Initiated in 2008 by a former migrant worker and musician, Sun Heng, the Culture and Art Museum of Migrant Workers is located in Picun, a village outside Beijing that is home to some 10,000 migrant workers. CAMMW is a project of Migrant Workers Home, an NGO founded in 2002, dedicated to supporting the rights of migrant workers, providing education for their children, and serving as a community center. The purpose of the museum is to record the histories of migrant workers and to advocate for the value of their labor. “The Making of the Chinese New Working Class” is an installation consisting of eight thematic topics that illustrate migrant workers conditions, and the re-creation of a migrant worker’s living space, and includes materials donated by migrant workers from across China. It is an installation that was originally part of the exhibition The Potosí Principle that traveled from the Museu Reina Sofia in Madrid, to the Haus der Kulturen der Welt and the IG Metall (metal workers union) in Berlin, to the Museo Nacional de Etnografía y Folklore in La Paz.

To coincide with the exhibition, Ludlow 38 is launching a series of side-events conceived in collaboration with New York based artist Marty Kirchner and The Public School New York.

Exhibition opening and conversation, July 14, 6pm at MINI/Goethe-Institut Curatorial Residencies Ludlow 38, 38 Ludlow St., New York 10002

The exhibition opens with a conversation between Zhibin Lin, research co-ordinator of the Culture and Art Museum of Migrant Workers, and Ellen David Friedman, a union organizer and labor educator in both the U.S. and China. They will discuss the exhibition, and Zhibin Lin's work in China, as well as a recent history of migrant labor in China, including internal migration to urban economic zones, a new wave of proletarianization, This session will take place at the opening of the exhibition.
Zhibin Lin
Dr. Zhibin Lin is the research coordinator of Migrant Workers Home, a NGO in Beijing, and is part of the Culture and Art Museum of Migrant Workers. Zhibin Lin has taught development sociology, and Gender and Rural Development in China Agricultural University from 1990 to 2001. Since 2003 she is a NGO staff working at migrant workers communities while conducting research in different parts of China. Her research reports include: “Migrant Workers Residential Rights and Future Development” (2009), “Action Research on Migrant Children’s Education and Development Projects” (Issue I in 2009, Issue II in 2010), “Where to Go? – Migrant Workers in between the City and the Countryside” (2011).

埃伦·大卫·弗里德曼
埃伦·大卫·弗里德曼在佛蒙特州从事工会的组织工作已经有三十年了，其中有二十年的时间她担任全国教育协会佛蒙特州联络员的工作。她是佛蒙特州工人中心的创始人并长期在工人中心和佛蒙特州进步党承担领导工作，她是劳工记录政策委员会的成员。从2006年开始她每年在中国广州的中山大学承担一个学期的教学工作，同时她在中国参与各个层次的劳工运动，与草根劳工组织、全国总工会和劳工问题的学者都进行了广泛的合作。
**Performance, July 15, 6:30-8:00pm, Unique Hairstylist, 47 Essex St., New York 10002**
The Hanns Eisler Nail Salon/Nail Workers Chorus (H.E.N.S./N.W.C.) will join Maria and Nancy at Unique Hairstylist to present a new cabaret performance: *(re) Zoning, Manicured,* a music soiree to describe and denounce the forces of dislocation and dispossession at work in our communities.

**Symposium July 16, 2011, 4-6pm, Precarious Power: Syndicalism, Solidarity, and the New Organizational Paradigm, at Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, 25 West 43rd Street, between 5th and 6th avenues, 19th Floor**
The reorganization of production along global supply chains, often through a complicated pattern of subcontracting, has provided significant challenges for the labor movement. Temporary and contingent employment has undermined labor rights protections worldwide. However, in both China and the West, the last few years have seen a proliferation of dissident worker movements, new kinds of workers organizations and workers’ rights campaigns. Some of the most dynamic and innovative have combined elements of community and labor organizing, cultural production, and direct action.

Immanuel Ness, professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College, City University of New York will facilitate the discussion. Mr Ness’ writing focuses on social and revolutionary movements, labor militancy and migrant worker resistance to oppression.

