

School for Designing a Society

Summer Session in West Virginia

May 28 - June 18, 2017

A course in desire and design for people with a passion to make the world a better place by means of the arts and performance.

The political climate has sharpened our need for strategic togetherness. Taking our activism more seriously means listening to each other and developing our individual and collective desires. Our response to the immediate crisis is to strategize for the long haul.

In this 3-week session, the School for Designing a Society invites you to design your resistance in the present, imagine your desired future, and plan the steps from the one to the other. We don't have all the answers, and instead offer an environment for generating your own. Here are the questions that currently inform our organizing:

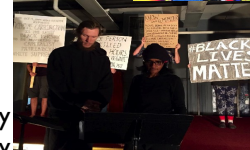
What do you desire?
What's a design that could



bring it about?
As care-actor, how do you walk towards suffering?
As clown-actor, how do you use play in this walk?
As activists, how can we integrate play as we build power to address injustice?
As performers, how can we best engage our audiences in the resistance?
As students of struggle, how can we perform lessons learned from the history of organizing on the stage of our current movements?
How can we seed solidarity everywhere in our everyday activities?

Drawing from the music studio, the physical theater, the systems theory book, the story circle, the art table, the critical theory seminar, the poetry workshop, and the permaculture site, we offer tools, time, company, and encouragement: for formulating your desires, and designing your participation in the movements required to realize them.

You might start or re-envision a project. You might design your support of existing movements. You might publically reframe your current activities as solidarity. You might find a long-term collaborator or support network



among our participants. We are curious and excited to discover what we will do!

Who Should Attend this Session?

This three week session is for people, like ourselves, who feel 'stuck' in uncaring systems, and who want time, tools and new ideas in order to figure out "what next?" It's for people who have dreams, and who would like to be in a climate of other dream-makers. It's for people who have no dreams (yet!), and who would like to be in a climate of dream-makers. It's for people who see systemic, seemingly intractable social problems, and who do have a notion, a seed, for how to solve these problems—but they feel themselves too small and the problems too big, to develop that notion/seed as a way to change something.

The session will take place on the land at the Gesundheit! Institute, a project to build a free model hospital based on fun and friendship in Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.designingasociety.org> or call 212-518-3018