True Politics Is the Art of the Impossible: Reading List 2003

Creative Resistance

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True Politics is the Art of the Impossible
Reading List 2003

The Right to be Lazy
Paul Lafargue

Theory and Practice of a Cinema with the People
Jorge Sanjines and the Ukamau Group

The Spell of the Sensuous
David Abram

Hand-Held Visions: The Uses of Community Media
DeeDee Halleck

The Trajectory of Change: Activist Strategies for Social Transformation.
Michael Albert

The Cinema of Ken Loach: Art in the Service of the People
Jacob Leigh

Regarding the Pain of Others
Susan Sontag

Long Walk to Freedom
Nelson Mandela

Situationist International Anthology
edited by Ken Knabb

Assault on Culture
Stewart Home

Taz
Hakim Bey

Escape from the 19th Century
Peter Lamborn Wilson

Cities of Salt Trilogy
Abdelrahman Munif.

Terror in the Mind of God
Mark Juergensmeyer

On Violence
Hannah Arendt

Some Recent Attacks:
Essays Political and Cultural
James Kelman

Imprint Writings
Harun Farocki

Art and Fear
Paul Virilio

Experimental Nations, or The Invention of the Maghreb
Reda Bensmaïa.

Paris Hollywood
Peter Wollen

Thinking Past Terror: Islam and Critical Theory on the Left
Susan Buck-Morss

The Bodies That Were Not Ours and Other Writings
Coco Fusco

Positions in the Life World: Writings by and about Martha Rosler

On Belief
Slavoj Zizek

Carrying the Darkness
edited by Bill Ehrhart

Ways of Seeing
John Berger

Wanderlust: A History of Walking
Rebecca Solnit

Free as in Freedom: Richard Stallman’s Crusade for Free Software
Sam Williams

The Golden Age is in Us
Alexander Cockburn

The Thirty Year’s War
Andrew Kopkind

Manifestos: A Century of Isms
edited by Mary Ann Caws

Theory of the Four Movements
Charles Fourier

Seize the Time
Bobby Seale

Which Side Are You On? Trying to be for Labor When It’s Flat on It’s Back
Thomas Geoghegan

Revolt She Said
Julia Kristeva.

Between Hell and Reason: Essays from the Resistance
Newspaper Combat
Albert Camus

A Pen Warmed-Up in Hell
Mark Twain

Spaces of Capital: Towards a Critical Geography
David Harvey

The Gift
Marcel Mauss

Limited Views
Quian Zhongshu

The Essential Gesture: Writing, Politics, Places
Nadine Gordimer

Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness
Kenzaburo Oe

The Art of Eating
M.F.K Fisher

The Black Jacobins
Clr James

The Religion of Technology
David Noble

Letters from Prison
The Marquis De Sade

Creative Resistance Summer Camp
August 8 - 31, 2003

“Summer Camp” is a group of artists, thinkers, activists, citizens and friends who wish to celebrate and strengthen, through performance and art, music, discussions and theater, the momentum of the anti-war movement.

“Summer Camp” is a gathering of cultural, social, and artistic communities seeking to expand our networks, challenge the dominant assumptions, strengthen our activities, and work towards defending our rights.

www.creativeresistance.us
August 8-11
Art in Public Space Workshops

August 8th | ABC No Rio
Noon-6pm stencil presentation and workshop by Josh MacPhee
Josh MacPhee is a Chicago-based artist and activist. For the past decade Josh has focused on reaching broad audiences through many forms of street art, including spray paint stencils and wheat pasted posters. He has also been extremely interested in documenting all forms of public expression by others, from traditional graffiti to altered stop signs to marker scrawls on corporate advertisements. With this documentation Josh put together small and inexpensive artist book zines and is currently working on a book about spray paint stencils called Stencil Pirates that will be published in March 2004 on Soft Skull Press.