Invited guests include the following participants:
- Jeff Becker, International Labor Rights Forum
- Daniel Gross, IWW/Brandworkers International
- Carrie Gleason, Retail Action Project
- Not An Alternative

**About the contributors:**

*H.E.N.S./N.W.C.*
Manicurists, stylists, community organizers and artists are a potent alliance of life worlds, and their differences only invite the building of solidarity. Their desires are constrained by similar forces; beholden to capricious markets, their production rationalized as "luxury" by the forces of capital. The H.E.N.S./N.W.C. mission is to interrupt the politics of beauty, dislocate the politics of the gallery, and begin to imagine new relations that transform our ways of being in the neighborhood and being in the world; to manicure the ready-to-hand. Our namesake, exile composer Hanns Eisler (1898–1962), was twice robbed of his community; fleeing the rise of fascism in Germany, he found a home in the United States only to find himself on the Hollywood Blacklist, called before HUAC and deported. Like the current denizens of the Lower East Side, power came to deny him community by a vicious process of
reorganization, redefinition and rezoning. His music, banned by Fascism, disavowed by US xenophobia and forgotten by the world of fine art, questions the false distinction between “developments as progress,” “managed change” and "community preservation," and instead imagines new artistic-political-community relations. Eisler wrote some of the most potent hymns to workers rights. We strive to invest his political and artistic project with a lived experience of difference worthy of the contemporary beauty industry; to give an old Marxist a new manicure.

- Immanuel Ness, Brooklyn College

- Jeffrey Becker, International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF)
ILRF is an advocacy organization dedicated to achieving just and humane treatment for workers worldwide. ILRF’s work supports international labor rights as defined by the International Labor Organization, including the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, the prohibition of discrimination against women, and the elimination of forced labor and child labor. ILRF promotes decent work around the world. Jeffrey Becker joined ILRF in the summer of 2010, and serves as the program officer for the organization’s work in China. Mr. Becker holds a Ph.D. in political science from the George Washington University, and his research examines the rise in labor protests among migrant workers in China. As part of his dissertation research, Jeffrey spent thirteen months in China, interviewing migrant workers about their experiences in the workplace in Beijing, Guangdong, and Jiangsu provinces.

- Daniel Gross, IWW/Brandworkers International
Daniel Gross is the founding director of Brandworkers International, a non-profit organization protecting and advancing the rights of retail and food employees. By empowering low-wage employees with legal, advocacy, and organizing tools, Brandworkers promotes fairness on the job and challenges corporate misconduct in the community. Brandworkers is helping lead the widely-acclaimed Focus on the Food Chain campaign, an organizing effort of immigrant workers overcoming sweatshop conditions in the food processing and distribution warehouses that supply New York’s grocery stores and restaurants. With the Industrial Workers of the World, Mr. Gross co-founded the first labor union in the United States at the Starbucks Coffee Co. A graduate of the Fordham University School of Law where he was a Stein Scholar for Public Interest Law and Ethics, Mr. Gross is a workers’ rights attorney and serves on the steering committee of the National Lawyers Guild Labor & Employment Committee.
- Carrie Gleason, Retail Action Project
Carrie Gleason is the director of the Retail Action Project (RAP), a growing network of New York City retail and fashion workers. RAP is dedicated to winning economic justice for retail workers through strategic organizing, policy and research, creative communications, and services. RAP has integrated art into organizing by using video, design and performance to spotlight retail workers’ experiences and hold retailers accountable for workplace injustices.

- Not An Alternative
Not An Alternative is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) with a mission to affect popular understandings of events, symbols, and history. We curate and produce work that questions and leverages the tools of advertising, architecture, exhibit design, branding, and public relations. Programs are hosted at a variety of venues, including our Brooklyn-based gallery No-Space (formerly known as The Change You Want to See Gallery). Not An Alternative has exhibited work in New York at Eyebeam, Pratt Institute, White Box, NYU, Conflux Festival, New York Art and Book Fair as well as internationally.

- Marty Kirchner
Marty Kirchner is an artist and labor organizer based in New York City. He completed the Whitney Independent Study Program in 2010, after graduating from HfBK Städelschule Frankfurt/M in 2009, and the University of California Los Angeles in 2004. A member of the Industrial Workers of the World labor union, he is currently an organizer with Focus on the Food Chain, a campaign to improve conditions of immigrants workers in New York’s food processing and distribution warehouses.

- The Public School New York
The Public School New York is an open-source educational platform with no curriculum, an open framework that supports autodidactic activities. Via the Public School’s website, members generate ideas for free reading groups, skill-based workshops, seminar-style discussions, lecture-driven classes, and other projects—then they schedule, take, and teach them together. The Public School has chapters in Los Angeles, Brussels, San Juan, and other cities around the world.

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