

LET THERE BE NEON

Workshop by APFEL, dated Wednesday 1/12/10 to Friday 3/12/10

Background:

With the the merging of the Goteburg libraries, many of the publications will be rejected and removed from the collection. The title of our workshop is from a publication called 'Let there be Neon', which was the title of a book that was one of 1,000s rejected and left outside the 'London College of Communication' library that Emma picked up when she was a student.

We started thinking, "who makes those decisions on what books stay and what books go". We wanted to think of all the other things that get pushed aside when new things begin or through advances in technology happen, and about the fact that these 'leftovers' have many possibilities. So this has led us on to a broader idea for the workshop...

Introduction:

Redundant trades, processes and rituals are ones which have been left behind because they don't have mass market use or appeal – they are interesting because they tell stories about our culture and place – their redundancy didn't mean that they were not useful or good, but for various reasons they weren't appealing any more for a mass audience/user. These are valuable skills and knowledge which should be passed from person to person. Maybe a different generation has a new use for these. It counts on a very personal and localised knowledge. Like an open source library, but using the students like search engines of inspiration for one another. Find a way to use it and find a way for it to form part of the library.

Research before the workshop:

Find a trade, object, process, material, idea which is hardly used any more:

1. Neon
2. Dry Transfer (Letraset)
3. Letterpress
4. Fish smoking
5. Reisograph
6. Giant drawing pins
7. Sign writing
8. Calligraphy
9. CNC routing
10. Marquetry
11. Thatching
12. Conicalboats
13. Parquet flooring
14. Blackboards
15. Basketry
16. Tiled oven
17. Peat bricks & cutting equipment
18. Stained glass window-ing
19. Dry stone wall-ing
20. Vävstol (weaving chair)
21. Vrill (Burl)
22. Larsen Printing (Danish scientist Soren Larsen)
24. Embossing stamp
25. French fold binding
26. Frail (Light area caused by uneven ink surface, normally seen in Letterpress)

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

Before:

Research: Find a trade, object, process, material, idea which is redundant or highly specialised.

Poster: Design a poster advertising the workshop

First day, 1/12:

12.30: We give introduction to the workshop

13.00: Students leave the 'samples' either objects or print-outs however they see best to present on table/floor space permitting; they look and discuss informally

13.30 – onwards: The group do a little show and tell about the different redundant items for say 3 hours to get them excited, we pick out one then the student who brought it to the table presents it to the group

APFEL LECTURE IN THE EVENING!

Second day, 2/12:

9.00 (onwards): Lots of fun ideas and discussions and work

11.00: Team 1 (Architecture) discussion

12.00: Team 2 (Product designers) discussion

13.00: Team 3 (Graphic designers) discussion

14.00: Team 4 (Photographer) discussion

Onwards: APFEL in Atrium for discussion, students gathering materials, producing catalogue, making offsite

Third day, 3/12:

9.00: Begin construction of product library, in its various forms, the shelves, the files, the publication, the poster.

Work all day to gather this together.

15.00: APFEL go and get some drinks

18.00: Opening, the party starts!

Jobs:

Team 1 (Architecture): the shelves and structure

Team 2 (Product designers): making the containers of the samples/furniture

Team 3 (Graphic designers): making the index/catalogue listing what is in the library & poster advertising the opening

Team 4 (Photographer): to document the process, photographing different people working on the project, the structure itself, photographing anything too big to go in the library, plus the opening

Outcome:

A new product library, a proposal to be introduced to the HDK new library for yourself and future students to use as an interesting resource for inspirational processes for your future projects.