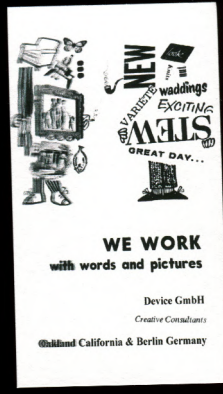


That's Paid

510-550-5502



*Paid Audit at Studio Speziale*  
Sean Lockwood & Nicholas Strobelt

List of works:

*Negative Ordinal Facetanks (-1st, ..., -10th)*

Sean Lockwood

Silver gelatin internegative prints

2023

*Negative Tier Lists (Selection of 10 from 31 total)*

Nicholas Strobelt

Inkjet digital negative prints

2023

*Presentation of Released & Unreleased Business Cards*

Paid & Device

Inkjet printing

2022 - 2025

*Paywall No. 2*

Aurora San Miguel, Sean Lockwood, & Nicholas Strobelt

Publication produced on the occasion of the exhibition at Studio Speziale

2023 - 2025

Text:

Paid was the name of an exhibition space that operated in Seattle, Washington between March 2022 and October 2023. The exhibition space was the garage attached to our home. The building was originally constructed in 1943 and located in the North Beacon Hill neighborhood of south Seattle. Exhibitions took place over two years and programming was funded by surplus income gained by us both while simultaneously employed as full-time technicians for the Photography department at the University of Washington School of Art. During this period artists including focus, Divya Mehra, Elizabeth VR, Christian Oldham, Jason Hirata, Flint Jamison, Park McArthur, and Julia Yerger/Wiley Guillot participated in exhibitions, with multiple performances also held by Elizabeth VR, Kieran Daly, and Charles Stobbs/Neo Gibson. Additionally, we thought it was appropriate to produce our own shows for the space.

For Nick's show at Paid, he appropriated four institutional slide projectors and additional equipment to display an automatically cycling series of over 30 slides which each show a highly personalized tier list. Tier lists are an online tool for placing items belonging to discrete categories in hierarchical order of favorability. Each slide was produced by photographing digital compositions made intentionally with inverted colors and displayed on a computer screen with 35mm color reversal film, yielding a positive slide. Each projector was controlled by a central controller unit, randomizing the collection to appear across four white screens.

For Sean's show at Paid, he produced a series of 11 framed silver gelatin prints. The prints were made with found 35mm cinema projection film reel containing the 30 second trailer for *Arctic Tale*, a 2007 documentary made narrativizing the lives of a family of polar bears. Individual frames were taken from the reel and enlarged in a darkroom to produce paper negatives from the positive film. The paper negatives were then contact printed to make positive prints. Compositions include polar bears in their arctic habitat as well as cinematic intertitles included in the trailer to promote the then upcoming release of the film.

Both projects were made under conditions of excess time and resources at work, and both projects coincidentally interface with a literal negative to positive conversion strategy. For the occasion of producing a show about Paid for Studio Speziale (coincidentally, almost exactly 1.5 years after the final exhibition at Paid and 1.5 years since the most recent exhibition at Studio Speziale), we thought of a gesture that would illustrate a larger narrative of this conversion by revealing our negative intermediary materials, however reconfigured this time directly interfacing with each other.

While working on Paid, we constantly communicated over text despite living and working together, often from our separate bedrooms. Our frequent sharing of images started to transform into a practice of producing business cards. In general we always printed a new one for each exhibition at Paid and gave them away for free at the show.

After the first year of working on the space, Aurora San Miguel produced a thorough examination of the work of the artists and our context of Seattle in writing, which we compiled and printed in a small publication called *Paywall*. After the second year of Paid, Aurora conducted interviews with all of the artists. We intended to release the second issue of *Paywall* then, in 2023, but our circumstances quickly changed and we both left Seattle immediately after the last show.