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Take What You Can't Get

NEW YORK – ABC No Rio is proud to announce its next exhibition, *Take What You Can't Get*, a site specific and virtual exhibition beginning on November 18 and running through the end of the year.

Inspired by the role of artists as imaginers and agitators, from the 1930s to the present day, *Take What You Can't Get* embraces our current moment of multilayered crisis (economic, racial justice, leadership, health) as an opportunity for artists to actively imagine a more desirable future. The exhibition's title addresses pre-existing art world expectations of austerity and extreme inequality - that artists and art workers must *take what they can get*.

The four projects, by three collectives and one artist, respond to the following questions: What do artists and art workers need now? What does our NYC community need now (and how can artists help)? What should we demand of our institutions - art or government? What does a more beautiful future look like?

Projects take place both on-line and in New York City throughout the duration of the exhibition and include new works by Artcodex, The Illuminator, Strategic Transparency Collective, and Francheska Alcántara. *Take What You Can't Get* is curated by Christina Freeman.

Artcodex's poster "Bread Into Roses" imagines an alternate future where support for artists through the Works Progress Administration not only never ended, but expands to the planet Mars. Building on the labor movement's historic rallying cry for "bread *and* roses," the art collective imagines a "society that values joy, play and beauty over productivity and the work ethic."

Strategic Transparency Collective presents a selection of text from their Manifestos for Creative Resistance. This group of new media artists is reevaluating their "relationships with technology, surveillance capitalism, and corporate control." A series of provocative questions – relevant to both artists and the general public - will be wheat pasted throughout New York City. QR codes on the wheat pastes will direct viewers to the collective's own responses on their website: <https://strategictransparencycollective.net/manifestos/>

The art-activist collective The Illuminator will make a large-scale projection highlighting the urgency of the current housing crisis. In solidarity with widespread calls to end evictions, the collective states, "The pandemic and its economic fallout should not push New Yorkers out of their homes and neighborhoods. Housing is a human right: no rent, no evictions, and no debt!"

Francheska Alcántara will present a score built with a quasi-obsolete dream machine/alarm clock to create a sonic escape towards an idealized future informed by memory, instances, struggles, presence and poetry. The work will be made public in December.

On December 3, 2020 at 7:00pm EST Freeman will moderate a panel among Shawn Escarciga, Alicia Grullón, and Antonio Serna entitled “Fostering a Healthy Art World Ecosystem.” RSVP through Eventbrite for Zoom link. Details will be posted on <https://www.abcnorio.org/take>.

An exhibition publication by Magali Duzant will creatively document conversations from the panel discussion alongside works from the exhibition.

<https://www.abcnorio.org/take>

<https://www.instagram.com/abcnorio>

Take What You Can't Get is funded in part by the New York State Council on Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

ABC No Rio in Exile

During the construction of our new facility, ABC No Rio programs and operations are continuing “in exile” at other venues and in collaboration with other organizations. ABC No Rio in Exile provides a renewed and focused orientation towards collaborative work that brings us back to our roots — ABC No Rio was founded as a project of the 1970s artist group Collaborative Projects — and in “exile” ABC No Rio remains a “place” where people share resources and ideas in an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual support.



Graphic Design by Brian George

bread into roses



GALACTIC FEDERAL ART PROJECT
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MARS
WORK
UPR



In 1934, the Works Progress Administration freed artists from the constraints of earning a living. With their labor their own, they started working towards goals that would benefit all mankind. The Rose Producing Body, the latest of these inventions, was created under the Bread Into Roses division, a project for the advancement of beauty.