

REENA KATZ

<http://Radiodress.ca>

BLOGS

1. Nomadic Utopianism:

<http://nomadicutopianism.wordpress.com/>

- an interesting and considered site on utopia, art and their intersections
- produced by an (unnamed?) PhD student at University of Nottingham
- for example, there is a post on Klaus Weber's sound sculpture, (which is based on a tritone) musical dissonance and its application in democracy according to musicologist Dane Rudhyar
- ongoing, seems to post every few months or so
- some posts are not art related at all, but all seem consistently interested in building a 'better' world
- includes a link to their collective project: The Eastside Island Utopia Project <http://eastsideislandutopia.wordpress.com/> which "collectively imagines a utopian community emerging on an existing (and currently derelict) tract of land in Nottingham"

From the 'about' section:

My thesis is entitled *Towards a Nomadic Utopianism* and seeks to rethink utopia as an immanent, nonhierarchical space that remains orientated to an open future

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES (ON-LINE AND PRINT)

1. Tidal:

<http://occupytheory.org/>

- online journal, with 2 downloadable "communiqués" to date (Dec. 2011 & Feb. 2012)
- new articles by Butler, Spivak, Juan Carlos Ruiz
- lots of discussion on strikes (general, women's, students, etc.) and their history
- analysis on where the movement can go post-Zucotti
- media as 'direct action'
- begun by two Whitney ISP students (Natasha "Rosa Luxemburg" and Amin Husain) who have also been organizing with OWS as well as Babak Karimi and Laura Gottesdiener
- interesting promo video under 'watch' tab – sexy and brechtian at the same time: <http://occupytheory.org/watch/>
- under the 'speak' tab, there is an online forum for members (free to sign up) <http://occupytheory.org/Forum/>

from their homepage:

We believe we can't have radical action without radical thought.

Tidal offers theory and strategy as a means of empowering occupiers, whether actual or potential, to envision actions that ultimately transform existing power structures. We hope these writings positively impact the Occupy Movement, propel it forward, and clarify its goals.

2. The Real Utopias Project:

<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/RealUtopias.htm>

- series of publications based on annual? Conferences at University of Wisconsin
- continue to plan conferences and future publications
- as of 2010, there have been 6 publications all of which have main authors, and a series of contributors (Verso):
 - o *Associations and Democracy*, by Joshua Cohen and Joel Rogers (1995)
 - o *Equal Shares: making market socialism work*, by John Roemer (1996)
 - o *Recasting Egalitarianism: New Rules for Accountability and Equity in Markets, States and Communities*, by Sam Bowles and Herbert Gintis (1999)
 - o *Deepening Democracy: innovations in empowered participatory governance*, by Archon Fung and Erik Olin Wright (2003)
 - o *Redesigning Distribution: basic income and stakeholder grants as cornerstones of a more egalitarian capitalism*, by Bruce Ackerman, Ann Alstott and Philippe van Parijs (2006)
 - o *Gender Equality: Transforming Family Divisions of Labor*, By Janet Gornick and Marcia Meyers (2009)

from their homepage:

The [Real Utopias Project](#), begun in 1991, explores a wide range of proposals and models for radical social change. The basic idea is to combine serious normative discussions of the underlying principles and rationales for different emancipatory visions with the analysis of pragmatic problems of institutional design. The project itself consists of a series of conferences sponsored periodically by the A. E. Havens Center at the University of Wisconsin. Each conference is built around some provocative, innovative manuscript dealing with some salient issue in radical social change. A group of scholars from around the world is then invited to write essays engaging the ideas of this manuscript. These essays are circulated among participants and discussed at the conference. After the conference the papers are revised in light of these discussions and the author(s) of the original manuscript write a concluding essay. The collection of papers is then published in the *Real Utopias Project Series* by Verso publishers, London.

3. Utopian Studies Journal

http://www.psupress.org/journals/jnls_utopian_studies.html

- Nicole Pohl, editor – peer reviewed
- Published bi-annually by Penn State University Press
- Range of contributors, available on JSTOR and Project MUSE

4. Society for Utopian Studies - conference

<http://utopian-studies.org/conference/>

- Conference Chair: Peter Fitting; Program Chair: Lyman Tower Sargent
- Founded in 1975, The Society for Utopian Studies is an “international, interdisciplinary association devoted to the study of utopianism in all its forms, with a particular emphasis on literary and experimental utopias”
- Currently accepting submissions/abstracts

THE SOCIETY FOR UTOPIAN STUDIES

37th Annual Meeting

October 4-7, 2012

Delta Chelsea Hotel

33 Gerrard Street West

Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z4

ART AND ARTISTS' PROJECTS

1. NOWHEREISLAND

<http://nowhereisland.org/>

- Project by artist Alex Hartley
 - o Hartley and a team of environmentalists, legal consultants, historians and anthropologists remove a small piece of Northern Arctic land which originates in a Norwegian island affected by global warming
 - o This piece of land, marked by human intervention and climate change is brought into International Waters with Norway's permission.
 - o Once there, the land is named *Nowhereisland*, and is carried to England over the summer of 2012, landing in Bristol during the Olympic Games.
 - o Through the project website, participants (i.e. anybody) are invited to become citizens of Nowhereisland and contribute to its constitution.
- As part of the Cultural Olympiad, Nowhereisland will host a diverse team of 52 'Resident Thinkers' (<http://nowhereisland.org/about/#!/resident-thinkers/>)
 - o they will present their thoughts on how 'we might shape our society'.

