

IMAGINARY ARCHIVE

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Imaginary Archive

An art installation and research project proposal by
Gregory Sholette with invited participants
For PSC-CUNY

What exactly is Imaginary Archive (IA) you ask? It is a repository of fictionalized (and semi-fictional) printed materials, documents, small artworks that collectively record a past whose future never arrived. To put this a different way, it is a participatory art installation made up of under-represented, unknown, invisible, hoped-for or even dreaded “historical” possibilities that point to multiple ways of interpreting the past, present, and future.

At each new edition of IA the physical installation shifts its form to be site specific while local artists from the host country are invited to add their “documents” to the collection. * IA was initiated during a 2010 residency at Enjoy Public Art Gallery in Wellington, New Zealand and has since traveled to Galway, Ireland (2011), Graz, Austria (2013), Kyiv, Ukraine (Spring 2014), and Fallenbrunnen, Germany and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2015, all the while growing in size and depth along the way.

Attached are images showing some of the various manifestations of Imaginary Archive in which you can see booklets, small objects, and self-published narratives that imagine alternative histories that nevertheless shed a surprisingly strong light on concrete realities in the present day.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at <gsholetteSTUDIO@gmail.com>.

Gregory Sholette

IMAGINARY ARCHIVE INSTALLATION VARIATIONS: 2010-2014



Imaginary Archive at <rotor> Center for Contemporary Art, Graz, Austria, 2013

Mockup of Imaginary Archie Philly for Institute of Contemporary Art, February 2014







Imaginary Archive Kiev, Ukraine:2014



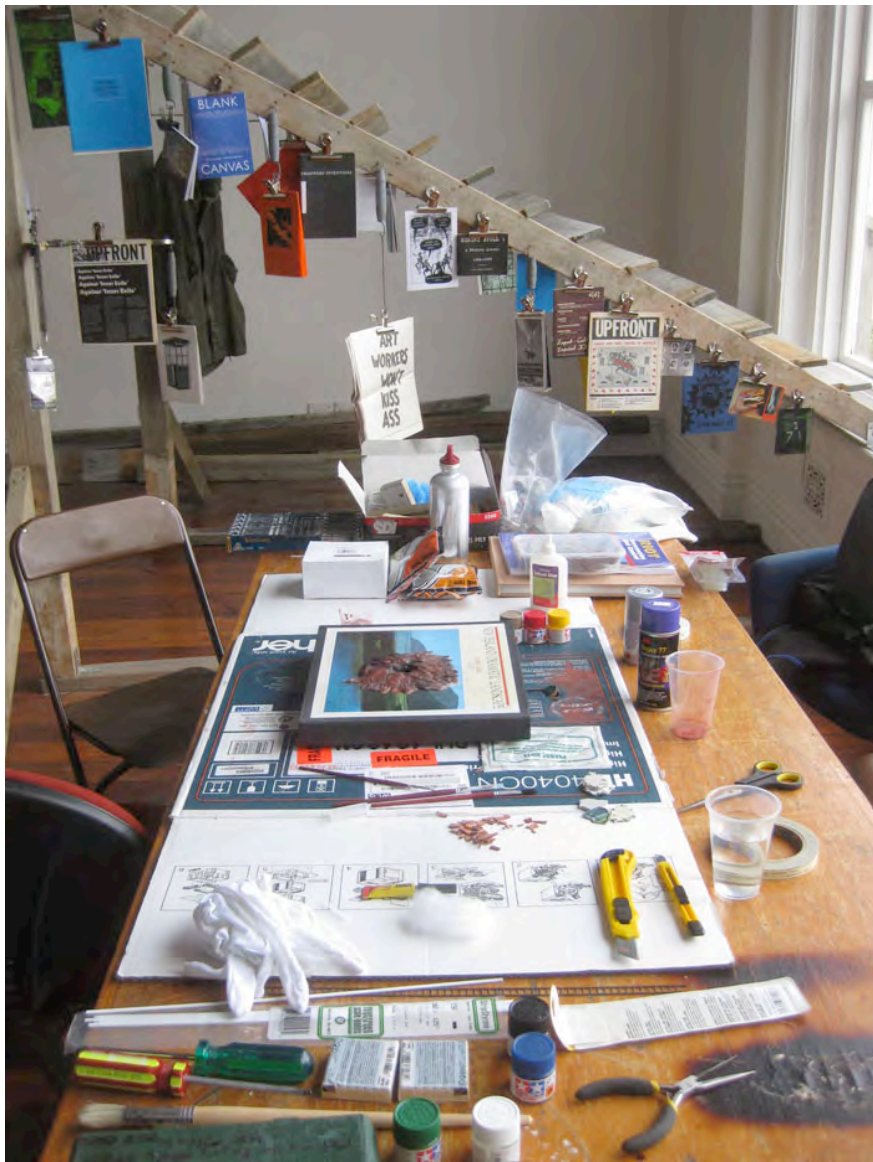




< rotor > Center for Contemporary Art, Graz, Austria, 2013



Gallery 126, Galway, Ireland, 2012



Enjoy Public Art Gallery - Wellington Collaboratorium: Imaginary Archive - Gregory Sholette



Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand, 2010

Gregory Sholette: mockup of proposal for Imaginary Archive at Socrates Park 2023



Stalactite structures holding curated content of Imaginary Archive @ Socrates Park



