With

Helen Evans

Collectif HeHe

Artist and Professor
Co-ordinator of the Master's programme in Art, Environment and Public Spaces, Campus du Havre

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STEP
Strategies for Transformative Education for art in Public spaces

space&designstrategies

Hybridseminar

The Gift



Air de Paris Marcel Duchamp 1919

18.11

Introductory lecture by Helen Evans about a selection of works of HeHe that connect to the theme of water and ecology.
Introduction to the hybrid workshop session.
14:00-16:00 (CET) / 13:00-15:00 (PT)

19.11

Workshop, conception & fabrication, feedbacks
10:00-13:00 (CET) / 09:00-12:00 (PT)

20.11

Sharing gift - presentation
11:00-13:00 (CET) / 10:00-12:00 (PT)

meeting link

!!! The time indicated in the calendar is reserved for online sessions, presentations, discussions and feedback. Participants are expected to work on their projects independently, outside these scheduled hours, in order to develop their concepts and prepare for the next session !!!

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The Gift

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Helen Evans (HeHe)

HeHe is an artist duo formed by Helen Evans and Heiko Hansen, whose practice operates at the intersection of contemporary art, design and activism, with an emphasis around public space and local contexts. Trained in scenography, design and engineering, they met at the Royal College of Art in London within the MA Computer Related Design, graduating in 1999. Their research has contributed to open source digital tools, critical design, and engagement in public discourse.

Spanning ephemeral performative actions and permanent works, HeHe engages public space as a site of perception and debate.
The project Nuage Vert (2008), winner of the Golden Nica – Hybrid Art at Ars Electronica, exemplifies their approach, making collective energy impacts perceptible through a gesture that is poetic, critical and participatory. Recent projects, such as Gold Coast (2021), La Grotte de Cristal (2021) and Panorama (2023), extend this research through public commissions closely attuned to their specific contexts.

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The Gift

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Through the design, production and distribution of a multiple, this workshop invites you to explore the gift as an artistic strategy: its possibilities, its ambiguities and its limits.

Working collaboratively across four European locations, you will conceive, exchange and transform gift propositions, exploring how an idea can take different forms as it moves between people, places and contexts.

Who gives?
Who recives?
What is exchanged?

Working collaboratively across four campuses, you will conceive, design and distribute a series of gifts to strangers in public space.

The workshop will begin with the creation of small number of different gift propositions. Working in groups on your campus, you will develop an idea for a gift and communicate it to students at another campus through instructions, drawings, photographs or audio messages. The receiving group will interpret your instructions, produce the gift and distribute it in their own local context. They are free to adapt the original proposition to their available materials, surroundings and circumstances.

In this way, a gift conceived in one city will be made and given away in another. Each gift will have multiple authors and potentially different forms, depending on where it is produced and distributed. The aim is not to produce identical objects, but to create a shared artistic process across four different locations, bringing together different interpretations, materials and encounters.

What happens after the gift has been given?

Who is the author of the gift?

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DOCUMENT THE ACT OF GIVING

**The gifts must be given freely to people you do not know.
When giving a gift, one person should initiate the encounter while another documents it through short video, photographs or audio recordings. Document not only to the gift itself, but also to the encounter: the reactions, conversations, misunderstandings, refusals and unexpected situations that might arise. The documentation will be shared with all four campuses during the final session.**

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

Paper, cardboard and printing facilities are recommended starting points. However, there are no restrictions on materials or techniques. You might wish to work with plants, food, clay, found materials, sound, performance, gestures, or songs.

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CONSTRAINTS

**The gift must be free. Nothing should be expected in return.
Instructions must be clear enough for another group to interpret and realise. The gift must be reproducible, either as a multiple (an artwork or object made in several copies) or as a repeatable gesture or action.
The gift must be offered to someone you do not know.
Each group must document the act of giving and receiving.**

register here

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