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WHAT IS A COLLECTIVE?

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- The collective, which is a community existing through the absence of something in common, rejects the validity of this idea of grouping together, because the collective is to all intents and purposes a group whose members are too different to be able to submit to any principle of unity or any common ideal. (Steinweg)

- Where a collective takes shape or is beginning to do so, there is already a minimum of shared order and a minimum of coherence about its shared hopes and projects; but there is also the common betrayal of this non-existence, which is what finally constitutes the collective. If there are no criteria for liaison which regulate the dynamic and the existence of the collective, then there is no collective, or rather there is only the non-existence or the pure possibility of a matrix latent within it. (Steinweg)

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Marcus Steinweg, “What is a Collective?” in *New Forms of Collective Housing in Europe*, (Basel: Birkhäuser, 2009).