

im slowly recognizing the politics of a world
that fights for breadcrumbs
all the institutions brands and money invested are real and powerful
we just do the work to continue to live on the trickle down effect
like an animal suckling on the tit of a well nourished beast
fighting with other animals for the next meal
without realizing the politics of the places we support
may not support us

trying to find a way to align my politics
with my care my money my art
i often fail at understanding the relationships
what it can mean to exhibit at a place / institution
when the opportunity is more tempting

people are divided
and there is a necessity to connect
through the power of language
to facilitate translation deep into the american psyche
i want to live through this medium this language this ability
not to be trapped and forced into the confines
of what experiences people want
money time and energy
go to creating an experience for consumption

commerce is also an area that plays
into the consciousness of ability
im jacked on caffeine for the first time in a month
rationalizing the tastes in my mouth
the bitterness with the cream swirling around
till i can no longer separate one from the other

land is central to all of our struggles
use and exchange value - to make a living (capitalism)
exchange value governs everything
dominated by a price and marketplace
the american dream is a house
the house is a stairway to wealth / class / career / happiness
this exchange value is rooted in a long history
of establishing private property
against indigenous folk and origins of communal use
its that frontier ideal (colonialism)
embedded in this north american culture

buckminster fuller in his book operating manual for spaceship earth
opens up the world to what we now know as neoliberal politics
as an evolutionary ideal

shelter / housing distinction
shelter is a physical house
housing is a set of communities -> healthy living environment
governed by sets of rules and people
city plans bring shelters into a private exchange market
most people fight for housing not shelter -> against gentrification
for their community and humble conditions
not just saving 4 walls but a way of living

to solve a housing crisis is to build more buildings?

land market / housing market

real estate owns land so they buy and sell property

to make money

the land market, through speculation of land,

is displacing people

because you don't make money by building shelters

developers make money by increasing value of land

zoning separates rich and poor / commercial and residential

and controls how much spaces you can build for any given lot

the more you can build, the greater the value

affordable housing declines when an area is rezoned

how can you prevent this kind of zoning change?

bloomberg has rezoned 40%, and de Blasio is continuing this

mandatory inclusionary zoning is an attempt to recapture

these zoning games

to get affordable housing units built

and what NYC defines affordable housing

is an average income of \$70k

begs the question: "affordable to whom?"

it's a Trojan horse because

it's not low income shelters for the neighborhood it's invested in

williamsburg is a good example
10yrs after it has been rezoned
1/3 of the latino population gone

global surplus of capital that are not invested in production
or industry are parked in real estate
shelter (4 walls) is not a home
a home is community and everything in it
that contributes to making it worthwhile
so city housing development thinks
building more property decreases homelessness
but backfires creating a market bubble

community boards vote on land use
but only operate as an advisory
i.e. no real power / only city planning has power
in 1975, community boards developed
after black panthers and young lords rioted
as a way to quell growing dissent
to pretend to give agency to communities
but not undermine the structural financial power of landowners
the city felt if they provided a space
for communities to voice their opinions
the anger and problems would be lost in debate

it worked, the riots and protests ended
sometimes i feel that panel discussions on activism do the same
lost in debate and communication
diverting focus away from action for change
even if information has to come from somewhere
and dialog is critical

three different practices for finance and self and community
all have different levels of responsibilities
so they become separate

as a teacher or organizer
we cant tell you what you want
but we can inform and show what we know
and you can better understand your needs
and how to address them