**The archive: if we want to know what this will have meant,
we will only know tomorrow. Perhaps.**

—Jacques Derrida

IMAGINARY ARCHIVE

Documents about a past whose future never arrived

Gregory Sholette, Olga Kopenkina

Imagine yourself uncovering a cache of materials and documents that record a past whose future never arrived? Imaginary Archive is just such a repository: pamphlets, books, photo-albums, records, blueprints, small objects, whose assorted narratives imagine alternative histories and speculative tomorrows that nevertheless shed a surprisingly precise light on concrete realities. New York based artist Gregory Sholette has invited participants from Germany, Philadelphia, Ukraine, Ireland, New Zealand, Austria as well as others from around the globe to produce this Imaginary Archive, which is a collection of unknown, under-represented, dreaded and/or hoped-for “historical” materials that point to multiple interpretations of the past, the present, and the future.

The participants in Imaginary Archive come from around the world. Each has been asked to generate the content of their own concept of a “what if” history. Meanwhile, this ersatz para-archive has been on display in Wellington, New Zealand (2010), Galway, Ireland (2011), Graz, Austria, (2013), Kiev, Ukraine (2014), The Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia (2015), and most recently at Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen, Germany (2015).

The ultimate goal is to imagine an alternative future or some parallel universe, in order to ask: What would the content of such an archive reveal about other ways the world might be constructed politically, socially, economically, culturally, and personally?

Participating *Imaginary Archivists* (as of September, 2015) include: Aaron Burr Society: (Jim Costanzo), Agata Craftlove, Alan Hughes, Alexander Wolodarskij, Alien Abduction Collective: (Todd Ayoung, Heather Davis, Kim Asbury, Ulla Hvejsel, and Phoebe Bachman), Andrea Aversa, Anna Zvyagintseva, Austin Ivers, Azra Aksamija, Babis Venetopoulos & John Voyatzopoulos, Basecamp and Friends (Philadelphia), Ben Geoghegan, Brian Hand, Bryce Galloway & Students, Charlotte Schatz, Chris Esposito, Christina Lederhaas, Closed Engagement, Daniel Tucker, Dave Callen, Denis Pankratov, Doris Jauk-Hinz, Edda Strobl, Ellen Rothenberg, Eva Taxacher & Karin Ondas, Eva Ursprung, fabian dankl/johannes schrettle/christina lederhaas, Glen Goldberg, Grant Corbishley, Gerald Raunig, Gregory Sholette, Hanns Hoffmann Lederer, Helmut Kaplan, Jeffrey Skoller, Jenny Polak, Jeremy Booth, Liga für Kunst und Kultur: (Johannes Schrettle), City Life/Vida Urbana: (John Hulsey), Josef Fürpaß, Karl Lorac, Leah Oats, Lee Harrop, Lada Nakonechna, Lesya Khomenko, Malcolm Doidge, Matthew Friday, Matthew F. Greco, Maureen Connor, Markus Wetzl, Maryam Mohammadi, Miroslav Kulchitsky, Murray Hewitt, Mykola Ridnyi, Naeem Mohaiemen, Nannette Yannuzzi, Nayari Castillo, Niall Moore, Nikita Kadan, Oleksandr Burlaka & Oleksiy Radynskyi, Oliver Ressler, Eidia House: (Paul Lamarre & Melisa Wolf), Paul Maye, Patrik Aarnivaara, Pedro Lasch, REPOhistory, R.E.P. group, Reinhard Knall, Roger O’Shea, Salem Collo-Julin, Sarah Farahat, Sasha Dedos, Simon Fleming, Suchness, Tender & Endangered Cow/Horse of Dimness, TanzLaboratorium, Tiarnán McDonough, “TJ”, Theresa Rose, Thom Donovan, Trust Art, White Fungus Zine, Volodymyr Kuznetsov, Yevgeniya Belorusets, Yevgeniy Fiks, Zoe Beloff, and The Think Tank That Has Yet To Be Named: (Jeremy Beaudry, Katie Hargrave & Meredith Warner). *With special thanks to Matt Greco for all around support and technology assistance.*

Previous IA host curators and institutions include:

- 2015 Ulrike Shepherd & Professor Dr. Karen van den Berg, Zeppelin University, Germany.
- 2015 Liz Park, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- 2014: Larissa Babij, Les Kurbas Center, Kyiv, Ukraine.*
- 2013: Margarethe Makovec & Anton Lederer <rotor> Center for Contemporary Art, Graz, Austria.
- 2012: Megs Morely, Tulca Art Festival/Gallery 123, Galway, Ireland.
- 2010: Siv B. Fjaerestad, Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand.

* IA Kyiv was made possible with assistance from CEC Artslink and individual supporters.

At a time when living impressions and personal memory are no longer a reliable instrument for “digesting” the endless stream of events, the need for an alternative approach to understanding the history, which is unfolding before our eyes, becomes more than relevant.
Ukrainian Pravda: 4/5/14.

Imaginary Archive project webpage: http://www.gregorysholette.com/?page_id=2503

IMAGINARY ARCHIVE INSTALLATIONS (2010-2015)



Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen, Germany, Sept – Nov. 2015

Imaginary Archive: Kyiv

Les Kurbas National Theatre Arts Center - Kyiv, Ukraine - April 23rd, 2014 – May 18th, 2014





Imaginary Archive Kyiv Ukraine 2014

