

10 points of wisdom on the making of public art work as an act of commoning

Based on 5 story-tellings by

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WITH FOR ABOUT 4: Art & Democracy

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Gathered by assigned 'wisdom catchers' in each group. Edited by Susanne Bosch, artist and facilitator of this storytelling session.

1. A reaching beyond 'rational choice' and a marshalling of emotions and passions. No enterprise, be it of the worst or the best kind, can succeed without these. Emotions and values are a huge driver of these works.
2. Values are: diversity, sharing, criticality, acting in the spirit of democratic citizenship, collaboration, hosting, high quality, acting meaningful, risk-taking and experimental.
3. An act of commoning is any action of social collaboration or cooperation. As partnerships and connection-making are powerful expressions of democracy.
4. Own your risk, challenge the existing with tactics and strategies. You do not need a commission or to be given a mandate for that. Practice risk tolerance, risk-taking and being experimental.
5. You can clean up the mess. We have to "mess it up" to learn from it. Lets replace the word failure with "mess". Things do not always work, are based on disagreement, are not always to be targeted in a straight line and people are all different. An art is to discover mistakes and mis-understandings and to know how to apologise.
6. Civil agency: resist forms of enclosure. Identify the conditions where the commons have been enclosed.
7. Myths and Reality: there is a necessity to make the case for Love labour and tell everyone the story to get people into this mind-set called future thinking.
8. Locations of commoning: Rezoning and Upzoning public space that is abandoned or cluttered with physical and metaphorical barriers. Why do places look like this?
9. Leading through making: Leadership does not have to be about speaking and/or managing large organisations. Lets interrogate the process and attitude of leadership. Often a movement starts as an invitation by an artist, curator or another individual to potential project members. Is it an "anti-commoning" fact that many actions are

based on an individual's idea that disrupts the system and creates a more collective environment of all sorts?

10. Some crafts are a form of commoning: from stitch hacking to mapping, programming, storytelling, or setting up online platforms for collective and transparent action.