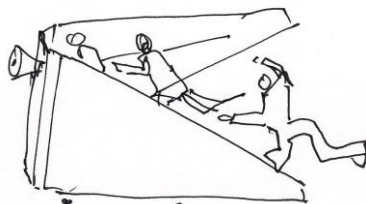


Athens Biennale "AGORA", 2013

A.D.A.P.T.: APPARATUS FOR DEFENSE AGAINST POLICE TERROR

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THE MULTITUDE IN ACTIVATION

During the last few years a massive expression of common will for democracy is taking place in metropolitan cities all over the world. Athens with its peculiarities, under a constant threat of bankruptcy, is among them. Despite the differences between cities in socio-economic context, the multitude emerges and performs in major public spaces following interrelated, common practices and attitudes. Protesting, demonstrating, occupying are all forms of a radical claim for democracy in its wider sense. This claim is simultaneously a continuous performative process against corruption, state authority and neoliberal social, economic and environmental policies. The recent emergence of multitude's activation though in differing contexts shares common characteristics. One of them is its autonomy from institutional social formations (political parties, labor unions, religious sects etc.). Others are: The integration of social media, the creation of communication platforms, the production of political discourse and practices that were excluded from formal political expressions, the inclusion of different discourses and ethics in an assemblage of theoretical and practical performative modes.

THE CORPOREALITY OF THE CONFLICT and the MEANS FOR DEFENSE

The massive protests, demonstrations and occupations of public urban spaces share common performative modes and rituals. The astonishing multitude activation in public space provokes severe reaction from the side of the state. The two sides of the conflict emerge in an asymmetric arrangement. Armed forces express gathered power and uniformity. They have no discourse and phonetic expression. The collective subjectivity, from the other side, claims the power of vocal expression yet being unaware of the combat techniques and being totally exposed and unprotected from technological, mechanical violence. This fundamental asymmetry leads to the questioning on the means and performative modes from the side of the multitude. The democratic demand excludes army equipment and performative means of army and war. Yet, there is an essential need for self-protection by the side of activated singularities. The biopolitical aspect of the "asymmetric war" - in reverse to the official use of the

term- brings out the human body and corporeality as the real protagonists in the play. The proposal for an *Apparatus for Defense Against Police Terror* for common use in terrifying public events, argues on the right of people to perform and defend themselves from state violence, physical, chemical, psychological mistreatment that threaten the unprotected human body to injury and death.

THE URBAN CONDITION

Urban equipment and public furniture are supposed to provide citizens, in the scale of the individual (subjectivity) or the small community, ways to familiarize within the urban condition. Demonstrators and protestors are the most politically sensitive part of urban population. This dynamic part of urban population suffers the authority's violence in terms of their physical and psychological health, in terms of their corporeal integrity. The body of the protestor nearly lacks any kind of legal protection. The protestor can be injured or killed by a nameless power that exceeds any kind of criticism and legal accuse. The proposal for the A.D.A.P.T. project is a reflection to the need of public body to be protected from the suppression forces arbitrariness. In this case, where the state is the enemy of people, there must emerge anticipation for organized defense against state power. A bottom up process may be invented, sufficient enough to produce urban artifacts for the defense of the public body, for the defense of democracy's corporeality. In the recent history of demonstrations placates, anti-suffocation masks, helmets and sticks are among the defensive instruments of demonstrators. These are all individual defense means. Yet recently, the Taxim Square demonstrators improvised handy constructions against high-pressure water.

A.D.A.P.T. CONSTRUCTION: THE MECHANICS OF THE SHELL

In regard to the defense needs of the demonstrators and to the needs of ephemeral dwelling in public spaces, an apparatus is introduced, that aims to protect demonstrators from directed water and chemical shootings and offer a temporal place to stay in the extreme condition of urban conflicts.

The A.D.A.P.T. construction is an assemblage of four wooden or metal triangular panels 2X3X3,6 m. each. The device can continuously be reshaped. It folds into an orthogonal shape of a single panel, easy to be carried in the streets, and it unfolds to forms that function either as a defense device or a dwelling space. The mechanics of its form have an organic aspect. They are analogous to the mechanics of the shell.

It opens gradually and starting from the version of the two-dimensional object, a thick panel 2X3X0.10m, it becomes a defense apparatus when it opens to a V-shape plan. When the V plan opens widely the roof closes like an oyster and the apparatus becomes a hard -cover-urban-tent. Thus, the A.D.A.P.T., due to its structural flexibility is appropriate both as the protestors' defense device against suppression forces and as an ephemeral dwelling module for public space occupants. Eating, resting, sleeping, coming together and communicating are functions that can be hosted in the A.D.A.P.T. when it comes to its tent form.

The A.D.A.P.T. can be carried by several people and protect or host them inside it.

On its front edge it holds a megaphone to carry the voice of people protected by the construction. The apparatus can be either carried on hands like a collective shield or haled on wheels. It also holds place for extra individual equipment like anti-suffocation masks or bottles of water. The A.D.A.P.T. front surface can be used for slogan writings and graffiti.

REXISTANCE

The understanding of the ontological aspect of the A.D.A.P.T. installation outcomes from a simple analogy: The Bunker, a heavily armed defense construction of World War II, hosting a group of bodies is solid, permanent, rooted to the ground that is supposed to be defending. The A.D.A.P.T. device is a defense construction for a group of bodies, solid yet temporal and vulnerable, with no roots to the ground. The realm to be defended is immaterial and unstable. Finally its description would deal with desire instead of possession. Compared with the bunker that bears a heavy cannon as a weapon, the A.D.A.P.T. is carrying a megaphone on its front. Speaking aloud and talking together are the elementary acts of the performing bodies in public space. This is an echo from long afar in time, and it derives from the ancient Greek Agora. To speak-in-public-aloud is the elementary condition of being -in -public (space). In this sense, a mutual transformation of the verb "to exist" to the verb "to resist" is appropriate. Thus, rexistance is being ministered through the A.D.A.P.T. device.

THE A.D.A.P.T. VIDEO AND ASSEMBLAGE

A research through the Internet has been carried out on performativity in recent public political events. The research has been analyzed on the documentation of certain public acts like speaking, moving, defending, eating, resting, which describe performativity in public events like protests, demonstrations, occupations etc. The assemblage of sceneries of recent demonstrations worldwide is followed by an analysis of the effect of the A.D.A.P.T. in different emergency circumstances and except statuses. The video also presents the technical data of the construction as well as the range of its application forms and performative properties.

THE A.D.A.P.T. IN EXHIBITION

The A.D.A.P.T. installation has spatial properties that can host performative or eventual scenarios. It can host the assemblage of groups of people and events of public speaking in the area around its installation. During the exhibition hours the A.D.A.P.T. will be periodically sending short sound messages from its megaphone. The messages will be fragments of slogans and live sounds from recent public events worldwide.