

Interfaculty

Interfaculty is a concept that has been jointly developed by Jan Mast and Nico Dockx as an answer to the questions posed by Clémentine Deliss of Metronome Press about Future Academies.

In September 2006, Metronome held a Think Tank in Tokyo hosted by the Mori Art Museum. The two-day meeting behind closed doors brought together 65 leading artists, architects, designers, scientists and educators from major cities in Japan (Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi) and worldwide (Edinburgh, Paris, Antwerp, Berlin, Athens, Stockholm, Portland, Oregon, New York, Melbourne, Sydney, Beijing). It addressed the following questions :

Can knowledge be mobile? What forms of knowledge travel, who shifts them from one place to another, and how does their content alter? What forms of knowledge do not travel or translate and why? Why are artists coming back to the question of education? Under what conditions can art colleges and universities generate autonomous dynamics of research and production? How do we assess the artist's articulation of a combination of activities that include private gallery shows, large-scale global events and activist education? How do we articulate differences in concepts of research and in the methods of acquiring knowledge? Moving schools: is this classical romanticism (the peripatetic thinker and artist) and if not, what is required to make itinerant academies into a reality?

In addition, each participant chose four images that represent Future Faculties of Knowledge relevant to future art education in whatever form.

Metronome No.11, published in collaboration with documenta 12 magazines presents the results of the discussions, the original texts in response to the key questions of the Think Tank and the images selected for each of the faculties.

Interfaculty

Jan Mast

We know the perfect academy, the perfect state, the perfect country, the perfect me. You better start modifying yourself a little. A small upgrade here and there. A new nose, bigger breasts, three fingers, built-in iPod, a part of me. Be fast while it is still affordable. It's so cool to be perfect. It's also boring and unsatisfying. To strive for the perfect, you have to steer away from consolidation. You have to search. You have to be Nietzsche's child again. We all heard that before, but we never listened then. Even now. The perfect academy with the perfect faculties leaves out a place for imperfection, a point zero from which to time-shift from the current borders of a faculty, defined by name and function, to a non-space outside of it. A small room, a large hall, an auditorium, a lost place in a crowded street, a forgotten studio, a second of your thoughts. One moment it's there, the next it will have vanished or moved. This place will be, by nature, non-fixed in time and space, always changing, always non-faculty, a force of cohesion that glues all faculties together and therefore needs to speak and understand all languages. Because, by creating perfect faculties, by becoming more and more specialized, by leaving out a lot, forgetting too much, an enormous institution with grey walls and long corridors – dark doors either side – will arise from the ashes of the future. Rooms have no dimension and contain inconceivable depth – the agnosticism of the next room. Is this too dramatic for you? Come on, you don't even know how to fix your computer, your coffee-machine, your health? The guy next-door may have the answer, but you'll have to learn to speak his language first, that of computers.

Because of this, more than this and with even more real life confrontations on the subject, interfaculty was invented. Interfaculty cannot be defined by what it is, but by what it is not. It's the left-over of definitions, the undefined junction somewhere in the galaxy, any place anytime, no place now. Above all it resides inside the interrelational capacities of human kind. An attitude allowing for things to change and interact, interact and change. You get drunk drinking. The definition and field of action is not limited to one dogma, but to an inverse mapping of all other definitions, a natural reaction to complement and harmonize. A pattern of moments that can be public or private and that create an added value to an otherwise reduced process. The sun feels warm on my skin every time I pass by a window. Allowing for thoughts and ideas to become part of a generative environment that not only counters existing elements but creates a foundation for new ones.

Interfaculty
Nico Dockx

Interfaculty? It is a question! It is neither a static object, nor an infinite concept but a responsive architecture generating a program of first intentions, moving forward fluidly. It has the great capacity to *link* thereby creating a place of possibilities that is not a faculty itself but a temporal and experimental studio. Its input/output frequencies can be unpredictable taking you to a location not yet experienced. This notion of interfaculty performs something that moves something else and that needs time and even more time, an action that requires the power of compassionate economy and abstract moments that cannot be pinpointed, such as reciprocity and generosity. Interfaculty is a laboratory of tolerance, the persistent desire to build a shared space on friendship and cooperation enabling different interdisciplinary projects to take place. Perhaps it works with a poetics of the ordinary, with a method that is the foundation for all forms of free space that provide critical learning systems, unscripted creativity and lots of fun. Live events transform things.

Interfaculty will be represented in Kassel by Jan Mast.