

Exhibition Proposal

(UU)ater :: Exhibition ***curated by members of the Utopian Megapraxis collective***

Water is an element, environment, divider, source, substance, and a universal requirement for life on Earth. We define water, like all elements, by our experiences with it. Water is even given metaphorical anthropocentric embodiment in our language: body of water, mouth of the river, arm of the sea, and river arteries. Just as we use bodies and ideologies to divide humanity, we also use rivers, seas, or oceans to define boundaries between states, nations, and peoples – even if the water contained within these bodies is utilized by all sides equally.

(UU)ater, conforms to its container.

In the summer of 2023, artwork and writings were sourced through a public Open Call to be included in an open-source digital publication. The *(UU)ater* zine was the first in a series of publications to be produced by the Utopian Megapraxis collective exploring the concept of Utopian Universals (UU), or those concepts and elements which any practicing Utopia would need to examine and make foundational to its functioning and development; water as a fundamental and basic building block for a better future. The Open Call received 51 submissions of poetry, essays, fictional writing, photography, paintings, and video stills. These were then curated and formatted into a downloadable .pdf to be printed at will and housed forever in an open access google drive.

(UU)ater :: Exhibition is a proposal for a new container, the Brenda Tuxford Gallery, in order to explore how these concepts, artworks and writings adapt under contextual change.

(UU)ater, in its publication form, asks us to consider how water experiences time and expresses history, how humanity identifies itself through water, the future of water, and how water can be found in possible utopias. It seeks a decentralized transhumanist/posthuman approach to the most basic building material on Earth. We are interested in exploring such questions as: Can we re-evaluate our relationship with water? Can it help us fix our relationship to the world we inhabit? Where can thinking like water take us? There will be water in the future, but will we be there to witness it?

(UU)ater :: Exhibition seeks to explore what happens when these questions are translated into physical reality and given spatial constraints? Will the space function as a wave pool, with ideas colliding back and forth in a sort of perpetual motion? Will the concepts extend our understanding, obscuring the horizon of possibility like an infinity pool? Will the ideas break the edge of the space and overflow into daily life?

Alongside a complete set of mounted page spreads, the exhibition will feature an exploded view of the publication: writings as vinyl text or stacks of printed matter, photographs printed both wall sized and as intimate handheld works, video works in both motion and stilled format; digital access to the .pdf and all bibliographical materials will be made available, as well as free takeaway copies of the publication.

The exhibition will function like a public well.
The audience will be able to leave with whatever they wish.