

File Share

Proposal for the exhibition of the Library of the Utopian Megapraxis

Born of the question: What is the endgame of Civilization? The Utopian Megapraxis is a non-situated community of artists, curators, writers, educators and thinkers invested in the process of envisioning a global Utopia. A theoretical megaproject with architects spread across time zones and disciplines, this work is imaginative, speculative, and future-oriented, but with the goal of moving towards equitable reality in the present.

Whether they be scholarly, religious, mythical, fictional or poetic, we all have those deeply embedded immovable literary pillars upon which we have built the foundations of our research, practice and identity. As part of the Introduction to the Utopian Megapraxis collective, each member is asked to choose five seminal texts pertaining to their individual research. These texts are then sourced or (when unavailable) created as .pdfs and put into a cloud based file share drive for all members to access and familiarize themselves with, thus building together the basic vocabulary of the Collective's knowledge.

In exhibition form, *File Share* is a modern reinterpretation of the classical Greek Lyceum, in which aluminum or wooden bleachers will act as a contemporary stand in for the gathering space of the Athenian school steps. Within the larger institutional space of the University, *File Share* is meant to problematize the nature of exclusive higher education. It will attempt to disrupt the translational boundaries of modern dichotomies of

Mind	Body
Public	Private
Individual	Collective
Player	Spectator
Student	Teacher
Closed source	Open source
Digital	Physical

by inviting the gallery audience to engage with the installation and books, allowing them to sit on the bleachers to spend time reading and communing – becoming active participants in conversation with the Collective vocabulary.

Text will wrap the gallery, an annotated bibliography made spatial, containing both scholarly didactic publication information alongside each members' notes for each book in the exhibition, explaining the cultural and personal context which made the work important to inclusion in the Collective File Share.

In the interior of the space, a series of athletic bleachers will surround a free standing screen; an installation which resembles a crescent amphitheater and its field of spectacle. The physical form of the bleachers offer the visual representation of a stepped hierarchy, physical copies of the books will contradict this, being randomly placed without any consideration to member's personal importance, systemic organization (content, biographical or genre), or physical situation upon the tiers. The installation will be accompanied by a data visualization of a bipartite network created from the Bibliographical and Indexical information of the books included, offering a dense galaxy of connections between the works. Like an exploded card catalog, the visualization will be a map of cross-referenced influence, charting how ideas move freely and continually evolve between individuals and their work.

Additionally, throughout the duration of the exhibition, the members of Utopian Megapraxis will organize a series of workshops and reading groups from the Collective Library that will be free and open to the public, available to be attended locally in person or globally through zoom.