

Appendix 19_OS Invitation T_V

Title: freedom of communication / freedom of association
Type: Email Invitation
Event: Planning for a series of workshops organised by Transmission and
Variant
Contributors: OS, Transmission, Variant
Date: 7 Oct 2011

freedom of communication / freedom of association

6 views

Variant

Oct 7, 2011, 3:01:15 PM

Hi EMG, L., and all

We - Transmission and Variant - have a proposal for _OS.

I don't yet have Transmission's invitation material, but time's short and I have to dash so with what info I have to hand would like to ask if _OS would wish to participate in delivering a session in the forthcoming planning workshop with artist-run groups / spaces from across Scotland on Saturday 15th October?

The workshop on Saturday 15th October is to work towards a larger public meeting on Saturday 19th November.

It is to try bring everyone invited up to date with events as regards changes to cultural/ communication policy in Scotland, frame our concerns within given limitations, and within these limitations ensure everyone has a chance to participate in this and contribute towards the forthcoming workshop.

It follows on from the 'From Funding to Franchise' summer workshop

: <http://www.variant.org.uk/events/FtF/FtF.html>

This 'planning workshop' will be in two halves.

The first half will recap some of the areas explored in the summer -- eg 'ecology' -- and expand on this by also addressing: 'value', immaterial & precarious labour, freedom of communication / freedom of association.

10min presentations

20min facilitated small group discussions

Part 1.

From Funding to Franchise workshop overview (Leigh French)

- followed by facilitated discussion on 'ecology'

Common Practice overview (Pauline Broekman, Mute, via skype)

- followed by facilitated discussion on 'value'

On labour process and wilfulness (Gesa Helms)

- followed by facilitated discussion on immaterial & precarious labour

How impact of policy field is important to groups organising around self-knowledge (_

Open School [tbc - title etc to be confirmed with _OS] i)

- followed by facilitated discussion on freedom of communication / freedom of association

It is this last area we would like to ask _OS to address in a 10mins presentation followed by 20mins facilitated small group discussions.

In particular, in considering _OS's exchanges with Howard Slater and CfU folk, if it's something you're interested in, we would like to ask _OS to respond to:

How the impact of policy field is important to groups organising around selfknowledge?

The exclusions inherent with the recourse to 'freedom of expression' over 'freedom of communication': Freedom of expression, with its interwoven rights and responsibilities, lies at the ideological centre of contemporary cultural policy as a key human right and 'pillar of democracy.' Yet freedom of expression is contingent on freedom and equality in communication. Freedom of expression under neoliberalism has been increasingly commercialised and steadily trivialised and that this has come at the expense of legislation which promoted piecemeal but hard won equalities in public discourse. There is a need to account for the way "power is exercised upon and through practices of mediated public communication" so as to nurture diversity of opinion, expression, and communication... to situate and examine the politics and discourse of diversity in the context of cultural policies.

Also: how freedom of communication / freedom of association links to labour organising and economic solidarity?

- which will be followed by small groups' facilitated discussion on freedom of communication / freedom of association

Appreciate this is a very brief and doesn't give a more complete view of the event structure overall - though we're still discussing with Gesa and folk how we might approach the second half.

But given this brief outline, if it's of interest to _OS as a group or to individuals associated with _OS, would you be up for meeting asap to discuss participation further?

All best & many thanks,

L.

07 _____

Variant

...in-depth coverage in the context of broader social, political & cultural issues.

<http://www.variant.org.uk>

gdiy@gmail.com Oct 11 01:11AM +0100 ^

Please see below.

If you are interested in helping research/put together/deliver a short presentation on 'freedom of communication/freedom of association' for this workshop please contact E or Li. LC@gmail.com, 07XXXXXXXXXX

- E

Begin forwarded message:

From: info info <info@transmissiongallery.org>

Date: October 10, 2011 3:10:16 PM GMT+01:00

To: doit yourself <gdiy@gmail.com>

Subject: Invitation to Embassy to workshop/discussion this Saturday

Dear _Open School,

We are feeling an increasing imperative to try to really understand the dramatic shifts that appear to be taking place in public funding in this country through Creative Scotland. Simply through picking up on the sound bite language that is being circulated and the modeling of a business strategy approach to arts funding, there would seem to be not only a lack of awareness of the principles on which public support for cultural diversity is based but also a thoroughly ideological agenda being written into the future of funding for the arts.

At the different levels at which they are funded, galleries and arts organisations seem to be meeting and sharing information about what is happening. It seems, to us really important that individuals affiliated with artist-run and autonomous groups also have an awareness of what might be taking place (we mean ourselves but are hoping others might feel the same). Obviously not all artist-run groups receive direct funding or may even want to receive funding, but we are increasingly thinking of the necessity of a collective understanding of the way the landscape may be being re-written. This may affect artists directly or indirectly through a dismantling of the current infrastructure, through the removal of current

funding, or the possibility of funding at some later point. Perhaps more than this, these potential changes make both the fragility and decisiveness of what is constructed through cultural funding very clear.

We think those affiliated with artist-run activity may have a different perspective on how and why to approach what is happening than other larger funded institutions. For example, in the consideration and understanding of 'value'. For all the possible gloom of the situation we are hopeful to approach this also as an opportunity to collectively consider what we really think and what we really want, and all the differences we positively hold. To see if there is a will to take this forward with a considered and genuinely creative momentum.

With all this in mind we would very much like to invite you to a workshop and discussion meeting next Saturday 15th October. We hosted a workshop in July- From Funding to Franchise, facilitated and planned by Variant and The Strickland Distribution, as a first attempt to engage with what is happening and it seemed to have a good structure for focusing but keeping things open. The workshop next Saturday will be structured along similar lines of presentations about key concerns and small discussion groups in response, but also with time for a general discussion about everything and to see if there is a feeling to take things forward.

We do not mean to be prescriptive about how to approach this but hope you, and other individuals that we are inviting who are involved in artist run initiatives in Scotland, will be interested in this as a possible way to start or proceed from.

Please see a rough schedule attached.
We'd also be very happy to talk about any of this on the phone this week.

Hopeful of your involvement.
Best wishes

the Transmission Committee

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TRANSMISSION GALLERY is an artist-run organisation with charitable status. Transmission is supported by Glasgow Life and Creative Scotland.

Li. <LC@gmail.com> Oct 11 02:46PM +0100 [^](#)

Hello All

I hope many of us can make it to the Saturday meeting at Transmission and would like to second EMG in inviting you to talk to us about the space reserved for us to make a provocation to the other art, knowledge and culture workers who may be present at this meeting. They've asked us to talk about the freedom to communicate. It seems to me at the present moment that very limited paths are open to us as workers in cultural production; ones in which it is necessary for us to 'emerge' as professional artists before we can legitimately start to speak of a situation or idea. I want to reject this necessity and move towards a resocialisation and communisation of thought, of imagination and hope/desire.

Also this week there is the opening to do something at Collective Gallery in Edinburgh on Thursday night, a short 6 minute slot amongst 4 other presentations. Travel is paid by the Gallery. I want to propose ' _Open School' as a tactical construction, one which is used to lever us and our antagonisms in to places and moments which are usually reserved for the continuation of artist-self-reproduction. Why would anyone want to speak about something at such a moment? who will listen and what might come of it?

It seems that art in institutions is often a space of mere self-expression without any meaningful communication. Once an idea, history or identity emerges, where does it go? Is there a way we can instrumentalise this moment?

So if anyone wants to come along, maybe we can improvise something. The obvious thing to respond to seems to be the New Work Scotland Programme, the exhibition of which started last week.

Li. 07XXXXXXXX