THREE IDEAS FOR SOCIALLY ENGAGED ART

Alden Jones

1) Local Area Network to Cover Community Area

The internet has become increasingly financially driven by the extraction of wealth from categorization and commoditization of its users and the data they generate. The needs and wants of users are pushed aside in favor of platforms that engender addictions within them for their continued data generation. This project proposes the creation of alternative local nets complete with their own infrastructure that are only accessible within a particular locality for the purposes of serving only the community that lives there. There will be no connections to the internet at large and all the content will be created and managed by community members, freeing users from the exploitation of their data.

2) Lessons in Iconoclasm

Given authorities’ hesitancy to remove statues that celebrate individuals who championed the cause of slavery, alternative methods of removal may be necessary. This series of workshops will cover the history and importance of iconoclasm and will give attendees the tools and skills to practice iconoclasm themselves.

3) MOOCs for Digital Subversion

The use of network technologies is pervasive, but most users do not know the basics of the technologies they are using, and are in fact intentionally disenfranchised by UIs and cultural narratives that keep the power in the hands of the technology-maker. This project proposes a series of artist-lead online classes to teach users on the history, structures, and formulations of network technologies and strategies on their use for subversion of the maker-user power structure.