

Sourced Material is an artist cooperative formed by Jake Levin that explores the nature and physical transformation of raw materials. A growing awareness for the economic and environmental repercussions of his chosen materials -wool, hemp, latex, wax- prompted Levin to establish Sourced Material to explore the industry and ecology of material production.

Sourced Material utilizes local and renewable resources for the procurement and treatment of the materials it transforms. It recognizes that a sustainable economy necessitates multiple modes of exchange and valuing. Therefore, it purposefully engages alternative economic practices in the sale, exchange, construction and consumption of its goods.

Sourced Material exists in the hands of its producers, consumers and viewers and is accessible at www.sourcedmaterial.com. Photographic images, videos, maps and geographic coordinates publically trace all Sourced Material activity. **flatbreadaffair** joins this network as a point for exhibition and sales. Within the gallery space, Levin extends his commitment to documentation and transparency by mapping the location of each Sourced Material object with a red numbered tack.

flatbreadaffair explores ideas through art and food. A partnership between a curator and a chef, we organize art exhibitions, dinners, lectures and social gatherings to nourish the pleasures of artistic creation.

We believe interdisciplinary collaboration enhances the possibilities for expression. In this way, new and alternative means for investigating concepts and shaping metaphors emerge.

Our events manifest in myriad ways. Seed ideas may be rooted in an artist's oeuvre, a chef's culinary concept, or an abstract proposal. Artist and chef may work together, respond to one or the other, or simply inhabit the same space.

Currently, our exhibitions and events occur in a domestic setting. Such a charged space offers additional narratives to unpack or re-dress. Therefore, a number of our projects engage with this theme.

Curator: Rebecca Pristoop
Chef: Leah Rinaldi

flatbreadaffair also hosts events in other venues. Contact us with a request for your space at flatbreadaffair@gmail.com.

flatbreadaffair

celebrates its inaugural exhibition with

Sourced Material

September 24 – November 1, 2010



Special Engagement Artist's Fete

Wednesday September 29, 2010

Join Sourced Material artist Jake Levin
for an intimate evening at the chef's table

More info here: <http://flatbreadaffair.wordpress.com>

flatbreadaffair explores ideas through art and food
Look. Experience. Digest.

Visit: Sundays 3 - 6 or by appointment

180 Nevins Street #2
Brooklyn, NY 11217
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The smell is subtle upon entering the exhibition space at 180 Nevins Street - earthy and sour, musty yet sweet. The sight, on the other hand, is aggressively abrupt - oversized meat hooks and thick wooden planks, heaps of wool and splayed carcasses of raw edged felt. Yet like the smell, the true nature of the exhibit slowly reveals itself through contrasts: hard and soft, cold and warm, sticky and smooth.

Jake Levin's installation of **Sourced Material: wool at flatbreadaffair** engages the senses and challenges the notion of production. Through sight, smell, taste and touch, it unravels the story of its creation and the motivations of its creator. Take for example, object number 4: this eight-foot construction of felted off-white wool hangs lifeless between two steel meat hooks. The solid wood spreader bar pulling at its mottled flesh inflicts a hold on the material that feels harsh and violent. From a distance, the felt has heft and form, yet on closer inspection, the effects of gravity and the environment become clear, and its fragile fiber structure bends and curls into an unclassifiable shape. The lard that covers it - adding thickness, stickiness and that inscrutable smell - and the huge steel hook suspending it from the ceiling, bring into play the politics of Levin's work: reclaiming the benefits and pleasures of violence and taking responsibility for the economic and ecological ramifications of material production.

Levin grew up in the rural woods of western Massachusetts eating hamburgers made from Buster-the-cow and playing with bovine hearts gifted by a neighbor. These experiences influenced his desire to reintroduce the urbanite to the reality of consumption. He achieves this with the messy pile of raw wool left heaped against the wall - its stink of lanolin and scattered sheep droppings remind us of the farms where these materials were sourced. He activates our sensitivity to aggression with the ten foot steel hook that hoists a mass of roving off the floor. Its uncontrollable eruption of intestinal tangle deceptively distracts from the airy softness of its hand processing.

While force is inherent in both the slaughter and the shearing of an animal, the sensuality with which Levin fashions his objects and the purposefulness with which he sources his materials, put into practice a positive violence and ethical agriculture. Through material and metaphor, Levin illustrates that our contemporary views of violence, production and consumption are sanitized constructions that alienate us from a history of dirty, sustainable pleasure.