Tim Simonds, *Prepositions as an Architectural Medium*

Isolated parts of speech, such as prepositions, can be used as an architectural tool to translate between form, thought, and identity. However, there is both danger and promise knotted into prepositions. On the one hand, they are entwined in language in a way that can limit and predetermine the relationship between what we know, where we are, and who we are. On the other hand, prepositions open a possibility of questioning knowledge, place, and identity. When used as a medium like a piece of trace paper, prepositions can be used to translate across scales of space, time and subjectivity. As a way of exploring these characteristics of prepositions, I will draw from the use of isolated parts of speech in my art practice, the place of this form of language in branding, and the work my students have produced using isolated parts of speech as a way repositioning their bodies within their design work, moving between descriptions of form and filmed performances.

Tim is a visual artist and a writer. His work draws from the messy layers of social relationships and individual thought; producing images, objects and performance that mix themes of selflessness, self-interest, care, embarrassment, sexuality, boredom and pride. With a background in performance studies he has written about the limits of architecture as a way of thinking and relating to the world. He has most recently shared his writing at Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne, Brown University and Princeton University. He teaches here at Pratt in the Architecture Writing program and in the sculpture, Fine Arts department.

Ostap is a registered architect and founding partner of Clouds Architecture Office. He is a Visiting Associate Professor at Pratt Institute and has been an invited juror at Princeton, Columbia, Carnegie Mellon and UPenn. He received a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard University Graduate School of Design after completing undergraduate studies at the Architectural Association in London and Carnegie Mellon University. His most recent awards include first place in NASA’s Mars Habitat Challenge, and an AIA Honor award for the CRS Studio project. His work has been exhibited in the USA, Holland, France, Australia, Poland and Japan.