Noon-6pm Design creation for printmaking workshop provided by ABC No Rio

8-10pm Pink Bloque UnJustified Tour 2003: End the Occupation at Home and Abroad! Workshop: Kicks, Ball, Change the World
Our dance workshop is fully interactive; the Pink Bloque brings new moves to the movement. In Kicks, Ball, Change the World we discuss dance as an effective protest tactic for creating a spectacle. Also addressed is the importance of using pop culture as a tool to reach audiences unfamiliar with activism. This workshop is geared towards audiences interested in creating a new look for protest culture in their region. We will be spending time in the indoor space dancing and dialoguing, and one hour will be spent on the streets bringing radical dance moves to your community.
The Pink Bloque is a Chicago-based radical feminist dance troupe dedicated to challenging the white supremacist, capitalist, patriarchal one street dance party at a time. The Pink Bloque is multi-issue group, but this summer our focus will be on ending occupation at home (meaning government encroachment on civil liberties and corporate control of public and private spheres) and abroad (the US occupation of Iraq, and US Imperialism throughout the world). ABC No Rio will be the last stop on our tour.

August 9th | ABC No Rio
Noon-6pm screenprinting workshop
ABC No Rio printmaking collective guides individuals coming into printmaking with any amount of experience in poster and t-shirt creation. Participants interested in the printmaking workshop should have experience in drawing or design you would preferably come with designs ready to trace and burn (limited space available).

August 10th | More Gardens
Radical art tour of public gardens from the Lower East Side to Da Bronx, hosted by Aresh of More Gardens
10am-12pm Lower East Side Tour
We'll start at the 6 and B garden at Avenue B between 5th and 6th street directions: F train to 2nd Avenue then go East to Ave B then North to the garden. Start at the 6 and B garden with its crazy toy sculpture rising into the sky, then Esperanza - E 17th street between b & c Garden whose seeds of hope were scattered all over the earth on Feb. 15th 2000 by short sighted developers.
El Jardín Paraiso: Exemplary garden from permanence to future visions of water and sun sustainability
LES Park Garden: where the youth work magic
La Plaza Cultural: fighting all the way for the earth
Peach Tree: Proactive group preserve their garden and keep helping others
By 12 we'll head over to the Bronx for Lunch either by bikes or train so bring your bikes. Those who have experience in bike riding will be a great help.

August 11th | ABC No Rio
8-10pm presentation with Paul Chan
Paul Chan discusses the poster campaign he launched after returning from Iraq as part of the Iraq Peace Team. Paul Chan is a 2003 Rockefeller Foundation new media arts fellow. Chan's video work is distributed by Video Data Bank (www.vdb.org). His new media work can be seen at National Philistine (www.nationalphilistine.com).

August 12th | ABC No Rio
7-9pm presentation by Surveillance Camera Players
Founded in New York in November 1996, the Surveillance Camera Players (SCP) manifest their opposition to the use of surveillance cameras in public places by performing specially designed satirical plays directly in front of these cameras. Since Thanksgiving 2000, the SCP has also been mapping out and giving weekly walking tours of highly surveilled neighborhoods in New York City. There are now SCP groups in Arizona, Italy, Lithuania and Sweden. Bill Brown, the SCP's co-founder and current director, will show videotapes and talk about the group's performances, history and relationship to other "street theater" groups.

August 13th | ABC No Rio
6pm-8pm presentation with W3 Art in Action: Seth Tobacman and Christopher Cardinale
In 2002 Artists from the magazine World War 3 illustrated and others formed an arts collective for the purpose of providing visuals to the peace protests here in New York. This slide show documents that work. Followed by the slide show will be a break-off group which will focus on idea development for the WW3 banner and street art workshop on August 15th.

8pm-10pm performance by the Missle Dick Chicks
The Missile Dick Chicks are a posse of pissed-off housewives from Crawford, Texas, the home of our beloved President George Walker Bush. Usually we prefer to leave the talking to our husbands, but recent events have conspired to drag us away from our martinis and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and into the streets.
The dim-witted ramblings and demonstrations of the anti-authoritarian rabbit that have infected our country of late made our blood boil. The sight of these smelly, smarmy marchers smirkingly besmirching our smiling President is too much to bear. The biggest questions these ruff-ruff face day-to-day are which Starbucks to vandalize and where to score their next bong hit. And these ne'er-do-wells dare to second guess our Commander-in-Chief? For shame!

