

I am here to talk to you about structure, techniques, systems, repairs and projects. This lecture has three different sections:

- 1. Being Inbetween**
- 2. Exploring New Territories**
- 3. Generating Power**

### **1. Being Inbetween**

I am neither one thing nor the other. I am a cross-breed, occupying a space or territory that is somewhere inbetween. I am (and want to be) an outsider, creating my own structures.

When encountering organisations, this business of running inbetween becomes complicated. External walls change constantly, alternating between permeable and solid, outside and inside. On several occasions I have found myself caught at the point where this flip occurs. This dangerous game of cat and mouse can also be a position from which you can initiate change.

I know lots of artists who run inbetween. Their strategy is to create scaffolding and fancy New York style emergency exits that attach onto the outside of organisations like ivy. I've done it myself. More often than not the institution and not the artist devise these modifications. They perform essential building maintenance and enable escape. However these complicated schemes demand only very slight internal modification – if any. They look great but are ineffective. Their real job is to enable the existing structures to persist. The only point I can make in the defence of fire escapes and scaffolding is that they can be easily dismantled.

A friend of mine is working inbetween at Goldsmiths College of Arts. We were thinking about whether or not it is possible to create your own systems and structures for navigating your way around a space. My friend developed a test. She took a shopping trolley for a walk. Whenever she inevitably hit a kerb she looked around her for discarded materials to make ramps, in order to continue her journey. Rather than giving up or compromising her route she made a tool out of what she found lying around her and so created a series of structures that enabled her to move independently and freely within the built environment.

You could say that ramps are no different to scaffolding or fire exit. They allow the main structure to persist, right? However my friend's experiment affords her autonomy. These ramps are mini-structures within an existing structure. She is creating a new system of paths and in turn reinventing the way she encounters the world and how the world allows her to be. She is asserting her independence and freedom. The walls of the institution remain permeable and liable to change. However my friend is nimble and able to divert her course according to her needs. This weakens institution's dominance. I very much doubt she will get caught. Revolution could occur.

I will leave the story about the donkeys visiting Goldsmiths for another time.

### **2. Exploring**

It's very easy to get lost and for your bearings to become muddled. It's exciting but derailment can easily occur. Don't just head off into the world without a destination in mind. Yes the journey is the thing but in order for it to be just that - you need a place to go or somewhere to be heading.

This short text contains reflections on geography, exploring and tailoring. Somehow these ideas are related and connected to learning and belonging. I don't know how or where they overlap but this exploration started a long time ago.

Artists are explorers – they explore new territories. As I wrote to an explorer recently - exploring is an endurance sport and all too often explorers get frostbite. This is a side effect of going where nobody else does. Sometimes no one else knows those places exist and you don't have to travel far to find them. Other times the paths are well trodden but only when the weather is good.

I am not talking about an artist as conqueror or claimer of land. This implies a heroism that is associated with physical might and capturing land or competing to reach the highest, furthest, longest, coldest,

hottest climbs. It also suggests a pursuit of knowledge and understanding that is isolated or removed from the rest of the world or our daily experience of living.

More often than not I find myself sewing together lots of different overlapping territories. Think of tectonic plates that exist in the same landmass but very rarely connect. Imagine the power that could be generated or released when they collide, brush passed each other or overlap. It's finding these moments or creating them that is the key.

Territories tend to be in constant motion and it is very difficult to pin them down in order to sew them together. Sometimes it is only possible to bring them together for a short while before they move again and rucking occurs. Tailoring this petulant, disobedient, impossible garment is an endless task. It will never be finished; therefore a sense of humour is essential. The work exists in the making - at the points of collision and movement.

This is why *It's a Knockout* was such a popular TV programme. I can never remember who won.

### **3. Generating Power**

It is generally agreed that the earliest successful *Brainwaves* seem quite mysterious to the beginner but once the techniques and basic principles are familiar, existing users can interfere with the sources of power. The power of knowledge is immense. Lack of thinking was one of the problems of the scheme in its early days. Such power has to be used in the late evenings with a short 'boost' period around midday.

The hydrogen bomb works by forcing two atoms of hydrogen to join together. When this is done it results in more energy being produced than in any reaction known to man. You could experiment with community life by promoting greater contact between groups who often have differing interests.

We all yearn to shape our own lives. Change, plenty of encouragements and thoughts can start a long chain of events, which gives us ventilation. We have just discovered this is a power source in its own right. By persisting with this theory it is hoped to produce electricity by this means in the future. I am sure there are similar schemes all over the country.

Perhaps someday in the future the main structure of power stations is open plan. Under a transparent roof is a complex of activities and ventilators. Partitions exist but do not reach the ceiling and are porous and permanently flexible.