



DEATH & TAXES

a professional company

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ACT NOW TO OWN A *SIGNED* EXECUTIVE OFFICE CHAIR FROM DEATH & TAXES, INC.

Conceptual Artists Announce Their “Going Out Of Business Sale” as the Art/Life Corporation Death & Taxes, Inc. Closes It’s Doors



The “Executive Office Chair”
used by former Death &
Taxes, Inc. CEO Isabel
Reichert is available for sale
on the website:
www.mydeathandtaxes.com

OAKLAND, CA -- Having completed a full year of running their lives under the fiscal restraints of the subchapter ‘S’ corporation Death & Taxes, Inc., conceptual artists Sean Fletcher and Isabel Reichert are holding a ‘Going Out Of Business Sale’ to liquidate the inventory and equipment that their company acquired throughout 2006. The executives made the decision to “formally retire” from their year-long project, effective December 29th -- or, the last business day of 2006. Over the preceding 12 months the couple handed over the responsibility of financial decision-making to a 15 member professional board of directors as an “experiment in privatization.” The sale is taking place exclusively on the defunct company’s website:
www.mydeathandtaxes.com.

For the next several weeks you can find valuable artifacts, such as the punch-clock they’ve been using to record their time spent ‘living’ (categorized as those hours which are not devoted to the income-generating jobs they’ve held outside their studio) as well as the remaining portion of their membership to the Oakland Chamber of Commerce (good till May, 2007). You’ll also find Isabel Reichert’s ‘executive office chair’, a high-backed leather chair acquired from a vacated office space in San Francisco’s Financial District.

“The company’s board and the other business professionals we’ve been working with have all been pressuring us,” says Fletcher, who served the last 12 months as CFO of the company, “to focus our efforts on creating ‘tangible’ works of art. Instead, we’ve been focusing on conceptual art that hasn’t had much tangible substance.” The two artists effectively turned their studio practice into a process of bookkeeping, cash-flow projecting, and the development of a quarterly financial report (a bound publication that combines an art/literary publication with more *traditional* reporting on the couple’s finances). The results of their unique ‘studio practice’ has been voluminous amounts of data that becomes tactile art through PowerPoint slide shows and the performances that comprise their quarterly board meetings. “But, now that we’ve drawn the project to a close, we’re finding a whole inventory of tangible artifacts that we’re pleased to offer through this rare on-line sale.”

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Giving historical significance to items of this nature is a relatively common practice in contemporary art, finding its roots in Marcel Duchamp's early 1900's "readymades" (items such as snow shovels and bathroom urinals which made their way onto gallery walls and sculpture pedestals). In addition to pushing the boundaries of popular culture, Fletcher and Reichert frequently relate their artwork to historical icons like this. Earlier in the year, for example, the couple publicly announced that they were switching to Savarin™ coffee as both a cost-cutting measure of the company and a reference to 1960s pop-artist, Jasper Johns. A select few signed Death & Taxes coffee cans are still available for sale.

"Death & Taxes, Inc. will prove to be an historically significant artistic endeavor," declares Matthew Jackson, a professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Chicago, as well as a former board member and participant in the company's Marketing Sub-Committee. "These objects will allow future generations to appreciate the innovations of Fletcher and Reichert's art practice as well as the creative minds of their corporation.... I think their 'Going Out Of Business Sale' is an absolute steal at these prices!"

Death & Taxes, Inc. launched January 3, 2006 -- the first business day of the year. The couple committed to continuing the project through the end of 2006. Death & Taxes, Inc. officially closed its doors on December 29th -- the last business day of the year -- "partially to avoid the corporate tax that would otherwise be due after the first year of operations," says the former CEO, Isabel Reichert.

Other art-life projects that Fletcher and Reichert recently collaborated on include *Paparazzi Photographs*, where the artists contracted a paparazzi photographer to follow them for a day, *Selling Yourself and Not Your Art*, which involved hiring a Dale Carnegie instructor to coach artists on the business etiquette of marketing their wares; *An Interview with Robert Barry*, where the artists interviewed the 1960s artist over the telephone as part of a short-range radio broadcast *Therapy*, which involved using a couples counselor to facilitate a 40-minute session to help mend the relationship between art and its audience.

To learn more about the project and track its progress, visit www.mydeathandtaxes.com. or www.life-art.org

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To contact the artists or for further information, please call (510) 533-3962 or email info@mydeathandtaxes.com.



In Advance of a Broken Arm by Marcel Duchamp 1915. Readymade: snow shovel, wood and galvanized iron.