





Contrat entre les hommes et l'ordinateur

Preamble

1

The urgent situation which has arisen through the evolution of my body and spirit in relation to the use of instruments, specifically the use of the electronic data processing machine, compels me, in the full tradition of previously executed and other revolutions, to socially revive the philosophy of emancipation.

2

It is certainly true that this, my position, is a question of political nature and already for this reason unable to be ceded to modern experts; neither to the professional scientists, the touch screen specialists, the web designers nor the professional politicians. No, the question manifesting itself in my body and spirit, the question thrusting me courageously forward and to take action, this is a question that fully and completely affects the freedom and the totality of our social future!

3

Now it has come that the human assets perception and production no longer have anything to do with one another.

4

Now it has come that as a result of this, we are capable of producing more than we perceive and are indeed capable of perceiving.

5

In this manner, we have become slaves. Not, as one generally makes believe, slaves of machines of one's own production—but rather slaves of our asset of perception—helpless at the mercy of each and every new instrument.

6

Helpless at the mercy of each and every new instrument we are capable of producing—no matter how mad it appears, no matter what murderous language it speaks, no matter in what mysterious ways we are held to additionally touch it.

7

As this is now the situation from which it is no longer possible to retreat, as this is now the situation that has repressively proliferated in our collective bodies, I now rise for the declaration of a vow:

According to Hopf's original introduction, her text "is an attempt to inform our understanding of 'declarations of independence,' necessary in light of the possible new relationships to be had with the intelligent apparatuses and image-making machines we are invited to use for 'free' to communicate. I refer to Hannah Arendt's *vita activa* and to Olympe de Gouges' concept of a 'Contrat social de l'Homme et de la Femme' from 1789." Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* (Chicago: University Press of Chicago, 1958), 7-17; Olympe de Gouges, *L'Esprit françois, ou Problème à résoudre sur le labyrinthe des divers complots* (Paris: Chez la veuve Duchesne, 1792), 12.

Contrat entre les hommes et l'ordinateur

Herewith, as of now and the present, shall be recorded that no instrument and also no electronic data processing machine shall in the future obstruct humanity from completing and being able to complete, in freedom, in thought and unassisted, the things it does and the relationships it creates. May the following apply:

WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT LOVE
BUT
WE ARE NOTHING
OHO
YOU ARE NOTHING
OHO
I AM NOTHING
OHO
WITHOUT LOVE

Judith Hopf, Berlin, February 2010

Lyrics are taken from "The Death of Ferdinand de Saussure" by The Magnetic Fields, released on their triple album *69 Love Songs Vol 3* (1999).

Judith Hopf's modern-day declaration of technological independence entitled "Contrat entre les homes et l'ordinateur" (2010)—first handed out as part of the artist's exhibition module *Untitled (3)* on site at PRAXES—is here disseminated in digital form. Referencing the writings of historical female political theorists such as Hannah Arendt and eighteenth-century human rights pioneer Olympe de Gouges, the manifesto aims to "socially revive the philosophy of emancipation," highlighting the dangers of falling slave to our everyday instruments and, in turn, calling for action.

"Contrat entre les homes et l'ordinateur"

© 2010 Judith Hopf

Originally presented as a performance for

"Kopie Theater" for the 60th annual

Berlin International Film festival;

an iteration was published in

e-flux journal 17 (June 2010).

Published by

PRAXES Center for Contemporary Art

www.praxes.de