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DIY => DIT: New Social Practices and Digital Distribution

The punk ethic of Do It Yourself meets the relational aesthetics, attitude and strategies of Do It Together. Contemporary art production is experiencing an explosion of socially minded, independent, and collaborative practices united by their generous intention and departure from easily circumscribed models of making, exhibiting, and experiencing art. Building on previous distribution models, notably artists' publishing, these new DIT practices are enhanced, encouraged, and enabled through web exposure and participation. The seemingly incongruous partners of distance and social (inter)action, humility and effectiveness, are redefined through the affectionately asserted efforts of the DIT practitioners. Panel co-conceived by Laurel Beckman and Steve Lambert.

DIY = Entrepreneurial

enterprising, resourceful
usually involves function, craft, utility

self reflexive objects, with little meta-commentary

part of a continuum of innovation and production
consistent with the capital model, but typically not with
an imperative towards grandeur

artifacts/sensibility are emblems for their culture
p u n k
roots in artists' publishing, visual/music, print/electronic,
garage (lay) invention

traditionally, art practice is inherently DIY

contemporary iterations of DIY/art/craft:
•Poetics of the Handmade MOCA Los Angeles 4.22.07-8.17.07
•Craft magazine, www.craftzine.com, and
•Make magazine, www.makezine.com
•Handmade Nation, film, Fayeth Levine, handmadenationmovie.com,
trailer-http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evDFo6-RBVc
•Crochet Coral Reef, www.theiff.org/reef/index.html

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panelists:
Steve Lambert www.visitsteve.com
Sal Randolph salrandolph.com
James Powderly/Graffiti Research Lab graffitiresearchlab.com
Josh Greene www.josh-greene.com
Mike Godwin www.drawingsbymail.org/about.php
Larisa Mann riddimmethod.net
moderator: Laurel Beckman www.laurebeckman.com

a little more:
leewalton.com
www.glowlab.com
www.harrellfletcher.com
www.learningtoloveyoumore.com/
www.rtmark.com
trueloveproject.com/
www.1000journals.com
www.you-are-beautiful.com
www.rebargroup.org

open source, etc.:
www.fsf.org/
www.gnu.org, www.gimp.org
www.processing.org
creativecommons.org
www.mediawiki.org/wiki/MediaWiki

What DIY/DIT SHARE
opening up systems of production and access,
alt-culture, optimism

DIT = Collective Effort

process/means/activity oriented
typically involves collaboration,
social (digital and analog) networks, intervention

open access, generosity, gift economies
part of a continuum of innovation and production
consistent with early utopian socialism

the new culture built through DIT i s the artifact

roots in activism (ie, Gran Fury, Critical Mass, RTMARK), peer-to-peer networks,
and experiments in communal enterprise

artists' DIT practices situated largely outside of institutions

generous networking for information, collective interest and promotion
actively engages and enacts, from the intimate to the broad,
systems of address, power, authorship

emergent clusters of creative
practices that highlight togetherness, humility, empathy; their model,
acutely socially engaged, looks through relational aesthetics* to
the individual and the collective

* "a set of artistic practices which take as their theoretical and practical point of departure the whole of human relations and their social context, rather than an independent and private space" Nicolas Bourriaud