



LET'S REMAKE THE WORLD III

SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP

Presentations by:
Brett Bloom
Claire Pentecost
John Jordan
Keith Stern-Piriot
Kirsten Forkert
Michel Chevalier
Sarah Lewison

FEBRUARY 22-23-24

YNKB, BALDERSGADE 70, ST. TV. 2200 KBH N

THIS PROJECT SEEKS TO CREATE A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PLACE OF OPTIMISM IN THE FACE OF WAR, ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION, AND GLOBAL CAPITALISM, AND TO EXAMINE HOW OPTIMISM CAN HELP FUEL POSITIVE CHANGE IN A REALISTIC WAY. SEE THE BACKGROUND AND DETAILED PROGRAM FOR LETS REMAKE THE WORLD III ON <http://www.ynkb.dk/eng/2008.shtml> AND THE QUESTIONS WE INTEND TO ADDRESS

Music by Peter Dacke, Havblik Audio, Henning and Elisabetta

All Participants must prepare a statement
Please make an effort to connect to the questions set forth for the seminar - which will be worked together to a joint statement, for let's remake the world III.

The seminar is followed by a workshop

Sunday, February 24th

arranged by Parfume & YNKB

Let's remake the world III by the library of radiant optimism and ynkb supported by danish art council

For more info, <http://www.ynkb.dk/eng/2008.shtml>
Please sign up, info@ynkb.dk

Let's Remake the World III Seminar and Workshop **YNKB 22-24 February 2008 info@ynkb.dk**

This is the third event in a series initiated by the Library of Radiant Optimism (Brett Bloom + Bonnie Fortune) and YNKB, which started in late 2006 with The Radiantly Optimistic Poster Show! exhibited at YNKB, December 2006, and at Messhall, Chicago, June 2007. This exhibition was followed by a seminar in Messhall: What We Know of Our Past - What We Demand of Our Future, January 18-20, 2008.

We are inspired by the groundswell of optimistic and visionary activities in the late 1960s and early 1970s. We are interested in this time period and the massive counter-cultural movement it produced in the face of international political and social turmoil. We find ourselves in a similar global environment of unprecedented crises, and we are wondering how we can make visible and cohesive the currently existing activities. Is there potential to add to the optimistic histories of past activism with our own movements? This project seeks to not only create a discussion about the place of optimism in the face of war, environmental devastation, and global capitalism, but to examine how optimism can help fuel positive change in a realistic way.

We have invited artists and activists from US, Canada, Germany, Sweden and Denmark to present ideas, viewpoints, and projects as basis for further elaboration on these subjects. If possible, we would like to put the subject into a historical and a global context.

We relate to the optimism of late 1960s/early 1970s, but the optimistic and visionary activities in the late 1960s and early 1970s had their background in the massive civil rights and anti-war movements, may 68 Paris, with striking students and workers, and liberation movements fighting colonialism and imperialism in Asia, Latin America and Africa (to name just a few of the struggles) Also, Denmark and Sweden had relatively progressive governments (at least compared to now). Both the Swedish and Danish Prime Ministers - Oluf Palme and Anker Joergensen, respectively--took part in demonstrations against the war in Vietnam. But unfortunately as everyone knows, things have changed in ways that have brought about major setbacks.

The bright future of Africa has turned into a state of war between tribes, AIDS, and massive emigration to Europe (which is trying to protect itself against the 'barbarous hordes' with walls and camps); A global economic crisis is unfolding; Populist rightwing parties are growing; Iraq is a disaster and total chaos; and the Palestinian quest for the right to return has never been solved. Now, the whole of what should have been the independent state of Palestine is totally fragmented by settlements and what is left has been turned into an open prison. And this is only the the tip of the iceberg. Yet times of crisis are also times of opportunity and it's this that we set about to explore.

These are some of the questions we intend to address:

1. How can we actualize life-affirming artistic practices against this background?
2. What are the experiences of past movements, what can be learned from these experiences, and how can this understanding be applied?
3. How can we relate to the establishment and how will this impact our work? How can we share cultural capital in non-normative ways?
4. Who are we addressing in our art practices and how do we represent the other?
5. How can we escape the trap of metaphor in order not just represent differences but to live them in the here and now?

Workshop:

Presentations and discussions will take place on the 22nd and 23rd followed by a workshop on the 24th.

When making presentations, we ask that the participants please keep in mind the focus of the event. If presenting one's practice (as one might do in a traditional 'art' situation), please make an effort to connect it to the questions set forth.

Let's remake the world III Seminar and Workshop 22-23-24 February 2008
YNKB Baldersgade 70. st. tv. 2200 København N info@ynkb.dk

See the Background and the questions we intend to address for producing statements on previous page or:
<http://www.ynkb.dk/eng/2008.shtml>

Schedule

The programme is subject to alteration

Friday, February 22

14:00: Let's remake the world III, Introduction by YNKB

14: 30 - 15:30: Claire Pentecost:

16.00-17:00: John Jordan

I tend to swing between two ways of feeling and thinking around hope. One is critiquing hope in the way that Derek Jensen does when he writes about giving up on hope because it restrains our agency, (see <http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/170/>). The other is looking at hope like Rebecca Solnit does in her fantastic little book "Hope In The Dark" where she sees hope in the unexpected nature of history, in the fact that history is always ready to be made and that the best act of hope is to act in the present moment with no expectations of consequences .. she echoes Ursula Le Guin a bit who wrote.."In order to speculate safely on an inhabitable future, perhaps we would do well to find a rock crevice and go backward...With all our self-consciousness, we have very little sense of where we live, where we are right here right now."