August 14th | ABC No Rio
7-9pm presentation on More Gardens Theater and Puppetry Actions: Lisa and Aresh of More Gardens
The community gardens sprouted up in New York City’s working class neighborhoods, mostly resided by people of color. The community gardens are a testimony to a day by day revolution started by placing seeds of hope in deliberately neglected neighborhoods. The amazing transformation from toxic earth to a green oasis. The slide show hints to proactive approaches put to play in the last 5 years to defend, preserve, and create more of this flourishing revolution.

August 15th | ABC No Rio
Noon-? Construction of banners and props for WW3 street actions guided by Seth Tobacman and Christopher Cardinale
7pm-9pm Slide lecture with Seth Tobacman: 3 tactics from Francisco Goya
This slide lecture deals with 3 approaches to political art found in the work of the great spanish painter Goya and still used by cartoonists artists and activists today: 1) Detourment 2) Magical Animals 3) Social Realism
Seth Tobacman became politically active in the late 1970s early 1980s in response to the Iran Hostage crisis and the rise of Ronald Reagan. He has been drawing comics all his life. In 1979 he founded the radical comicbook World War 3 illustrated with Peter Kuper. In the 1980s and 90s he was involved with the squatters movement in New York. Today he works with the anti-war movement, the anti globalization movement and with activists in Palestine and Israel. He has 3 books in Print: You Don't Have To Fuck People Over To Survive, War in the Neighborhood, and Perforals of Israelis and Palestinians. His cartoon have been used as posters, flyers, banners, murals and tattoos by radical folks all over.

August 17th | ABC No Rio
2:00-3:30pm The Surveillance Camera Players
SCP will be giving Surveillance Camera Outdoor Walking Tours of heavily surveilled neighborhoods in Manhattan, New York City. Each SCOWT will include a general introduction to the emerging surveillance society as well as a choice selection of video cameras that surveil public space. Each tour lasts about 1.5 hours and is undertaken rain or shine. This particular tour will be of the Fashion District. We will meet on the northwest corner of 9th Avenue and 34th Street. 2 pm sharp.
August 17 | Blue Stockings
8pm-10pm Best Of TLVSN, hosted by Joe Proulx and Ringo.

The revolution is now televised with an odd of assortment of creative resistance videos, music, art, politics, and satire. The show TLVSN is an independent broadcast meme which features half hour long programs of freeform and tactical television experiments every week in Chicago on local cable channel 19. It is our first foray into subverting the cultural and political somnambulism of corporate television. sort of. It is our general mission to expose the conditions that foster the inequities and injustice in our culture and society while also sharing the emerging genius from the margins. TLVSN seeks to expose viewers to an alternative network of information and entertainment to provide more cultural and political diversity on the cablewaves. We challenge the assumptions made by those in power by participating in the sharing of alternative viewpoints, cultural forms, revolution. www.lumpen.com/television

August 18 | Blue Stockings
8pm-10pm Tarikh of NYC IMC Jeremy Scahill tactical media presentation

New York City artist and activist Tarikh Korula joins members of the New York city Independent Media Center's Sound Crew to teach a workshop in portable sound recording, editing and publishing techniques. Workshop will cover basic recording techniques and concepts as well as covering software and equipment choices for artists and activists.

August 19 | Blue Stockings
8pm-10pm Best Of Paper Tiger TV: Jen Nedbalsky, Jamie McClelland

Paper Tiger Television (PTTV) is an open, non-profit, volunteer video collective. Through the production and distribution of our public access series, media literacy video production workshops, community screenings and grassroots advocacy PTTV works to challenge and expose the corporate control of mainstream media. PTTV believes that increasing public awareness of the negative influence of mass media and involving people in the process of making media is mandatory for our long term goal of information equity.

