



# COMMUNAL LEISURE

A new free sheet for the expansion of collective aesthetic capacity,  
Please become involved.

## 1. ? > 'DIY'

'DIY' has too often become nostalgic, co-optable and about simply escaping the status quo, rather than changing it. For all the love we have for the term, it's due a reassessment, and possible replacement. We need to build critiques of the structures that deny people access to artistic production and enjoyment: work, sexism, racism and other form of oppression and exclusion based on gender, sexuality, 'ability', bodies and class, that 'DIY' has too often replicated itself.

## 2. PLAY > WORK

We need to build a vision of leisure-time that is not predicated on someone else having to work harder, but on a shared freedom from work and oppression. We take inspiration from the Paris Commune and the Artist Federation there who, in rallying round 'Communal Luxury' – everyone being able to practice and enjoy 'art' in its broadest sense, free from the production of value – made the expansion of an artistic domain key to their fight, and linked it to campaigns for shorter work hours and better pay. This means resisting and interrogating "the normalizing and moralizing ethic of work" (Kathi Weeks) and valuing art and artists that 'don't work'.

## 3. PROCESS > OUTCOME

"What matters more than any images conveyed, laws passed, or institutions founded are the capacities set in motion. You do not have to start at the beginning—you can start anywhere." (Kirstin Ross). While not rejecting ideas of strategy and more long-term forms of sedition, we'll aim to widen our ideas of a 'successful' political project to encompass the creation of ideas, working solidarity and group accountability, not just distant goals.

## 4. SHARED SKILLS > SPECIALIST LABOUR

Manual, intellectual, emotional, caring, artistic labour – most of us juggle a bunch, diffused along lines of gender, class and race. Instead of carving niches and erecting gated artistic communities, we'll try dissecting these lines of division, shaking off our attachment to positions of power by sharing the knowledge we've used to attain them. We'll aim to combat tendencies towards careerism, 'professionalism' and profit, and to understand how 'specialisation' in certain fields often masks underpaid and unpaid forms of labour in others.

## 5. LOLZ > DESPAIR

Anxiety, depression, anguish: all very real symptoms of a contemporary work/life characterised by precarious labour patterns, heavily attacked support services, and collective social surveillance. While being active in examining these horrors, and aware of the despair we all face, we will also try to find purchase through humour, ridicule and, you know... fun. We embrace the piss-take, the absurd, the experimental and the satirical where possible; refusing the bland decrees of 'happiness' imposed by employers, but enjoying the resistance, care and freedom that can come through shared humour.