



TWELVE THESES ON ATTENTION

Sanctuary and Resistance in the Attentional Economy

*A Workshop with Hermione Spriggs, Adam Jasper, and D. Graham Burnett
Arts Catalyst, London; 1 November 2019; 6:30 PM*

Inseparable from questions of agency, memory, and subjectivity, attention lies at the heart of contemporary economics and politics. The fracking of human attentional capacities within the intensifying dynamics of “surveillance capitalism” has profound implications for social solidarity and the experience of subjectivity. How can we conceive a program for meaningful resistance to the relentless financialization of the activity of our eyes and minds?

For the last four years, Spriggs, Burnett, and a loose collective of collaborators have been working on these problems in an interdisciplinary enterprise of artistic research. On the first of November Burnett and Spriggs will present work-in-progress — a multi-author declaration drafted this past summer by more than a dozen artists, writers, and activists, the “Twelve Theses on Attention.” Debate and discussion are the objective of the gathering.

D. Graham Burnett is based in New York, and works at the intersection of historical inquiry and archival performance. Recent projects include “Schema for a School” (with Asad Raza and Jeff Dolven) at *Prelude the Shed* in 2018, and “The Sprague Sheaf” (with ESTAR[SER]) at MASS MoCA in 2019. He is the author of several books, and edits *CONJECTURES* for the *Public Domain Review*; he teaches at Princeton University.

Adam Jasper is a researcher at the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture at the ETH Zurich. He is currently working on a major installation for the Sharjah Architecture Triennial. He is a regular contributor to *Artforum* and *Cabinet*.

Hermione Spriggs is an artist and researcher exploring practical methods for perspective exchange. Her collaborative project the Anthropology of Other Animals (“AoOA”) doggedly attempts to elicit extraordinary effects from unpromising materials and explores the hidden links between “craft” and “being crafty.” Spriggs is currently undertaking practice-based PhD research between the UCL Department of Anthropology and the Slade School of Fine Art. She is a member of the Social Morphologies Research Unit, and curator for the exhibition and publication project *Five Heads: Art, Anthropology and Mongol Futurism*.