

Department
of
Practice

Budapest, March 13th 2008

www.practice.department.cc

ASSIGNMENT

Contemplate or don't on the following statement by Mladen Stilinovic. Does it relate to the situation amongst Hungarian art-students, thus do you know how to perfectionate laziness or is honest desinterest motivated by economic factors?

My observation and knowledge of Western art has lately led me to a conclusion that art cannot exist... any more in the West. This is not to say that there isn't any. Why cannot art exist any more in the West? The answer is simple. Artists in the West are not lazy. Artists from the East are lazy; whether they will stay lazy now when they are no longer Eastern artists, remains to be seen. (Laziness is the absence of movement and thought, dumb time - total amnesia. It is also indifference, staring at nothing, non-activity, impotence. It is sheer stupidity, a time of pain, futile concentration. Those virtues of laziness are important factors in art. Knowing about laziness is not enough, it must be practised and perfected. Artists in the West are not lazy and therefore not artists but rather producers of something... Their involvement with matters of no importance, such as production, promotion, gallery system, museum system, competition system (who is first), their preoccupation with objects, all that drives them away from laziness, from art. Just as money is paper, so a gallery is a room.

<http://www.guelman.ru/xz/english/XX22/X2207.HTM>

Mladen Stilinovic

Born in 1947 in Belgrade (Yugoslavia). Member of an informal group "Six Authors", which had a significant impact on the development of radical Croatian art in the second half of the seventies. From 1982 heading the Galerija Prosirenih medija. Lives in Zagreb (Croatia).

Yours,
The Department of Practice

If you would like to graduate from the Department of Practice, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take an assignment, please pick one.

Department
of
Practice

Budapest, March 11th 2008

www.practice.department.cc

ASSIGNMENT

List everything you have ever done in your life.
Declare it loud and clear in front of the other people of
the group.

Yours,
The Department of Practice

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Department
of
Practice

Budapest, March 11th 2008

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ASSIGNMENT

In the Department of Practice you can graduate at any time. The certificate can be picked up here, stamped and signed by whomever you want it to sign.

But from what would you like to graduate?

What would you like to be once you are graduated?

Please elaborate a certificate either alone or collaboratively. Make your own certificate and bring it here.

Yours,
The Department of Practice

If you would like to graduate from the Department of Practice, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take an assignment, please pick one.

Department
of
Uncertainty

Stockholm, March 7th 2008

www.faculty.cc

Department of Uncertainty

ASSIGNMENT

(This assignment is related to the experience that I have to help write a letter of recommendation about myself for someone else.)

What are Letters of Recommendation and how can we reflect on it collaboratively? Are they any good or is it an useless exercise?

Who is the sender and who is the receiver? And who is the actual author of the letter?

Suggestion of exercise from DoU is

Write your own recommendation letter to yourself, for - or with others.

Having done this you are experienced when another institution asks you for a letter of recommendation. Or at least - you have done it before so you know how to relate. It could be fruitful if you turn it into a relational and collaborative practice:

Ask your close friend / fellow student, collaborator to help you bring forth some characterizing key words. It would give you a chance to consider and rephrase your artistic statement, if you have such.

Your own understanding of your practice might differ or be the same as the opinions of a colleague, public or a friend and vice versa.

Yours,

The Department of Uncertainty

If you would like to graduate from the Department, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take another assignment, please pick one.

Department
of
Doubt

Aberdeen, February 21st 2008

www.doubt.department.cc

I would like to do the assignments at the same time as the duration of the workshop, myself, and post them on the site. I will make 3 assignments, one for each day. The theme is 'What Do I/You/We Want?'

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

Find someone else who is at the University of Fine Arts or used to be there. Anyone. Maybe someone you see everyday, or someone you never speak to. Try to find out:
-What do they want most of all from this time, when they are at the University of Fine Arts?
-Are they getting it?
-What would they do to get it?
-Give the other person your own answers (note if you cannot because a) there is no time; b) the person and you have a relationship were you feel you cannot give the answer you really think because b) they will dislike you c) they will be offended d) they will not understand e) they will be offended and harm your career or f) _____)
-Try to document the conversation and your findings in your preferred manner. I like to draw diagrams. Try to document the conversation in your preferred manner. But try to do it quickly, just for now. A record. Ask the other person if they would document the conversation too.

Discuss with the other person whether you should make your findings public, if you feel you need to talk about this. Is there shared embarrassment?
Implied distrust? Indifference? Do you think you will speak again?

Yours,
The Department of Doubt

If you would like to graduate from the Department, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take another assignment, please pick one.

Department
of
Doubt

Aberdeen, February 21st 2008

www.doubt.department.cc

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2

Find someone else who did never go to an art school or work at an art gallery or write about art for a magazine (or worked about art for TV - you would have liked to cheat here, wouldn't you?). Anyone. Maybe someone you see everyday, or someone you never speak to. Try to find out:

-What do they do? What do they want most of all from what they do now?

