

The Monongahela Conference

On Post Industrial Community Development

Art, Ecology and Planning with people - influencing public places we care about.

October 23-25, 2003, at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

A three-day conference on art and change

Presented by: 3 Rivers 2nd Nature, in the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry

Center for Arts in Society, School of Art, Regina Gouger Miller Gallery, and the Vice Provost for Education

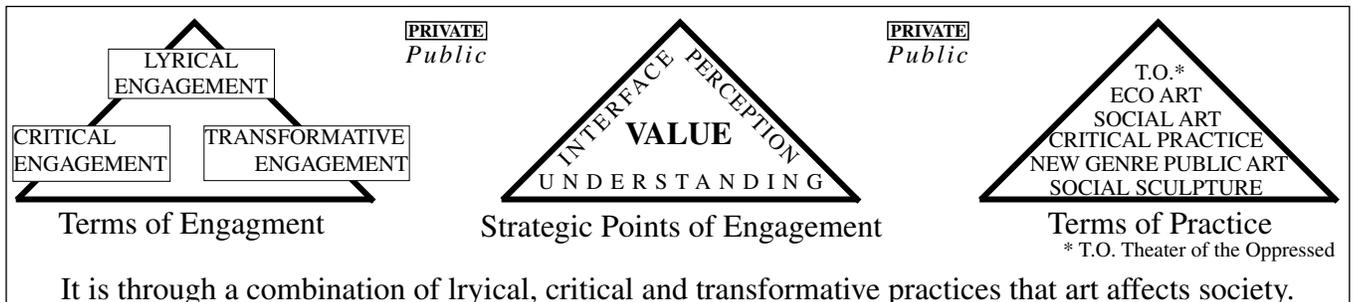
Our Goal: To share and develop ideas and methods about art and its effect on public space and ecology.

An Invitation to co-create a discursive work of art (a social sculpture) for a post-industrial setting. We will spend three days discussing the strategies that we all bring to expressive, critical and transformative engagement with the social, political and ecological systems of our time. The art of this discourse will take the form of documentation and illustration from three days of discussion. We have three assumptions going into this program. First, despite the fact that we are all in the arts and have unique and individualistic practices, there are a range of theories and methods that may provide common ground for all of us. Secondly, we are all interested in those social-ecological and political situations where an artist's unorthodox approach can open doors, minds and solutions that would not have been considered or achieved through conventional methods and institutions. Finally, our collective ideal is creative discourse with communities interested in social change. This is the first of a several 3R2N-SFCI art and design programs over the next 18 months.

To Participate: We request a brief (3-5 page) position paper by September 15, 2003 that will be shared with conference participants and guests. These position papers and your subsequent presentations/discussions will provide the materials for the discursive work of art and its final form as an internet publication.

Questions to consider in writing the position paper.

- *How do you do your work? Is it about change? Where do you engage? What are the terms of your practice?*
- *What is at the base of your inquiry - aesthetics, theory, philosophy, politics, morality, ethics, a genre?*
- *Is there a simple list of the methods and means that you use in your work? Can they be shared?*
- *What are the methods that you have considered, seen or thought about, but not yet acted upon?*



Thursday, Oct 23: We will begin the day over lunch, with an overview of Pittsburgh by the 3R2N team. We will then have 20 minute presentations by all participants. This will be followed by a panel discussion by our theorist/participants Suzi Gablik, Grant Kester and Malcolm Miles. We will end the day with a presentation by Platform. Dinner will follow.

Friday, Oct 24: We will tour the rivers and towns of the region, conducting a rolling discussion about the relationship between post-industrial problems and opportunities, and their relationship to art - and intentionally transformative practices. You are on your own for dinner.

Saturday, Oct 25: We will work together in the morning to prepare an afternoon town-meeting with citizens, decision makers and non-profit environmental activist groups, to discuss what artists and citizens bring to the idea of *influencing public places we care about*. This is the beginning of a longer conversation. Dinner will follow.

If you have questions contact, Tim Collins or Reiko Goto at 412-268-3673