17: 00 -18:30: Sarah Lewison

Performance : Land Access to Which is Denied No ONE (1970)

A reenactment of the appeal case of "The People of the State of California vs. Lou Gottlieb" in which Northern California resident Lou Gottlieb defended his Constitutional right to deed his land to God.

The event is presented by Sarah Lewison with special guests 'playing' members of the court, and will be followed by a discussion of this historic case and its implications.

In 1969, Lou Gottlieb was facing a State-ordered injunction against letting people live on his 31-acre ranch, home of the legendary Morningstar Commune, so he signed over the title of his property to God. His motivation was both complex and simple: an

attempt keep this land open for all who needed it and loved it, in perpetuity.

He saw in this act an opening for remediation of the earth and of human relations.

The court case that followed was a fascinating and sometimes comic effort on behalf of the State government and the court to deny Gottlieb's claim without having to examine the concept of ownership or deny the existence of God.

Gottlieb wrote, ..."if land is held as a source of profit, that opens a certain pattern of reactive behavior which is very well-established..... How really should we live on the

earth when we are not concerned at least with this tiny, little pilot study with maximizing the net?"

Reading is about 40 min, followed by discussion.

19:30: Dinner: YNKB

2100 -22:00: Music by Havblik Audio

Saturday 23 february

10:00: Coffee and bread

11:00: Brett Bloom

The Library of Radiant Optimism for Let's Re-Make the World gathers how-to publications borne out of the massive counter cultural groundswell in the late 1960s / early 1970s of people who wanted to take apart and re-assemble the broken world they inherited. Activists, citizens, designers, artists, radicals, housewives, environmentalists and others worked together to challenge received notions of women's health care, the built environment, authoritarian political and social structures, and the impoverished imaginary of everyday existence. My talk will focus on the books from the Library and by extension the different forms and areas of resistance that they encapsulate.

12:00 Michel Chevalier

“unlimited liability”—a firewall against art-market cooptation, and resulting (de)mobilizational effects.

In 1969 Lucy Lippard wrote, “the artists who are trying to do non-object art are introducing a drastic solution to the problems of artists being bought and sold so easily, along with their art (...).”

In the Summers of 2006 and 2007, I tried to provide a less drastic, but in my view more precise, response to the influence of commercial galleries and collectors (not to mention their obliging “critics” and curators) on art production. I opened a shop that sold inexpensive art-multiples under the terms of contract that stipulated that no purchaser could have more than €50,000 in assets, subject to penalty in case of false disclosure.

I will briefly present the Hamburg context of this project, ‘unlimited liability’, consider it in light of Marx’s critique of the commodity form, and try to summarize the media resonance and mixed reactions this project had.

<http://targetautonopop.org>

13:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Kirsten Forkert

Title: Solidarity as both a necessary and elusive concept

My starting point is that one important way of countering cynicism, defeatism and opportunism (I see each as them as all closely related) is through creating forms of solidarity. I’m not saying that a concept such as solidarity doesn’t have to be reworked and reconsidered, especially if it is going to be useful for artists in any way.

However, I’m also concerned about how easily it is dismissed as unfashionable, outmoded and even unthinkable in certain contexts. In my talk, which is based on my research on artists’ working conditions, I will speculate on how we can both imagine and enact forms of solidarity in a neoliberal climate (where entrepreneurialism is seen to be the only form of political empowerment), recently marked by the rapid expansion of the art market (with the associated values of competition and meritocracy, and the entrenching of conservative definitions of the artist’s role). What are ways of working together and supporting each other? How can we learn from the successes and failures of past initiatives?

15:00-16:00 Keith Stern-Pirlot

Control is freezing the world’s becoming, thereby fixing us and everything else on this planet so that ALL can be manipulated in whatever ways fuel the autonomic system that, ironically, doesn’t even benefit its chief functionaries. But with the bursting of the global credit bubble, we may be at a watershed moment in time. Not since the 1930s has capitalist “society” faced such a serious economic crisis; and with crises, opportunity and change often follows.

This presentation will explore some ways that Life can escape the kingdom of clones so as to give rise to the new.

17- 19:30: Short Statements: (All participants must prepare a short statement: 10 minutes each)

Mette Kit Jensen/RACA ,YNKB, Learning Site, Kristine Ask, Nis Rømer, Copenhagen Free University,Public Globality Gardens, Parfyme, Jamie Stapleton

Other participants?

18:00 – 20:00: Discussion for a Joint Statement

20:00: Dinner: Michel Chevalier

21:00 – 22:00: Music: Peter Dacke

Sunday 24 February

11:00 – 13:00

Workshop: Turning the joint statement into action. Bring materials.

13:00 - 14:00: Lunch

14:00 – 19:00: Workshop

Turning the joint statement into action. Bring materials.

19:00 : Dinner by Claire Pentecost

20 -21 Music: Henning Frimann og Elisabetta Saiu