**THOMAS HIRSCHHORN** 

# GRAMSCI MONUMENT

AMARA-LOGO JUAN ACOSTA WALTER L. ADAMSON

JOHN AHEARN DESIREE ALBERGOTTI JUSTIN ALIAS (DJ GUCCI)

SHARA ALTER MYRNA ALVAREZ CHERINE ANDERSON

KEITH ANDERSON | ANABEL ANJEI | STANLEY ARONOWITZ

ELENA BAENNINGER FRANÇOIS BARRAS SIMONE BATTISTI

NICHOLAS BAUME JULIETTE BEDER PHIL BEDER GREG BELFIELD

CHRIS BENDER MOSES BERMUDEZ SERGIO BESSA

ERNESTINE BETHEA | JANET BETHEA | KAREEN BETHEA

KATHERINE BETHEA ZARIAH BETHEA HOLLY BLOCK GEORGE BLUME

REGINALD BOONE GIOVANNA BOSMAN ARIANNA BOVE

JAYDA BROADWAY TWANIA BROADWAY ISAIAH BROWN

KHOREY BROWN LEX BROWN MARCELLA BROWN SELA BROWN

SHARLENE BROWN TALIA BROWN TANIA BRUGUERA WALTER BRYAN

LAKESHA BRYANT BENJAMIN H. D. BUCHLOH

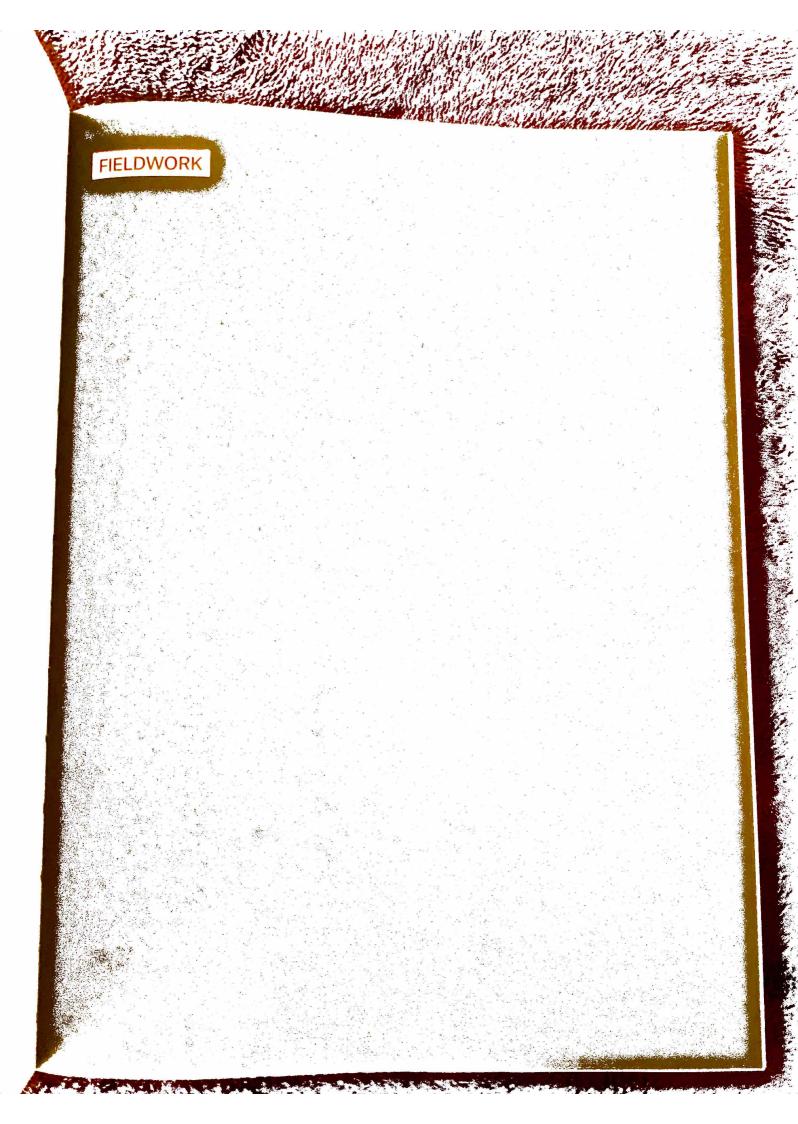
CHRISTINE BUCI-GLUCKSMANN JOE BUDDA KATHLEEN BUHLER

JENNIFER BURLENSKI TANYA BUTLER JOSEPH A. BUTTIGIEG

FERNANDES BURKE GREGORY BURKE GLEN CARWELL MARC CARY

CENTRAL PARK 5 JOHN E. CHIARADIA MAGGIE RUSSELL-CIARDI

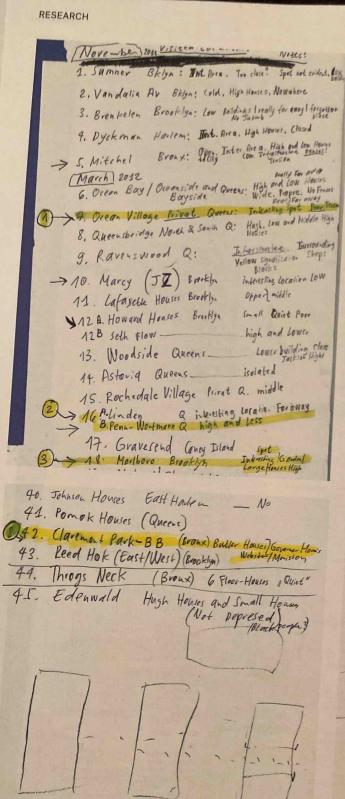
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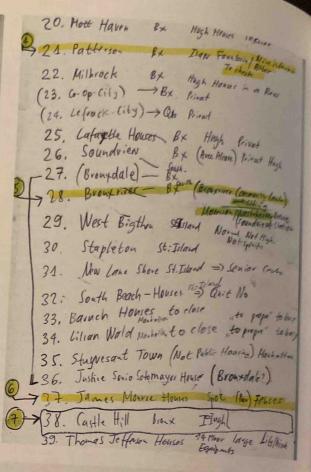


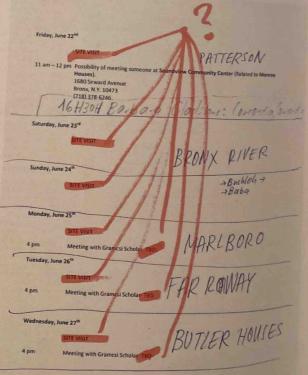
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Castle !!	20 Claremont Parkway-Franklin Av. 21 Claremont Rehab (Group 2-5) 22 Clason Point Gardens	187 489 400	119 Howard Av. 120 Howard Park 121 Hylan	155	218 Lincoln 219 Lower East Side (II, III & V)	1,283 296
