

## THE MARKET OF FORMS

The Market of Forms is part of the Creative Lenses Forum, organised by the University of the Arts London at Chelsea College of Arts on 13 October 2016. Creative Lenses is a four-year action research project funded by the Creative Europe programme, exploring business model innovation in the arts and cultural sector.

The stalls featured in this bustling pop-up market are run by London-based creative practitioners, civil-society groups, practice-based researchers and others. The event explores critical and creative forms of organisations to highlight their potential. It seeks to build solidarities among the stallholders and the milling crowd and cultivate a diverse and resilient ecology of practice.

The organisations showcased in the Market of Forms are some of London's most innovative and vital – innovative because they're striking a dynamic balance between sustainability and ambition in their hybrid operations. There is an urgent need for insurgent exemplars of not-for-profit enterprise at a time when the arts are under attack. The organisations in the Market are also vital in their use of art, design, organisation and architecture to grapple with some of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change, gentrification, yawning inequality, precarious working conditions, the mass migration and displacement of people, the corporatization of art and education, the shrinking public sphere—Brexit—and more.

Curated by Marsha Bradfield, the Market of Forms is inspired by the non-commercial markets convened by Critical Practice Research Cluster, most recently #TransActing: A Market of Values (London, 2015).

### Altgen

Altgen is a young people's co-operative agency based in London. We are passionate about supporting our peers to set up workers' co-operatives as a collaborative and empowering solution to fix our broken economy. Our aim is to re-imagine the future of work by creating a more equal, democratic, and sustainable economy today.

We are constantly experimenting with the co-operative model and principles, adapting this tried-and-tested form of collective organisation for the 21st century. We are always iterating and improving the way we collaborate, organise and communicate. In the co-operative model, we discovered a practical, tangible alternative that is helping people to sustain themselves in a fairer and more meaningful way all over the world. And it's been around for over 100 years. As the next generation, we want to use and adapt this model as a tool to take control over the things that matter in our lives: from housing to food, from work to community spaces. [www.altgen.org.uk](http://www.altgen.org.uk)

### Artists' Union England

Artists' Union England (AUE) represents visual, applied and socially engaged artists in order to gain fair pay and better working conditions. The Union formed in 2014 as a direct response to austerity and the punitive economic measures that artists increasingly are facing. AUE holds a Certificate of Independence,

awarded in 2016, which evidences that the Union is independent of employers' influence and that it operates democratically for and on behalf of its professional membership.

Artists play an important role in society and AUE supports them. As workers lose their jobs or continue roles in an increasingly unequal and precarious workplace, the focus on the role and values of Trade Unions has risen again. Artists' Union England formed because we are stronger together. Apply via the website to become a member – the members are the Union! [www.artistsunionengland.org.uk](http://www.artistsunionengland.org.uk)

### Assembly SE8

Assembly SE8 is a community driven project based at Old Tidemill School in Deptford. Its core aims are to develop and utilise the school's facilities, creating a community hub, which is a playground for informal education and enriching experiences, through regular activities and events. Secondly, to transform the mature but neglected wildlife garden into an accessible and unique wild space in the heart of Deptford. Assembly aims to use these spaces in interesting and alternative ways, and welcomes ideas, artists and outside collaborations to activate the space more. The space and the current residents are working on a number of projects engaging social space use, intergenerational play, forest schooling and fringe education. [www.assemblyse8.org](http://www.assemblyse8.org)

### Ceramics Studio Co-op

Ceramics Studio Co-op is an artist-run ceramics and sculpture workshop which operates as a workers' cooperative. The studio is owned and run by the people who work in it and have equal say in what the business does. We were set up in 2014 in response to the lack of ceramics workshops accessible to new makers, and with a goal to create a space of ethical employment for artists and designers. [www.ceramicsstudio.coop](http://www.ceramicsstudio.coop)

### Critical Practice Research Cluster

Critical Practice Research Cluster (CP) is a group of artists, designers, curators, researchers, academics and others who have a longstanding interest in public goods, spaces, services and knowledge, and a track record of producing participatory events. These include PARADE (2010), which explored publicness; and #TransActing: A Market of Values (2015), which engaged with values beyond the financial. Both took place at Chelsea College of Arts, which supports CP with funding, space and other resources.

