

# OPTION STUDIOS S24

In Spring 2024 there will be a set of second year option studios 48:205. The studios offer opportunities to explore differing disciplinary interests. There will be a preference process with an on-line form issued on Nov 11th. Second year students are asked to submit three preferences with the reasoning by November 22nd. Studio numbers will be balanced and the rosters will be published on Dec 4th.

1. Sarosh Anklesaria
2. Theo Issaias
3. Steve Lee
4. Misri Patel
5. Tuliza Sindi

Our Reality is Eros.  
Our Desire is Revolution. 



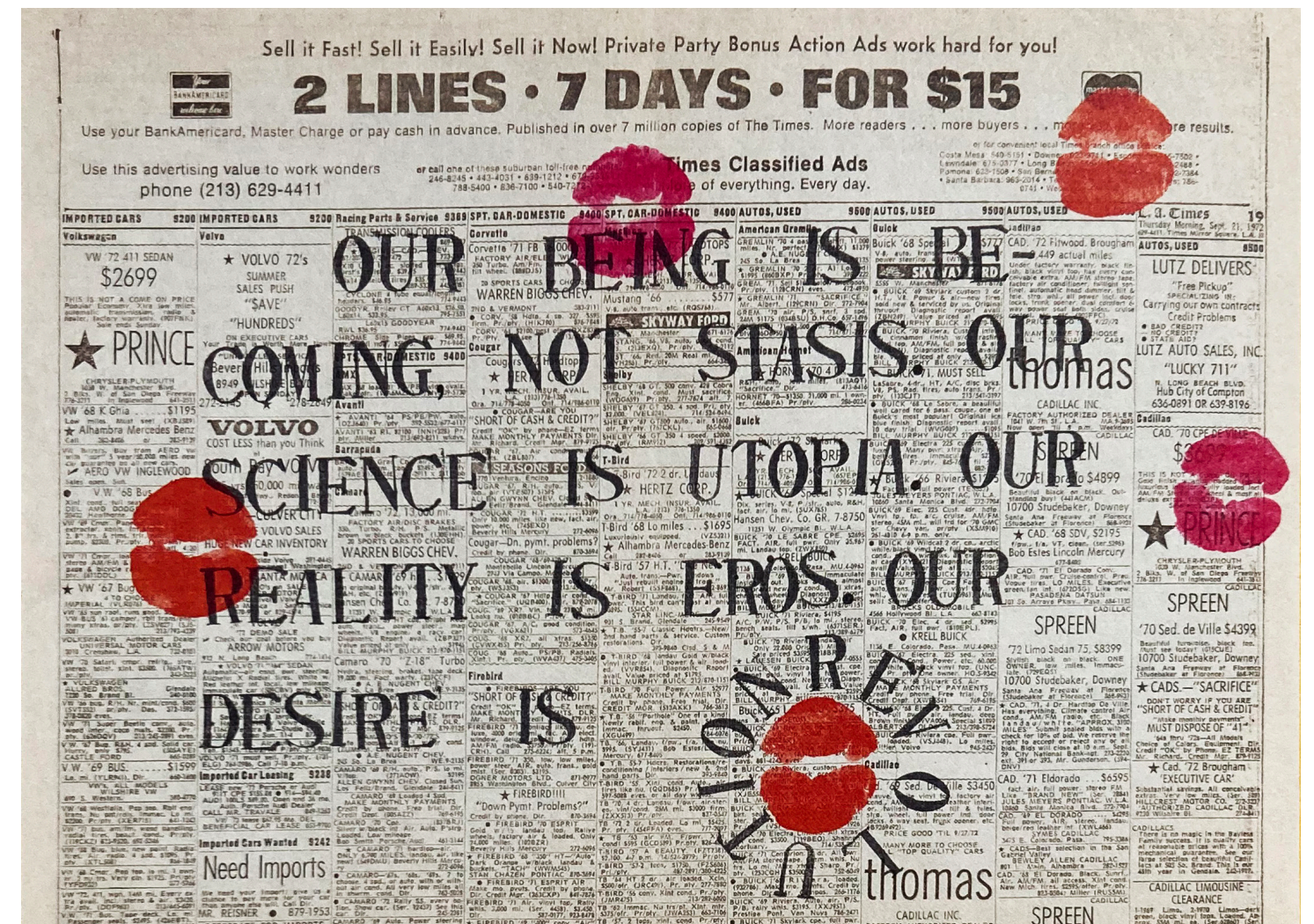
2. Theo Issaias T/R 1.00-4.50pm


**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:** Taking heed from this year's Public Programs of The Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture **REVOLUTIONS/RESOLUTIONS** the animating question of the studio is: Can there be an architectural practice of gender and sexual revolution? Architecture as a discipline and as a practice, apart from a few remarkable exceptions, has ignored the epistemological transformations and the critical turn taking place in contemporary queer and transgender movements.

**PROMPT:** The studio springs from the belief that space is a formation that is co-constituted through sexualities and genders. If the discipline of architecture has disregarded this very fact, queer and marginalized communities have been carving with remarkable ingenuity, courage, and skill spaces to create the conditions for themselves. Through history and across continents, queer communities –in the here and the now, the past and the possible future– create spaces to enact desire, to find joy and pleasure, to protect, support and uplift one another, and ultimately, to live life in its fullness in what are often hostile environments. They have done so beside architecture and its technologies.

**CONTEXT:** The physical context of the studio will be the city of Pittsburgh and its contemporary politics –our here and now. A global pandemic, a continuing planetary climate emergency, an attempted insurrection of the United States government, supreme court decisions that take away rights long-established, a barrage of anti-LGBTQ+ laws such as The Parental Rights in Education Act (“Don’t Say Gay Law”) has many of us questioning the –patriarchal, discriminatory, biased, racialized, class-based, or gendered– systems we are living in. As these developments make clear, there is no end in the struggles for equality and inclusion. But to escape the negative and toiling, José Esteban Muñoz proposes to look at the realm queer aesthetics of the past which contain blueprints for possible futures. Queer aesthetics, from the quotidian to the spectacular, are our foundation and context.

**METHODS:** We will turn to queer practices and spaces that have carved possibility not where repression has inscribed it. We will explore stories, archives, and everyday rituals, that not only reveal the entanglements between spaces and bodies but also challenge the normative and normalizing habits of our discipline. From the bedroom to the darkroom, from the bathhouse to the cruising spot, from the dance floor to the floor of the health clinic, we will revisit practices, locate spaces of solidarity, agitation, and love. This studio aims to be a platform of research that begins to understand these spaces and (counter)systems. Throughout the semester we will collaborate with and learn from friends, colleagues, and mentors who have been working in our region towards an abundant forward-dawning queer future.



 Jerry Dreva, “Revolution,” c.1973. Fluorescent paint and ink on printed newspaper, 57.8 x 37.1 cm, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh. The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.