

Rehearsal for a People's Microphone

The work is based on notions of civic culture and the emergent crowd, and it appropriates the device of a people's microphone to stage a form of public speech and public encounter.

Consisting of a pick up truck, a sound system, a set of fold-out tables & chairs, and this zine, the work circulates through the city of Sherbrooke for a two-week period, parking at specific locations to playback an audio work: a voice that speaks this text and a group that repeats, projecting their voices toward an imaginary crowd.

I miss the rhythm
To fill the void
To amplify the cut
Counter-point
Earth
Sky
The road
The mouth
Echo

Shall I tell you my name
Shall I speak about the city
Shall I sing a song

Check
1, 2, 3
Check

I'm tired of the proper and the powerful
Words
Of the empire
In this mouth
A to Z
All this language
Presses my lips
It blocks my throat
I can't breathe
I can't speak
The lines
To provide the argument
To quote the president
To agitate the masses
Henry
Angela
Jane
Me you
They them

1, 2, 3
Check

We say no to big banks
We say no to wall street
We say
No
No no
Nope
Nada Nicht
This is that
That is this
We say
A no language
Knowing no
Freeing the voice
This crowd
To throw the voice
Into the crowd
A future body
Shadows
Echoes
The horizon of a new urban condition
Ocean
Cloud
Misty mountain hop
Bop
I am no
Body
Somebody
Your shadow
Shadow voice
You me
Me you
She he
Them
You are a pirate
I am a ship
From the black atlantic to the northern ports
Ocean language
Form formless
To sound the words
They disappear
As soon as I speak
You have them
In your voice
The horizon
Of the new body
Me you
Double voice
Crowded speech
To make the imaginary republic
The open sea

Shadow square
Islands of resistance
We are not goods in the hands of politicians
We are not goods in the hands of bankers
We are birds
Above the empire
Bird brain
Winged tongue
Crowded mouth
Of no one
Everyone
Henry
Angela
Jane
Are you there
I'm searching your lines
It's more than just 20 cents
Where are you
Have you gone to the bank
To cash the check
It's more than just 20 cents

We don't have much time
They are coming
To take us away
To grab the tongue
To disrupt the crowd
To capture this flag
To break the wing
Of the flagrant
And the fragile
Invisible body
The possible city
The double voice
To echo the void
Between
To bounce and bop
Hip and hop
Flip dip trip
Shadow beat

Should we speak about politics
Should we declare
Or decree
Should we write a new constitution
It's not a crisis, it's the system

Let's steal the city
Drive across the river
To the other side

On the run
Easyrider
Over the border
The dogs
Earth
Sunray
Echo body
Social club
Settlement house
Without hope
Only a dream
To give it away
Make a new home
Like Robin Hood
In the forest
Or Walid
In the square
In the bars
With Hank
The classroom
Sharing the voice
Passing it around
Rhythm machine
Counter-point narrative
The imaginary republic
Sense
Of non-sense
Delirium
No
Yes
Stranger language
A dreaming nation
Shadow speech
For the coming crowd

This is what I heard
Back there
At Walden Pond
In Montgomery
On Boston Commons
In Sherwood Forest
We are an echo
The double
Doubling
A recital
Traveling through bodies
A free voice
Without private ownership
Common language
Like an arrow

Let go
Into the wind
For the new crowd
Wing machine
On the road
For connection
Outlaw culture
Multitude
The social body
Between
Me to you
You to them
Them to they
They to us
Us to this
This to that
Above below
We are the new city
Double city
Beirut Guadalajara
Berlin Montreal
Atlantis
Pirate nation
The global commune
Out of sight
Underwater
Overhead
City with wings
Rhythm machine
Occupying
The between
Drifting disappearing
On the move
Beyond the grasp
Of capital
And the arresting gaze
Becoming invisible
A breath
A sound
Ghost tongue
Fool language
To shadow the empire
Double its rhythm
The echo body

The sun pours from this machine
This double mouth
Minor tongue
Speaking
Of lost objects

That open space
That self-government
The barricades
The grass roots
The festival
Silver Machine
Shipwreck
Pirate island
To count
As the uncountable
To drop
In
Out
Between
To fill the void
The square
Get in
Let us travel
Across the country
In search of friends
Shadow bodies
Stranger nation
To cast the vote
For each other
1, 2, 3
For the unknown
The horizon
Of possibility
The soft night of the unknown
Darkness dark
Between thoughts thinking
More
Imaginary
To make a public life
Palm trees
Civic dreams
Of flights
And grass roots
Weeds
Tribe of the creole
The poetics of relation
Night birds
Shadow language
Cloud lips
Ocean tongue
Vvva
Kuhh
Zzzz
Migrating dreams
Crowding the mouth

Double the body
Throw the voice
Into the city
To slip through the order
Of the proper and the powerful
To begin
1, 2, 3

(whisper)
I am you
You are them
They are us
In the trees
Under the stars
To hide in the forest
To sneak under the tongue
A speech of difference
A
B
Or B to A
and back again
Forward
No
Pass it around
Schizo-democracy
Imaginary culture
On the road
Off the road
The disappearing appearing
The cosmos
In your eyes
Star burst
Red blue
Yellow green
Feathers
On the skin
Animal magic
Remember
To forget
Fly
Me you
Them them
Us they
Rhythm body
In the wind
To slip through the order
Of the proper and the powerful
To begin
1, 2, 3

