient of a two-year fellowship at the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University from 2013-15. She practices graphic design as one third of the group Clanada, with Lana Cavar and Natasha Chandani. Her work has appeared in various exhibitions and design publications including Wired and Metropolis magazines. She is the author of the artist books 16 Months Worth of Drawing Exercises in Microsoft Excel (Various Projects: 2006) and Marking the Dispossessed (Passenger Books: 2015). She is the co-author, with Cavar and Chandani, of Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies: Lafayette Park, Detroit (Metropolis Books: 2012).

In 1969, a group of political activists acquired an old printing press and opened the Detroit Printing Co-op in Southwest Detroit. Among them were Fredy and Lorraine Perlman, founders of Black & Red Press, which would go on to publish the first English translation of Guy Debord’s Society of the Spectacle and many other radical books and pamphlets. The purpose of the Printing Co-op was to provide printing access to anyone who needed or wanted to express themselves, specifically for ‘non-profit’ purposes. Co-op members considered the equipment to be “social property”, controlled by individuals who needed and maintained it. Fredy Perlman experimented with the use of color, overprinting, and collage during the decade when the Co-op existed. This talk will provide an overview of a recent exhibition of work made at the Printing Co-op that took place at 9338 Campau, in Hamtramck.

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