-What do they think about your studying at the University of Fine Arts?

-What do they think about Fine Arts as an education?

-Are they getting what they want from what they do?

-What would they do to get it?

-Give the other person your own answers (note if you cannot because a) there is no time; b) the person and you have a relationship were you feel you cannot give the answer you really think because b) they will dislike you c) they will be offended d) they will not understand e) they will be offended and harm your career or
f) _____)

-Try to document the conversation and your findings in your preferred manner. I like to draw diagrams. Try to document the conversation in your preferred manner. But try to do it quickly, just for now. A record.

Discuss with the other person whether you should make your findings public, if you feel you need to talk about this. Is there shared embarrassment? Implied distrust? Indifference? Do you think you will speak again?

Yours,
The Department of Doubt

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Department
of
Doubt

Aberdeen, February 21st 2008

www.doubt.department.cc

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3

Find as many people as possible who have done the assignments 1 and 2.

-> 3 a) Maybe you are the only one who wanted to. If you are the only one, think about this. How does it make you feel? What does it mean?

Think of what you wanted and could not get for now while you are at the University for Fine Arts. Make a plan how you could get this in your preferred manner. This is not a test: ask anyone you want to for advice.

Look on XYZ. I will post some texts I like. Try to document your plan in your preferred manner. I might write a business-like plan. I like to have a serious structure for my phantasies of difference.

-> 3 b) Maybe there is one, two, three other people who wanted to. Gather together. Share your findings. Discuss your expectations from the assignment, the results. Note anything interesting or funny or surprising. Note of the results are indifferent.

Try to combine your findings in your preferred manner. Decide how you document your findings together. Note how you make the decision together? Was it agreement? A compromise? An argument won or lost? Did one of you care more to do it then the others?

Decide if you want to share your findings; how you want to share your findings and with whom. Do so.

Make your own assignment. Repeat.

Yours,
The Department of Doubt

If you would like to graduate from the Department, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take another assignment, please pick one.

Department
of
Practice

of Stockholm, February 19th 2008

www.practice.department.cc

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Practice will be practiced in this room from March 9th to 13th and online on www.practice.department.cc

The Department of Practice means to question the concept of university and therefore opens its own temporary institute here.

In the Department of Practice everybody can pose assignments and ask questions. It is at all points possible to graduate from the Department. The certificate of graduation can be downloaded on the website and can be stamped here.

It can be signed by everybody you want it to sign.

On the website you can find and post assignments and post to the non-moderated forum, announce meetings and events.

Yours,
The Department of Practice

If you would like to graduate from the Department of Practice, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take an assignment, please pick one.

Department
of
Practice

Stockholm, February 19th 2008

www.practice.department.cc

ASSIGNMENT

Do you generally know what you hope?

Once a private hope has finally fulfilled: how long do you consider it having been a true hope, meaning that its fulfillment has been as meaningful as you believed for ages?

Which hopes have you given up upon?

How many hours a day or how many days a year are those reduced hopes enough for you: that it will become spring, that the headaches will end, that something will never become apparent, that guests will leave, etc?

Could you love a person, who sooner or later because he/she thinks to know you, puts little hope on you?

Do private hopes suffice?

Does a hope in order for your acting and thinking to comply with it have to be realisable according to your human measures?

What directs you daily acts, decisions, plans, considerations if not a precise or vague hope?

Have you ever been effectively for a day or an hour bare of any hope, even the one that everything will have an end, at least for you?

(From Max Frisch: Tagebücher 1966–1971)

Yours,

The Department of Practice

If you would like to graduate from the Department of Practice, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take another assignment, please pick the next.

Department
of
Practice

Stockholm, February 19th 2008

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ASSIGNMENT

Which books, pieces of music, records, objects and writings have inspired you most throughout your life? Please list them here, on the website, or bring them here.

If you bring them here, you can either make sure they won't be stolen. Alternatively you don't take care and think of it as a library where items won't have to be brought back.

(This assignment is taken from the exhibition Beauty Unrealized, curated by Tamuna Chabshvili and Adi Hollander at Public Space With A Roof, Amsterdam.
www.pswar.org)

Yours,
The Department of Practice

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Department
of
Practice

Stockholm, February 19th 2008

www.practice.department.cc

ASSIGNMENT

Please post your own assignment at
www.practice.tinka.cc

Yours,
The Department of Practice

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Department
of
Practice

Stockholm, February 19th 2008

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ASSIGNMENT

If you would open an art-academy who could study in it?
What would be its entrance exam?
How, when and why would people graduate from it?
What should they expect from life after graduation?
What could they have possibly learned within your art-academy?
And how could it be taught?

Yours,
The Department of Practice

If you would like to graduate from the Department of Practice, please fill in your certificate. If you would like to take another assignment, please pick the next.



Budapest, March 2008

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CERTIFICATE

Herewith we gladly certify the graduation of

from the Department of Practice.

We wish you success for your work.

(Signature)

(Signature)

The Department of Practice