

TAKING THE PISS : POTLATCH (2008 - 09)

During the course of November 2008 a three-gallon demijohn vessel of urine, containing 28 single donated specimens, was transported and offered to the city of Newcastle (a distance of 284.42 miles). This project, emulating the now defunct urine trade of the late Eighteenth Century, exists as a form of reciprocal gift in which the recipients have the possibility to produce a gift of their choosing, utilising the urine, to present on their return to its origin.

Discussions to locate the ideal reciprocal gift were undertaken with the artist, a number of the urine donators and the recipients of the gift. These discussions surrounded the histories of the project, narratives built out of the project and the specific personal knowledge of participants to the discussions.

From these dialogues a number of possible produce gifts were formed, each resulting in the consumption of the urine. Two processes were focused upon; locally sourced treated wool yarn and phosphorous extracted from the gifted urine. These processes were to be fulfilled by the recipients with the produce donated back to the artist on their return to its origin.

On the gifts return the artist would use the produce to perform a further process, according to which reciprocal gift had been given, once again consuming the gift.

- If the artist were gifted treated wool yarn, a garment (dependant on the amount of wool gifted) would have been knitted, with the aid of a specialist within the field, for the use communally of all participants of the project.
- If the artist were gifted phosphorous, using the chemical element or compounds a firework would be produced, with the aid of a specialist within the field for the use at a gathering of all participants.

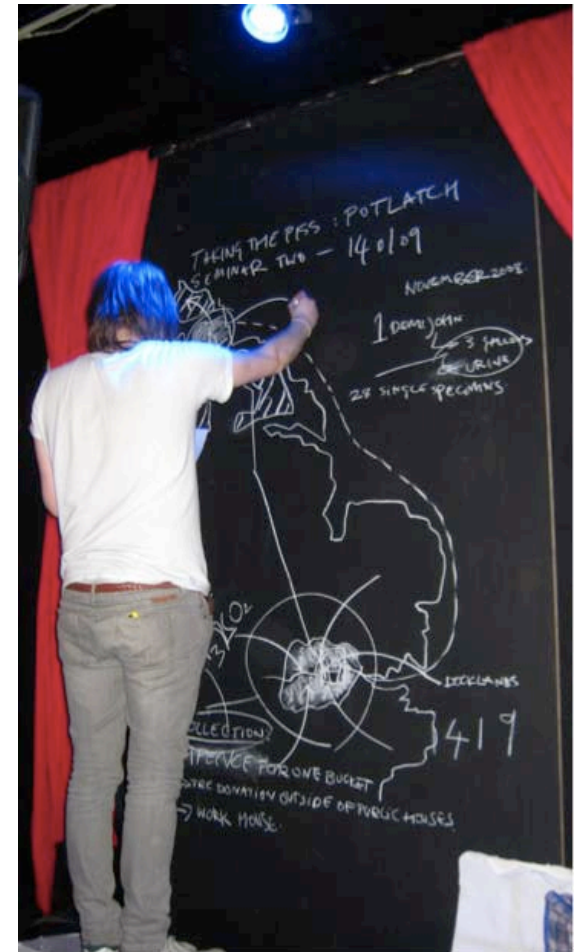
There was no requirement for the recipients to produce a reciprocating gift and continue the project.



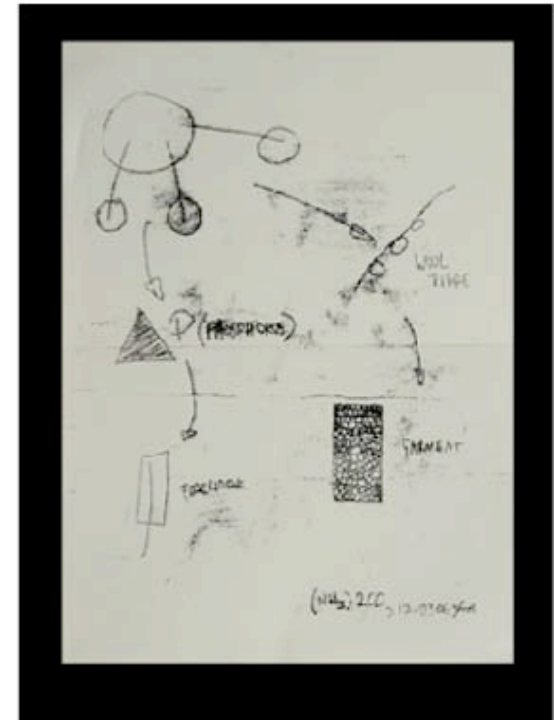
INSTALLATION 51a LIME STREET NEWCASTLE UK
TAKING THE PISS : POTLATCH
urine, glass 3 gallon demijohn, labeled sample pot
(November 2008)



SEMINAR ONE
TAKING THE PISS : POTLATCH
MDF blackboard, chalk
(November 2008)



SEMINAR TWO
TAKING THE PISS : POTLATCH
MDF blackboard, chalk
(January 2009)



MAPPED EQUATIONS : CONTRACTS FOR SEMINARS THREE AND FOUR

TAKING THE PISS : POTLATCH

Monoprints, Contract on reverse

(May 2009)