- Geographers, journalists, designers, artists (Yoko Ono), hair stylists, farmers, comedians, executive directors are among the participants
- There is an open competition for becoming a Resident Thinker
- Co-produced with Claire Doherty's Situations project (<http://www.situations.org.uk/>)
- part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad (<http://www.london2012.com/cultural-olympiad>)
- their website is all about bold color and social media

From the website, in 'about' link (this link also has a great introductory video):

This is a real place on the move. But it belongs to nowhere. It is an island nation that has come from a place that is deeply implicated by global decisions. It offers us the chance to reflect on where we belong and what nationhood means, and, in a time of global crisis, it opens up an opportunity to debate and consider important global questions that affect us all. Above all, it allows us to reflect on Alex Hartley's original question - if we were to create a new nation, how might we begin?

2. Utopia Revisited Conference and Exhibition at the Arken Museum in Ishøj, Denmark

http://www.arken.dk/content/us/visit/calendar/conference_utopia_revisited

- conference speakers (April 2011): Richard Noble (head of the Art Department at Goldsmiths); Nils Norman (School of Walls and Space, Copenhagen); Jacob Wamberg (art history and philosophy at Aarhus University); Stephen Duncombe (history and politics of media at NYU); Ann Liselgaard (Department of New Media at Royal Danish Academy); Lars Bang Larsen (art historian at University of Copenhagen); Rachel Weiss (arts administration at SAIC); Malcolm Miles (cultural theory at University of Plymouth)
- Arken had 3 exhibitions under the name *Utopia*, with artists Qiu Anxiong (China, 1972 – animation/video); Katharina Grosse (1961, Germany – expanded painting); the third one doesn't seem to exist !?
- There are a number of pages devoted to utopia on the Arken site, including 'art and utopia' [http://www.arken.dk/content/us/art/exhibitions/utopia - olafur eliasson din blinde passager/past utopia exhibitions/utopia 2 - katharina grosse/read more about utopia/art and utopia in the 20th century](http://www.arken.dk/content/us/art/exhibitions/utopia_-_olafur_eliasson_din_blinde_passager/past_utopia_exhibitions/utopia_2_-_katharina_grosse/read_more_about_utopia/art_and_utopia_in_the_20th_century) and 'utopia for kids' [http://www.arken.dk/content/us/art/exhibitions/utopia - olafur eliasson din blinde passager/past utopia exhibitions/utopia 1 - qiu anxiong/listen to utopia walks/utopia - for kids](http://www.arken.dk/content/us/art/exhibitions/utopia_-_olafur_eliasson_din_blinde_passager/past_utopia_exhibitions/utopia_1_-_qiu_anxiong/listen_to_utopia_walks/utopia_-_for_kids)
- There is also a link to 4 soundwalks, produced for the exhibition by students at the University of Copenhagen

<http://www.arken.dk/content/us/art/exhibitions/utopia - olafur eliasson din blinde passager/past utopia exhibitions/utopia 1 - qiu anxiong/listen to utopia walks>

From the Exhibition website:

WHAT DO YOU DREAM OF?

UTOPIA at ARKEN is to debate the utopia, the grand shared notion of the perfect society. Whatever happened to it? Does it still exist today? And if not, what has taken its place? Individual dreams of the good life, conceptions of globalisation, tiny enclaves of communities?

UTOPIA is also social debate in the media and the world around us. It is education in the schools, and is research into art, society and museum. UTOPIA is a living process. Before, during and after each exhibition project, we wish to break through the walls of the museum and discuss with you welfare society, tolerance, community, and individual dreams and ideals.

From the conference website:

What is the status of the concept of utopia? What does utopia mean today? How is it explored, enacted and contested in contemporary art and theory?

Somewhere between Nolandia and Happiland you will find Utopia, if you can believe the explorer Raphael in Thomas More's novel Utopia from 1516. Since More, utopia has become a contested term of ambiguous meaning, spanning the field between the ideal society and the dystopian nightmare.

Within the last decade the contemporary art scene has witnessed a return of utopia and utopian thinking, manifested in various ways and in a range of practices. Whether detectable as an impulse, critically reassessed as a concept, cautiously or daringly articulated in a specific vision, utopia continues to matter.

With the two-day international conference Utopia Revisited, ARKEN wishes to investigate and discuss these different ways of thinking and performing utopia in contemporary art. By inviting a range of speakers - academics as well as artists - we want to explore in theory and practice the current relevance of utopia to how we live, think, act and imagine.

OF NOTE

There is an actual region named Utopia in central Australia. Its Indigenous art community is extremely strong, particularly women's batik and painting practices. There is currently a de-colonization project in the region called *Utopia Community*

Project, in which a number of Aboriginal ranchers are developing a cattle station. More information on the history of Aboriginal art and currently active artists in the Utopia region:

<http://www.aboriginalartonline.com/regions/utopia-2.php>

<http://www.utopianaboriginalart.com.au/>

A brief history:

Indigenous peoples presence in this country goes back long before recorded history. No one is certain how old Indigenous people's history is but a conservative educated guess would make it more than forty thousand years (or for at least an ice age or two)!

The name Utopia was attached to the region when European immigrants began settling the Northern Territory. The Indigenous groups in the region were utilised by the settlers as housemaids, farm hands and stock hands for little or no pay. The debate amongst scholars and politicians about native title rights for the traditional owners continues though it is more than probably accurate to refer to the Indigenous people of the Utopia region as the descendants of the first inhabitants of this continent.

Although to this day a definite divide exists between the descendants of the European immigrants and the Indigenous people, considerable efforts are being made towards reconciliation.

Indigenous groups from Utopia as well as many other regions in the country are able to keep their culture alive through their painting. Recognition for their unequivocally sophisticated culture has come from all corners of the world through contact with the artworks.