



# BHQFU

33 34TH STREET, 6TH FLOOR  
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[www.bhqfu.org](http://www.bhqfu.org)

## THE EXCHANGE LIBRARY

KRISTYNA AND MAREK MILDE

FOUNDATION UNIVERSITY GALLERY (FUG)

AT BRUCE HIGH QUALITY FOUNDATION UNIVERSITY (BHQFU)

OPENING RECEPTION: APRIL 8, 7–11pm

APRIL 8 – MAY 6, 2016, OPEN WED–SUN 12–6pm

*The Exchange Library*, by artist tandem Kristyna and Marek Milde, is an interactive platform for sharing and redistributing discarded books. The project explores possibilities to access, exchange and save books that for various reasons are unwanted, rejected or thrown away. The *Exchange Library* installation takes a form of a movable library, utilizing a supermarket-shopping cart with various containers attached to its main structure that function to store and organize books into collections and genres. The system of categorization is inspired by the esthetic and logic used by the garbage scavengers and homeless people, who often build elaborate storage and organization systems on their carts to create a resource for a variety of valuable objects from trash collected on the street, including books. The project is open to interaction and encourages participants to take and donate books following the Exchange Library Rules.

The project follows the narrative of the life of books, in which knowledge, ideas and culture undergo a similar destiny to our personal belongings and household objects, as they spin in the consumerist cycle. It points out the impermanence and the interchangeability of things as well as ideas, which we deem for permanent. But in reality, the ownership and lifespan of these objects is relatively short lived, leading to gradual obsolescence, ambivalence and final rejection. The use of the supermarket-shopping cart, the ultimate tool and symbol of consumerism, becomes a symbolic gesture reversing the paradigm of the consumerist cycle from a passive role into an active model, serving to save, repurpose and redistribute.

“We designed *Exchange Library* as a place to explore the mechanism of salvaging cultural capital and knowledge versus the notion of abandonment and refusal. The books here are objects that trigger the ultimate call for a decision to be adopted or refused, which metaphorically extends to its content, stories and ideas,” said the artists. While the *Exchange Library* gives a second chance to the used books, it also functions as a metaphor for active intervention and the possibility to transform the fast-paced cycle of consumerism. Serving as resource and an alternative model of distribution, the project creates a situation that allows one to contemplate the permanence and impermanence of values, both material and immaterial.

## THE EXCHANGE LIBRARY RULES

1. You may take and keep 1 (one) book or one volume of books per visit
2. You are welcome to bring and donate your book(s) and add it to the library.
3. Please keep track of the books you take or bring by recording it in to the diary.
4. You may become a librarian and categorize books in genres, marked on the shopping cart. If the category does not exist, create new category, making a sign and attaching it to available bags or appropriate container.

### About the artists:

**Kristyna and Marek Milde** are Brooklyn based artists and curators, originally from Prague, Czech Republic, working together as a collaborative tandem. Their work takes form of interactive installations, site-interventions and DIY projects that investigate codes and mechanism of established cultural forms of domesticity and modern lifestyles and explores its connection to the context of environment and nature. They have exhibited internationally including at the **MoMA Studio**, New York; **NURTURE art**, Brooklyn; **EFA Project Space**; New York; **Wave Hill Sunroom Project Space**, Bronx; **Smack Mellon Gallery**, Dumbo, Brooklyn; **Anna Wallace Gallery**, New York; **Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art (HVCCA)**, Peekskill; **Temple Contemporary**, Philadelphia; **Space Gallery**, Pittsburgh, **Dumbo Street Festival**, Brooklyn; **Knockdown Center**, Queens; **Silent Barn**, Brooklyn; **DOX Center for Contemporary Art**, **Futura Center for Contemporary Art**, **Meet Factory Center for Contemporary Art**; **Karlin Studios** in Prague, Czech Republic. Their work has been featured and reviewed in the **New York Times**, **Brooklyn Rail**, **Flashart**, **Hyperallergic Art Blog**, **Artribune**, **NYFA current**, **WG News**, **Artycok TV**, and **Czech National Television** among others. Their work is part of private and public collections including the permanent public installation at **Chateau Trebesice**, Czech Republic and **Manitoga, Russell Wright Design Center**, Garrison, NY. They have been participating in the **Shift EFA Residency 2014 – 2015** and have been awarded the **LMCC Process Space Residency 2016 at Governors Island**. In 2007 they received their MFAs at the Queens College, New York. From 2008 till 2015 they both have worked at the **Czech Center NY**, a prominent Czech Cultural Institute on the Upper East Side, where they curated and organized a wide range of international programs, events, exhibitions and residencies.

[www.mildeart.com](http://www.mildeart.com)

### About BHQFU

**BHQFU is New York's freest art school offering a full curricula of critique courses, studio residencies, and special events from our headquarters at 33 34th St, 6th Floor, Brooklyn, NY. Our educational programming is enriched by a rigorous exhibition series at our university gallery, FUG.**

BHQFU is a registered 501-c3 nonprofit institution. TIN 46-0855993

Make a donation, register for classes, and find out more at [www.bhqfu.org](http://www.bhqfu.org).

The Exchange Library is generously supported by the Benjamin S Rosenthal Library

