

Parallax, issue: What Moves Us?

Deadline: Sep 26, 2011

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CALL FOR PAPERS: Parallax

What moves us? Affective micro-politics in art and activism

Over the past decade, creative modes of dissent have been increasingly capturing the imagination of social movements, the academy and gallery curators. From the inclusion of protest footage in international art biennales, to a growing canon of cultural studies literature and an ever proliferating toolbox of performative practices in radical (and not so radical) left campaigns, the sexiness of creative politics seems undeniable. And why not? As many of these campaigns attest, pleasurable, fun, colourful and participatory politics can both spark public enthusiasm and articulate a strong message of hope and resistance. While much discussion has taken place around the general paradigm of creative modes of dissent, there has been less exploration of the affective and micropolitical aspects that underpin them and that are essential to their communicative and connective operations.

This special issue intends to address this gap by going beyond description to examine not just the forms and effects of such dissent, but also how they work and why. At the same time it seeks to take into account moments of conflict, tension and failure, moments when creative dissent prompts more disjunction than commonality, resentment or antagonism than interaction. Because practice is key to such forms of dissent, this special issue differentiates itself from more conventional analyses by focusing on the playing out of these moments and situations. We propose that such modes, when so heavily based in a politics of affect, can best be written about from perspectives informed primarily by various types of participatory action and militant research. Our contributors will explore the creative modes of dissent they themselves work with, drawing on primary texts, interviews, participatory action research and critical self-reflection to draw out the tensions and possibilities produced in these practices which traverse the institutional territories of art and politics. We will ask of all of them the crucial questions 'how does it feel?' and how the affects of these practices are tied to their effects.

We are seeking submissions of 5000 – 7000 words in length (including footnotes). These can consist of conventional academic analysis and enquiry, or may be more experimental in form.

Submissions can address issues such as:

- . The organisation of creative dissent
- . The tension between the momentary event and ongoing process
- . How and why creative dissent communicates with people, or doesn't
- . The role of affect, performance and materiality in understanding creative action
- . Community building and subject-formation
- . Overlaps and tensions between discourses of social movements, art and the media which surround these practices
- . The uses and tensions of institutionalisation
- . The role of 'creativity' in activism
- . Failure, success and the problem of measure
- . The sustainability of creative action
- . The politics and ethics of creative activism

Abstracts for papers are due by 26 Sept 2011.

Please email proposals to akanngieser@yahoo.com and gavingrindon@gmail.com

Reference:

CFP: Parallax, issue: What Moves Us?. In: ArtHist.net, Sep 3, 2011 (accessed Jun 15, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/1757>>.