

Sustainability Sunday: Act.

In embracing the possibility to teach students I took for granted the need to be aware and versed in current events and to basically give myself a historical and cultural recap, thus over the last couple weeks pouring through information and news both familiar and new alike I have suddenly found myself plugged back in. My head swirling with the shock of so much going on and being done, I remember the pull towards resistance and revolution the assessment of everything around me. And I am pulled by memory back into reminding myself why I have come here to do this work. I remember leaving my last philosophy class as a sophomore at the art institute over ten years ago understanding full well that there was something inherently wrong with the way my peers were learning about the world and how it came to be this way. I had absorbed alternative radio, newspapers and web sites, books and documentaries by and on historians, philosophers, scientists and theologians both radical and otherwise and finally came to the realization that life and art as one had become utterly saturated by the constant input and influx of someone selling something to someone else without care or concern as to the value of the thing being sold in every minute of every day and it was getting steadily and exponentially worse.

This is the truth of the system in which we live, it is the truth of the situation in which you now find yourselves whether it be a new car, a proposition for increased or decreased taxes, or an ideological change in the way you approach your everyday life. Yet the choice in each situation is the ability to by free will and an able mind determine the value of each situation for yourself and make informed and healthy choices. Thus we must not look at this the way in which we have been trained to, just as we look at criminals and immediately can be sold on new sanctions, laws and policing technologies without truly opening ourselves in the reason that crime is being committed in the first place. I want you to think about what it means to sell, the hope is that if you are of sound mind and body and hopefully selling something either made by your own able mind and body or by the sanction that you take responsibility and act as a voucher for the sound mind and body of the person who has. You sell this for profit or capitol, this can be a capitol of many different kinds be it emotional fulfillment, monetary gain, ecological welfare etc the point is that when you commit to transaction a product or methodology of quality and ability you lead yourself and the other person who has come by free will for exchange towards the betterment of living a decent and honorable life instead of perpetuating a system of devaluing aware living itself. I have spent the better part of a decade fucking up and trying to learn from it, remember in listening to me you have also consented to transaction- you are subconsciously looking for payoff after all what is a problem without solution other than more rhetoric? I have learned how easy it is to demonize exchange and transaction by the ignorance of it's full capacity and function. See in sustainability when you get right down to the roots of it you are dealing with something relatively timeless, what is sustainability really other than a specific way of doing things that makes the most sense both ecologically and morally an amalgamation of science, art, philosophy, family and most importantly practice? I didn't need to know if Clinton or Bush or whomever was in office was nuts because learning to homestead land, learning to capture water, learning to value and respect the very simplest of things is almost wholly separate from the mainstream world. Yet the road has led me back to the understanding that to move forward, to change anything you must integrate these beliefs in the very core of this system in which we are bombarded often enough with useless fraud

that parades itself as worthy exchange. This lead me to understand the need for community, to forge and create a place in time and space for those who feel the need to do this very thing to meet each other and begin to work together. I often say and reiterate here that I have met the best people in my life doing this work, and they have reminded me that all those years ago when I left I left because I was alone. But here and now I stand united as one among a few more, as one that one day will be one among many that will stand as a unified voice regardless of idiom, race, sexual preference, religion or any other damn thing. We will stand together because we have a common belief in acknowledging that we are borrowing this living landscape from our children and it bears a responsibility not to just let it run amok but to steward it, to in fact better it.

So here and now at the end of one chapter and the beginning of a wholly new one I say thank you, from the bottom of my heart thank you for your words, your work, your sweat, your minds and your friendship. It is in these bonds that over this last week coming back to the bombardment of information and finding shelter from the unending auction of every demeaned value that I remember and learn anew what it means to fight with every inch of my life to take back the world from those that would see it perish by profit in the unending addiction to a system of credit that is both illusory and highly dysfunctional. To fight by committing not to whining about why certain political parties do certain things, why those that protest do it from certain groups or by proclaiming certain ideas, why this that or the other thing is wrong—but to fight by choosing to acknowledging that every time the air is filled not with silence but right action we are holding ourselves accountable and inspiring others to do the same. Life is short and precious I choose to live with honor, integrity, decency, compassion, generosity, work ethic and most importantly love. I choose to accept fallibility and take each mistake as an opportunity to learn and not repeat, to create a world with those that feel the same.

So I ask each of you to remember this week not to resist but instead to dream, to assess and then to act. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Dane.