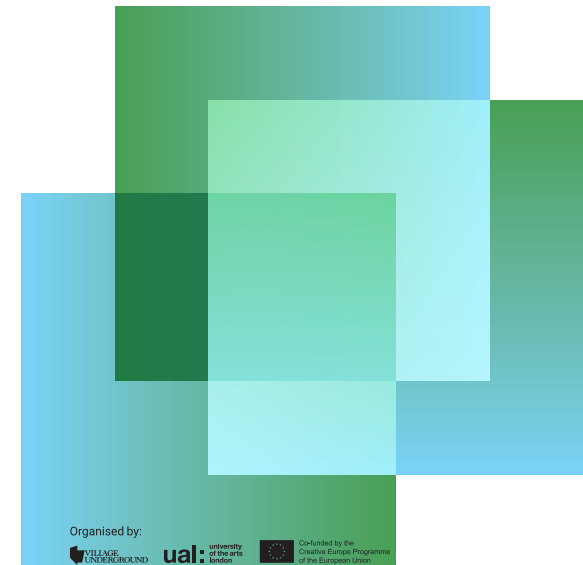
CP seeks to avoid the passive reproduction of art and uncritical cultural production. Our research, projects, exhibitions, publications and funding, our very constitution and administration are legitimate subjects of critical enquiry. All art is organised, so we are trying to be sensitive to issues of governance.

This emerges whenever there is a deliberate organisation of interactions between people. We are striving to be an 'open' organisation, and to make all decisions, processes and production accessible and transparent. We post all agendas, minutes, budget and decision-making processes online for public scrutiny. [www.criticalpracticechelsea.org](http://www.criticalpracticechelsea.org)

### Open School East

Open School East (OSE) is an independent, self-directed and outward-facing study programme. It was founded in response to spiralling tuition fees and student debt, and the decrease in both studio provision and civic spaces in the capital. It was instituted as an informal space for collaborative learning, with the view to support the artistic and professional development of emerging artists and to foster cultural, intellectual and social exchanges between artists and the broader public. Open School East is an innovative model of an artists' study programme that engages with its surroundings and with varied communities – artistic, local and otherwise. Free to attend and non-accredited, the study programme runs across eleven months and is principally self-directed, creating platforms for the 14 associate artists to develop their practice. [www.openschooleast.org](http://www.openschooleast.org)

WWW.CREATIVELENSSES.EU



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#### **Pangaea Sculptors' Centre**

Pangaea Sculptors' Centre (PSC) was founded in 2013 and is a Community Interest Company (CIC) dedicated to promoting critical engagement and innovation in the field of three-dimensional creative practice. Over the last three years we have piloted various aspects of this vision through short-term initiatives. This has earned PSC a reputation for being both rigorous and innovative, combining grassroots activism with commercial activity to support its not-for-profit ambitions.

Our multifarious activities web together a rich and diverse network of individuals and organisations that share our commitment to making cultural production in London more sustainable, accessible, diverse and engaged. PSC is committed to providing essential opportunities, practical support and facilities for practitioners to enable the development of sculpture in the UK and beyond. Central to our ethos is that artists should be able to further their practice without the constraint caused by a lack of access to equipment, facilities and expertise. [www.pangaeasculptorscentre.com](http://www.pangaeasculptorscentre.com)

#### **People's Bureau**

People's Bureau (PB) is an installation in the Elephant & Castle shopping centre. Through monthly workshops of skill exchanges between individuals from local communities, the project aims to make visible the diversity of cultures,

skills, networks and resourcefulness present in an area that is currently undergoing large-scale redevelopment. The project takes inspiration from the informal and fluid character of the shopping centre, a place of social as much as commercial exchange. It may be understood as a microcosm of the area itself. By focusing attention on this underlying spirit of the place, the project hopes to support its essential preservation into the future.