August 21 | Blue Stockings
8pm-10pm Audio documentary listening party, hosted and curated by Jeremy Scahill of Democracy Now! and others.

Presenters choose clips of selected audio documentaries from their own library for a relaxed evening of radio story telling and information sharing.

August 22 | Blue Stockings
8pm-10pm Bridging Communities through Film, hosted by Denise of Paper Tiger

how to bridge communities through media? we have no absolute answer. this is a conversation about paper tiger's interest in using media for communities to begin or continue a dialogue around issues that may directly affect them. we bring our media roots to the community grass in an effort of plain grassroots distribution. usually done in community spaces such as parks and gardens, groups that partner with paper tiger decide how media may have an impact in their organizing and/or community building efforts. some of the screenings will focus on bringing intergenerational , multi racial or multi-issue folks. paper tiger facilitates a fully participatory discussion to spark up some potential collective strategies.

August 23 | Blue Stockings
8pm-10pm Challenging Dominant Assumptions panel, including Lumpen Magazine, Clamor Magazine, the Nation, NYC IMC

What is the role of independent media in the age of reality tv, an increasing corporatised life and the emergence of the New Politics. A multiplicity of strategies will be discussed emphasising success and failures with expanding the independent media virus.

August 27-31
Tactical-Technical Activism

This schedule is subject to grow as time goes on. Please continue to visit creativeresistance.us for regular updates.

August 27th | Umbrella Haus
12-6pm The Toyshop collective

Joining the "Summer Camp" for one day is the toyshop collective. they will be facilitating a very hands on workshop during the tactical technical week, be sure to attend this highly anticipated but not so technical workshop.

Indivisible cities is a visual and cultural exchange focusing on artistic interventions in the urban landscape. creating itself out of the margins of our cities is a community of people, more precisely it is a community of actions, a floating world of ephemera and physical markings made by people who have decided to become active citizens in creating their visual landscape. every time someone appropriates a billboard for his or her own needs, scrawls their alias across a highway overpass, or uses city walls as a sounding board for their thoughts and images - for messages that need realization, they are participating in this community, they are circumscribing a link to every other person who believes that the vitality of our public spaces is directly related to the public participating in the incessant creation and re-creation of those spaces.

August 28th | More Gardens
8pm-10pm presentation by The Save America Foundation

The Save America Foundation will be presenting work as well as unveiling their new online application Adopt An American. www.saveamerica.nl

August 29th | More Gardens
5-6pm Basic Legal Workshop

August 30th | More Gardens
5-8pm Tactical Media Workshop: Nathan Haactivist of CDL

Nathan Martin is an artist/activist/technologist representing the Carbon Defense League (CDL) collective and the Hactivist.com Tactical Media Network. Nathan will be presenting an overview of tactical media and experimental practices performed by the CDL in the past six years as well as leading hands on skillsharing workshops. Topics of discussion will be current intellectual property right laws and satire as political tactic. Two recent projects, re-code.com and flashpoint, will be presented and workshopped. Other workshops that might include electronics, computing, or fingerprint manipulation are being developed for this event. www.hactivist.com

August 31st | More Gardens
5-8pm Tactical Media Workshop: Nathan Haactivist of CDL

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Goal

Summer Camp is a five-week series of skill shares in arts and activism. We will practice direct action and civil disobedience, as well as encouraging dialogue about emerging tactics, examining the effectiveness of new forms of creative resistance while putting our art into action. Hands-on workshops in areas of Art in Public Space, Guerrilla Theater, Tactical Media, and Technical Interference will allow participants to create materials for direct action and will provide a venue for discussing the further intervention of non-violence.

As we move into a new era of direct action it is important to understand the tradition it arose from. We will learn about the history of creative resistance as well as the history of more traditional forms of non-violent civil disobedience. We will study emerging forms of activism, challenge dominant assumptions, and create an intergenerational dialogue with the goal of being most effective in whatever form of resistance we choose.

