



JONAH FREEMAN + JUSTIN LOWE

*Spider Wave*

19 September 2026

Long term installation

VON AMMON is pleased to announce its commission of a permanent installation by Jonah Freeman and Justin Lowe.

*Spider Wave* is a fully realized fictional office environment that will occupy VON AMMON's 180 square foot private viewing room for the remainder of the gallery's lease at 3210 Grace Street, or until circumstances justify its removal. Either way, the installation is conceived, in its resplendent detail and multiplicity of art objects, to exist not as an ephemeral art show but as a site: Freeman and Lowe's vast artistic project, which is best known for its labyrinthine suites of painstakingly crafted rooms, has largely had to do with the reification of a fictional organization known as The Signal Ecology Institute. This invented non-governmental entity was formed in the late 1960's, contemporary to Stewart Brand's *Whole Earth Catalogue*, whose focus on self-reliance, community-building and the embrace of newly available technologies—its famous cover was the result of Brand's petitioning NASA to release its satellite images of the *whole earth* sphere—represented the germinal beginnings of the Silicon Valley ethos. The Signal Ecology Institute—SEI—extends these principles well beyond their logical extremes, with a monomaniacal focus on various means of computing via the natural world—encryption via crystal, spiderweb, ocean current, organic gardening, cloud-seeding. This tiny "field-office"—which one can only access through a violently-dealt hole in the gallery sheetrock—is presented similarly to any period room in a museum, with all details left perfectly intact. Materials for field experiments—proprietary branded gallon-jugs, pipettes and vials—mingle with craft-centric artworks commemorating the SEI's proudest achievements; hundreds of documents, presentation posters and keepsakes plaster a narrow corridor lit by a bare incandescent bulb. The field office evokes its parent org's Pacific heritage via an excess of reclaimed hardwood and geodesics which evoke the Integratron or the Exploratorium. By the looks of it, this NGO is long defunct, and its highly dubious experiments, while lauded in the nascency of Silicon Valley, are either absurd nonstarters, or—more germanely—the seeds of far more pernicious ideologies to come. The SEI—and Freeman and Lowe's ambitious creative project—was more clear-eyed than many of us may have judged it via its early iterations, which pointed directly at the total collapse of the Palo Alto worldview, a cataclysm whose real epicenter has inarguably been Washington DC. *Spider Wave* (named after one of the Institutes most preposterous initiatives) will remain on view in the gallery's tiny backroom for as long as it's relevant, which we believe will unfortunately be a very long time.