PB is devised by artists Rebecca Davies and Eva Sajovic. It has worked with LAWRS, The Rockingham women, ATD 4th World, Paxton Time Bank, Hourbank Peckham, PARC (Photography Archive Research Centre), Siobhan Davies Dance, Entelechy Arts, Peckham Print, Siriol Davies, Prof. Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos, artists Shane Waltener, Rosalie Schweiker, Tal Drori, Saskia Pomeroy, Melanie King, Clare Charles, Corinne Silva, Emma Lofstrom. PB has operated off site as part of #Transacting: A Market of Values and Tribe festival at Tate Britain and it will be based at Tate Modern January – April 2017 as Associate of Tate Exchange. [www.peoplesbureau.tumblr.com](http://www.peoplesbureau.tumblr.com)

#### **Precarious Workers Brigade**

Precarious Workers Brigade (PWB) is a UK-based group of precarious workers in culture and education. We call out in solidarity with all those struggling to make a living in this climate of instability and enforced austerity. PWB's praxis springs from a common commitment to developing research and actions that are practical, relevant and easily shared and applied. If putting an end to precarity is the social justice we seek, our political project involves developing tactics, strategies, formats, practices, dispositions, knowledge and tools for making this happen. Some resources that have come out of our working process can be found in the Tools section of this website. They are meant to be shared, used and developed. [www.precariouworkersbrigade.tumblr.com](http://www.precariouworkersbrigade.tumblr.com)

#### **public works**

public works is a not-for-profit critical design practice, set up in 2004, that works within the terrain of architecture, art and design activism to bring about positive social and environmental change and support urban democracy.

Together with our extended interdisciplinary network, we re-work spatial, social and economic opportunities towards citizen-driven development with the intention to improve civic life. We forge long-term relationships with our clients and collaborators to build trust and enable co-authorship in city making.

Our projects, research and teaching methods act as catalysts for this.

public works' outputs include discursive events, campaigns, urban strategies, participatory art and architecture across all scales. Our aesthetic and scale are determined by the external collaborators involved and project locality, which makes every public works project unique. [www.publicworksgroup.net](http://www.publicworksgroup.net)

#### **Visiting Arts**

Strengthening intercultural understanding through the arts, Visiting Arts provides opportunities for international exchange, and delivers tools and advice to the cultural sector to work more efficiently and intelligently worldwide. Since 1977 Visiting Arts has worked with some of the world's most innovative emerging contemporary artists in programmes that engage and inspire young people, communities and future professionals. Working with a range of partners including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, British Council, Gulbenkian Foundation and Ministries of Culture across the globe, Visiting Arts has conducted research around international cultural leadership including trends in and barriers to international working and needs analyses.

Visiting Arts' latest programme, Culture Works Connections funded through ACPcultures+, aims to build stronger, more sustainable creative businesses with access to world markets in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific over three years.

Visiting Arts' digital initiative World Cultures Connect ([worldculturesconnect.com](http://worldculturesconnect.com)) provides a free social networking and information site for arts and cultural professionals to support international working. Visiting Arts is also a partner in a new European pilot project Creative Tracks ([creativetracks.org](http://creativetracks.org)), connecting existing networks of young entrepreneurs active in the cultural and creative sectors worldwide to accelerate professional development and enhance international and cross sectoral exchanges. [www.visitingarts.org.uk](http://www.visitingarts.org.uk)

#### **The Market of Forms is curated**

##### **by Marsha Bradfield**

Marsha Bradfield is an artist, curator, writer, educator and researcher. She has worked almost exclusively in explicit forms of collaboration for more than a decade to explore co-authorship through wide-ranging projects: non-commercial markets, conferences, walking and cycle tours, workshops, screenings, curricula, publications and exhibitions. Marsha is currently consolidating the practice-based research comprising her postdoctoral fellowship (2013 – 2015). It considered economies and ecologies in collaborative cultural production and developed through practicing with Critical Practice Research Cluster, Precarious Workers Brigade and many other collectives, cooperatives and collaborations. Marsha is currently based at Chelsea College of Arts (University of the Arts London), where she works as a researcher and lecturer across levels. She also co-directs the London-based not-for-profit art organisation Pangaea Sculptors' Centre and will soon be launching Arfield Projects as an international platform for practice-based art research.

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