The Republican National Convention will be in NYC later this year. We hope to create a venue for activists and artists to network their workshops in creative resistance as well as the history of more traditional forms of activism, challenge dominant assumptions, and create an intergenerational dialogue with the goal of being most effective in whatever form of resistance we choose.

We hope to create a venue for activists and artists to network their work.

Venues

All of our venues are located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and the Bronx, in NYC. These are bookstores, learning centers, collective and public spaces and gardens. This is not a “camp” like setting. A brief description of these spaces is below.

Bluestockings
172 Allen Street New York
Bluestockings is an independent bookstore, cafe, and activist resource center, located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Through words, art, food, activism, education, and community, we strive to create a space that welcomes and empowers all people. We actively support movements that challenge hierarchy and all systems of oppression, including but not limited to patriarchy, heterosexism, the gender binary, white supremacy and classism, within society as well as our own movements. We seek to make our space and resources available to such movements for meetings, events, and research. Additionally, we offer educational programming that promotes centered, strategic, and visionary thinking, towards the realization of a society that is infinitely creative, truly democratic, equitable, ecological, and free.

More Gardens
Coalition Badillo Rose Garden
163 and Melrose Bronx
The More Gardens! Coalition is a group of community people, gardeners, and environmental and social justice activists who promote the development and preservation of community gardens and open space justice. More Gardens! Coalition is building a network of individuals and groups committed to cultivating fallow land in addition to revitalizing and enhancing existing community gardens. We recognize the need to organize in a proactive manner in order to build an enduring infrastructure that will provide direct and support for those engaged in the struggle for a greener, environmentally just New York City. By using fundamental democratic tools such as community garden-sponsored voter registration drives, legislative strategies, judicial actions, and Direct Action!, we shall reclaim our local government and eventually affect its highest levels.

ABC No Rio
156 Rivington Street
(between Clinton & Suffolk)
ABC No Rio is a community center for art and activism. Our gallery and performance space was founded by artists committed to political and social engagement and we retain these values to the present. We seek to facilitate cross-pollination between artists and activists.

More Gardens
Coalition Badillo Rose Garden
163 and Melrose Bronx
The More Gardens! Coalition is a group of community people, gardeners, and environmental and social justice activists who promote the development and preservation of community gardens and open space justice. More Gardens! Coalition is building a network of individuals and groups committed to cultivating fallow land in addition to revitalizing and enhancing existing community gardens. We recognize the need to organize in a proactive manner in order to build an enduring infrastructure that will provide direct and support for those engaged in the struggle for a greener, environmentally just New York City. By using fundamental democratic tools such as community garden-sponsored voter registration drives, legislative strategies, judicial actions, and Direct Action!, we shall reclaim our local government and eventually affect its highest levels.

Guidelines

Summer Camp is an effort to re-fuel the creative resistance of the anti-occupation movement in NYC and in your own cities. We will work together to create structure for effective civil disobedience that will focus on corporations that profit from militarism, and military recruitment offices. We will practice non-violence in our actions. We will respect one another regardless of sex, race, religious belief, and sexual orientation. Because we are holding these workshops in public buildings and gardens we insist participants are respectful of the spaces we occupy.

If at any point during the festival the group feels any participant is not being respectful of this request and/or any participants are not acting in accordance to the principles of non-violence, they will be asked to leave the group. This does not mean that dialogue will not be encouraged. With new forms of resistance come new rules. We must learn to understand non-violence in the context of these new forms of resistance, and discussions to understand what this means will be encouraged through out the program.

Cost

Because ViTW and CRR operate on a small to nonexistent budget, and because of the length of this campaign, we are asking participants to pay an early registration fee of $20 per workshop theme. If you chose not to register in advance, we will be asking for a door charge of $2-$5 per workshop. All of the money will help to compensate ABC No Rio and Blue Stockings for allowing us to use their space.

Early registration is recommended as there is limited space available* in most workshops. It is also recommended participants choose one or two of the themes that most interest them to attend, rather than trying to attend the entire festival.