

Our Education!

Is College Worth the Cost?

A Film Screening and Symposium on the future of education.

Featuring an exhibit of Protest Art from the Free Cooper Union campaign.

Please join us Thursday, November 13th at Pioneer Works Center for Art and Innovation for a screening of the documentary *Ivory Tower*, followed by a panel discussion about the rise of the education-industrial complex, new community driven education initiatives, and the fight to defend a free Cooper Union.

With student debt in America topping 1.2 trillion dollars, institutions of higher learning have become big business while a generation of young people has mortgaged their future to work as intellectual sharecroppers in the new information economy. In this context, the fight to sustain Cooper Union's 150 year mission: education "open and free to all" is both microcosm and bellwether for the national debate about the state of higher education.

A new movement is at hand: students and educators are organizing in powerful ways to create innovative, open and cooperative pedagogical models that re-define the "institution" of education. Come hear from people active in the Cooper Union lawsuit and alternative education projects around the city as they discuss what the future has in store.

7:00pm Screening *Ivory Tower*. CNN Films. 2014.
Ivory Tower tours the current state of higher education in America. The documentary follows the diverse experiences of students enrolled in schools like Harvard, Cooper Union, Spelman College, Wesleyan University, Arizona State University and Deep Springs College. Examining ballooning administrative salaries, campus expansions and skyrocketing tuition and student debt, *Ivory Tower* asks: "What price will society pay if higher education cannot revolutionize college as we know it and evolve a sustainable economic model?"

8:30pm Panel Discussion:
Benjamin Degen - *Moderator*. Mr. Degen is an artist, educator and alumnus of Cooper Union, who has worked centrally in the campaign for Free Cooper Union.

Andrew Rossi - *Director*. Andrew Rossi is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker. His most recent film, *Ivory Tower*, about the value of higher education, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was distributed by Paramount Pictures, Participant Media and CNN Films. His last movie, PAGE

ONE: INSIDE THE NEW YORK TIMES, about the crisis in the newspaper industry, was one of the highest grossing documentaries of 2011 and received various critics' groups awards, including a nomination for the Critics Choice Award for Best Documentary, 2011.

Victoria Sobel - Featured in *Ivory Tower*, Ms. Sobel is a Free Cooper Union student organizer whose efforts to sustain universal free education at Cooper Union included the longest, student occupation of an institutional building in American history.

Catherine Despont- A writer and educator Ms. Despont develops educational programs at Pioneer Works Center for Art and Innovation.

Jarrett Earnest- Faculty Liaison for Bruce High Quality Foundation Free University. An artist and writer he is finishing a book of interviews with young artists called, *After the Doom Generation*.

Ajay Chaudhary- Is the founding Director of the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, and is currently a Core Lecturer in Columbia's Core Curriculum.

9:30pm

Reception:

All are invited to meet the panelists and the student activists featured in *Ivory Tower* and continue the conversation.

Artworks and materials from the ongoing Free Cooper Union protest movement will be on exhibit.

Literature, artwork and information on the ongoing struggle for Free and Equal education will be available.

Drinks and snacks will be served.