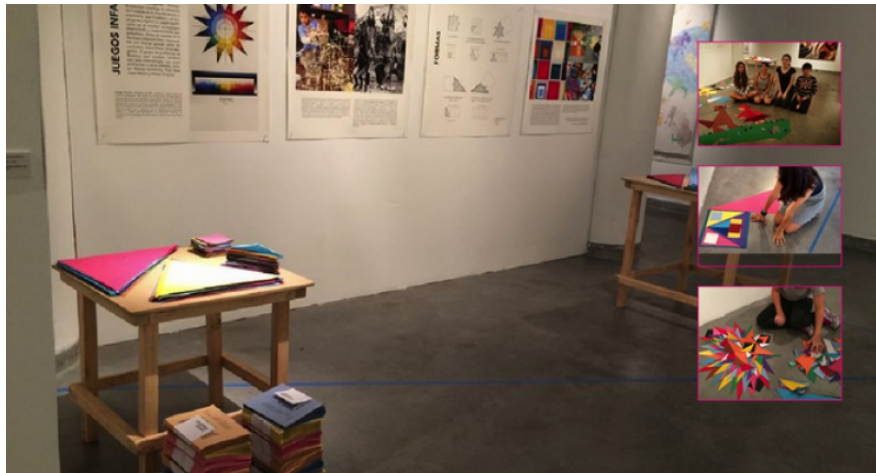


Invisible Spaces of Parenthood - Andrea Francke and Kim Dhillon



Project author or developer:
Sohrab Mohebbi

Where:
GB / Regno Unito / London Metropolitan Area

Website:
www.visibleproject.org/blog/project/invisible-spaces-of-parenthood-university-of-the-arts-london-uk-chelsea-college-of-arts-and-design-london-uk-casco-ultrrecht-nl-the-sho

Invisible Spaces of Parenthood explores non-representational politics of motherhood and the labour of caring for children.

Since 2009, Invisible Spaces of Parenthood (ISP) has developed as an on-going artistic research project and collaboration between Andrea Francke and Kim Dhillon, exploring non-representational politics of motherhood and the labour of caring for children. We look to the 1960s and 1970s when debates of maternal labour were re-examined amidst feminism while simultaneously referring to DIY and utopian movements that attempted to re-think society through the production of new models. We make objects, books, research, and events that make visible feminist and radical histories that have been forgotten, while producing new material and discourses that circulate outside of the gallery space, carrying this potential. Current projects include Child's Play, partly commissioned by The Serpentine Gallery. The project explores the forgotten connection between Froebel's pedagogy (Kindergarten, the first Early Years pedagogy) and the development of modern art, by producing toys that make visible how the Bauhaus syllabus was influenced by Froebels. The toys are developed in collaboration with an Early Years education centre and the first one will enter production in July to be circulated through a network of nurseries, while also made available as printed and PDF manuals in regular toy shops. The manual will raise issues on why these connections have been erased and the lack of value projected on early years education and care labour that is mostly done by women, in parallel with the very complicated history of the Bauhaus relation to its female students and staff. They are also being used as a political tool to fight the closure of nursery schools as an educational model by the current British government. We are currently looking for more institutions to host the development of the other toys.

