

SELF-DIRECTED WORKSHOP GUIDE

THE PEDAGOGICAL IMPULSE

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EXCHANGE ECONOMIES

THEMES

Labour
Solidarity
Reciprocity

ENGAGING WITH

Making and Being Cards
by Susan Jahoda and Caroline
Woolard of BFAMFAPhD

PARTICIPANTS

3 - 15

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

Artistic care and activist practices are entangled in capitalist logic that view creative and imaginative labour as unproductive given that they don't directly produce profit. The consequences of artistic, activist and care labour manifest in precarious living conditions, where non-financial remuneration, exploitation, and precarity become normalized.

This workshop aims to hold space for conversations focused on the potentialities of solidarity and exchange between activists, artists or care workers to support their professional livelihood.

Participants will engage in pair conversations and talk about needs around ongoing support necessary for their (artistic/activist) professional livelihood. After the conversation, participants have to negotiate something they can exchange as a show of support to each other's practices. The pair decides and coordinates how, when and where, the exchange will take place.

The self-guided workshops explore the *Instant Class Kit*, a portable curriculum guide and pop-up exhibition. The kit brings together contemporary curriculum materials in the form of artist multiples such as zines, scores, games, newspapers and other sensory objects. The items in the kit strive to deliver a curriculum based on the values of critical democratic pedagogy, anti-racist and anti-colonial logics, and social justice. The self-guided workshops explore and activate some of the kit contents.

ACTIVITIES

- Introduction to the artists Susan Jahoda and Caroline Woolard of BFAMFAPhD, and the project *Making and Being*.
- Open conversation around precarity in the artistic or activist field. If possible, at the end of the conversation, the facilitator highlights the most common struggles named during the discussion.
- Participants break out in pairs, and it is recommended pairs don't know each other. Each participant takes four minutes to tell their partner their life story in as much detail as possible (prompt is taken from Jen Delos Reyes and Arthur Aron).
- Participants interview each other about their practice, projects, needs, desires and obstacles:
 - What kind of work do you do?
 - Do you have a current project?
 - How do you support your projects? (self-care, positive reinforcement, friendship, perseverance, accountability, etc.)
 - What challenges do you face to support your projects?
- During this exchange, participants take note of each other's answers and think of ways to generate a feasible exchange regarding their partner's needs. The exchange needs to be within the scope of the person's capacity (time, mental health, financial income, etc.)
- On a voluntary basis, participants present the points of convergence and divergence in their stories to the group. Participants can also introduce the possible future exchange.
 - How did they reach that decision? And how and when do they plan to execute it?

RECOMMENDED READINGS

This readings is open source. You can access it by clicking on the link.

- [BFAMFAPhD. \(2014, \). Artists Report Back: A National Study on the Lives of Arts Graduates and Working Artists. Retrieved September 2020 from: http://bfamfaphd.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/BFAMFAPhDArtistsReportBack2014-10.pdf](http://bfamfaphd.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/BFAMFAPhDArtistsReportBack2014-10.pdf)

MATERIALS

- You can find the artists' bios [HERE](#) and the projects' descriptions [HERE](#)
- Access to google drive or any other collaborative software.