

Clinic 2

Superhighways

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Interlocutors: **Nikos Papastergiadis and Raimond Chaves**

THE “SUPERCARRETERAS” (“Superhighways”) clinic was proposed to make a deep critical investigation of cultural practices that, in specific scenarios; to seek to create networks and spaces for resistance and revision as well as for practices that engage phenomena in a world where power grows ever more concentrated. During five days of talks as well as in between sessions, the clinic’s twenty-five participants, with backgrounds ranging from curation, architecture, anthropology, art and other disciplines, shared texts, information and experiences to discuss various aspects of this collective exercise.

Starting out with the idea of global flows, the workshop reflected on the various media available for the empowerment of different groups, always imagining an ever-changing sense of ownership as well as its relevance when these media serve a group that is constituted with the objective of differentiating itself from the “Other.”

Sessions featured interventions by Nikos Papastergiadis, Raimond Chaves, Emilio Tarazona and Roberto Jacoby and each focused on a particular issue or problem, that emerged both from personal experiences—good and bad—as well as from readings of theoretical texts yet to be published.

Workshop results are difficult to translate into

Duration
Oblivion
Archive

- Comparing examples
in space and time.
- Conversation with
Bruno Latour and
Michel Serres.

The Atlas Group
-Walid Raad

Defines

Time

Promotes

Context/ Circumstance

Defines

Space

Promotes

Limits/Borders

Art as *Dialogic* Concept.
-Nikos Papastergiadis

Representation

Diffusion

Networks
Relationships

Media

Chance for
rational thought

Development

Platform

Negotiating
Space
Institutions

Filters
Market

Resources

Sarai.net
-Raqs Media
Collective

Radio La Culpable
Juanacha
-Raimond Chaves

Fetishism
Exotics
Organization
Role
Integration/exclusion

Identity

Desire
Possibility

Art group action / Collaboration

Device
Phenomena
Appropriation
Appropriateness

Bulbo Collective,
Tijuana

Dependent on a
“Liquid” Quality
to Survive.
-Roberto Jacoby

Power / Empowerment

Claim
Resistance
Transformation
Autonomy

Differentiate
Compete
Legitimate

Antoni Muntadas

Rule
Homogenize
Rank

conclusive pronouncements. They were numerous and differed at times. Nevertheless, we present below a transcription of a text produced at the end of the workshop by a group of participants. A diagram is also presented, which, although it may seem somewhat cryptic for readers who were not present at the workshops, did indeed help guide the issues discussed throughout them.

Think about the South from within the South. Start out from a third South and maybe you'll arrive at another South. It's an Odyssey, and we'd do better to make it happen together. The Supercarreteras workshop was proposed with the goal of reflecting on models for shared endeavors and collective efforts, even if none of the four Souths could be clearly identified, even if participants are still not sure of sharing even one of those Souths.

We choose a path involving work and thought that can lead to a sort of (always inconclusive) map of what is implied and represented, as well as what threatens, abets or obstructs... [plus] the details of a relationship of identity, power, context, circumstance and other forces that are present when we work together and share a journey of exploration.

I'll say right away that these reflections and this map will not offer solutions or concrete instructions to anyone seeking to embark on a collective effort. We hope it works for workshop participants or for anyone in the audience, as some points of reference on an illustration that everyone can use, as he/she wishes, to reflect on old and new models.

Perhaps the most compelling conclusion is that the South is neither one nor four; that it's neither above or below; but rather, they are all imaginary systems where we momentarily come together. Let us take advantage of those coincidences, or spaces of encounter; and let us take advantage of the encounter to once again modify our horizons.¹

Notes

¹ Text by Rosario Mata, Mara Rahab and Axel Velázquez, used for the presentation of Workshops at the conclusion of the Symposium.