

Methodology^{v1} of Constallations.*

«every method is a happy simplification»

Alfred North Whitehead dans *Adventures of Ideas*, Free Press 1967.

The Constallations Methodology is used to address constellations **, whatever their nature, by installing a collective procedure. It is a method of setting in motion that borrows from the stars its indeterminate paths.

* In Mai 2018 **3G(enerations)**; Alix Desaubliaux, Pascale Barret and Annie Abrahams, started a research project called **Constallations**. Using challenges and surprises, they defied each other in nine sessions of what Annie called *contemporary net art*, Pascale a *non-binary inclusive laboratory* and Alix *performative & collaborative explorations*.

<https://constallations.hotglue.me/?what>

Constallations: A conversation in the form of 3 x 3 sessions of brainwish/storm/wash.

** A constellation is a gathering of stars, forming an evocative image? Allegorical? Metaphorical? We can browse it in different directions. Each of its members is essential to it: the constellation is a projection made on entities by linking them, by transforming them into one form while its elements stay distinct.

What must be put into play to make Constallations appear?

Conditions

A minimum of three people who want to work with each other - which implies they have spent time online looking at who the others are and what they do.

In this group, each person knows at least one of the others personally.

Each participant wishes to bring into play a personal interest, not to produce a piece or to further their own project, but rather to question it, to make it move by the view of the others or simply to discover, to probe new approaches.

Necessary attitude

Loyal, attentive, caring, devoid of judgment, trusting.

Willingness to play "the game".

Tools

A challenge, a surprise.

Computers connected to the Internet.

Dedicated website to communicate the preparations and traces.

Time to organize, to prepare, to do and to archive.

Protocol

- Start with an online meeting: the participants together define a calendar and determine dates for at least one session per person. They create the dedicated website and share its access codes.

- Each participant has the responsibility for a session, which means they have to prepare it and take care of its traces. S.he must choose a theme that matters to h.er.im and determine a protocol for the session that is posted online the day before the meeting.

There is no prior concertation.

- On the day of the meeting - an appointment hour has been fixed before, the person in charge of the session explains the protocol put in place and experiments / works through it with the other participants.

- At the end of the day there is time for a debrief.

Why write a methodology, a «how to»?

Why try to extract the essence of an experiment? The answer is simple: so that its energy and potential does not freeze, does not dissipate, but can be reinvested. The methodology is also a decortication: writing it allows us to realize the various processes and mechanisms we used and experienced.

Why would it be important to describe the Constallations methodology?

Constallations is devoid of a goal and has no predetermined path.

Constallations is what we are when we give up our personal objectives and, when, based on our own history and skills, we tackle a challenge prepared by one of the group.

Constallations is made of travels through things one doesn't control, of jumps in the void.

Constallations is an exploration full of unexpected discoveries.

Constallations is a learning tool / a practice radically open to everything.

Constallations is a concrete utopia – on a small scale, and temporary, it must be said – but it is, and so carries a hope for a different society.

It's a perspective.

Constallations is a path, an adventure, a chemistry, a soup that upsets habits and creates links.

Each session is always also a gesture of love. Intuition, intellect and machines (the apparatus) blend together and create an affect. The path fantasized by the one who organizes, the one who desires, becomes a labyrinth of encounters, bifurcations, digressions, a pure sensory juice of entanglement. The research is done with a benevolence that is inseparable from it: without kindness nothing would emerge.

The Internet is the tool that allows the necessary neutrality to Constallations: it makes us meet and know each other by experience (by doing/making) and not only by the logic of words. It puts the participants on the same level, allows for equality by the sharing of machinic powers.

"Suely Rolnik talks about the need to decolonize our unconscious. I think that's a good place to start, especially if we understand the unconscious not in the Freudian sense but as the force of thinking-feeling that orients experience in the making. But we also need sites for practicing that decolonization, for registering the effects of it and engaging collectively with the consequences of the refusal that comes of letting ways of economizing life go. Because in the end it seems to me that if we don't rethink value, that decolonization will never occur. We will just be publishing more stories of surviving the very systems that need to be abolished at all costs."

Erin Manning on fb.

3G - Constallations

Annie Abrahams, Pascale Barret & Alix Desaubliaux