POND S	23 College Av East 165th St. 24 Davidson	95 174	121 Hylan 122 Independence Towers 123 Ingersoll	743	220 Lower East Side   Infill 221 Manhattamville 222 Manhattamville Rehab (il & III)	189 1,272 97
May 1	25 East 152nd St Courtlandt Av. 26 East 165th St Bryant Av.	221 111	124 Kingsborough w/ Ext. 125 Lafayette Gardens		223 Meltzer Tower 224 Metro North Plaza; Rehab	229 267
(4) 0 CO	27 East 173rd St Vyse Av. 28 East 180th StMonterey Av.	168 239	126 Langston Hughes Apts. 127 Lenox Rd. Rehabs	509 74	225 Milbank - Frawley 226 Morris Park Senior Citizens Hon	80 ne 95
Troe 1	29 Eastchester Gardens 30 Edenwald	876 2,036	128 Linden 129 Long Island Baptist Houses	1,586	227 Park Av East 122nd, 123rd St.s 228 Polo Grounds Towers	1,612 125
16. 63	31 Forest 32 Fort Independence 33 Franklin Av.[I-III Conv.& MHOP]	1,349 342 159	130 Marcus Garvey 131 Marcy 132 Marcy-Greene Av. (Site A & B)	1,714 78	229 Public School 139 230 Randolph 231 Pannal	452 984
	34 Gun Hill 35 Harrison Av. Rehab (Group A & B)	732	133 Maribero	1,759	231 Rangel 232 Riis (I & II) 233 Robbins Plaza	1,191 150
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	38 Hoe Av East 173rd St. 39 Hunts Point Av. Rehab	65	137 Ocean Hill-Brownsville 138 Palmetto Gardens	125 114	236 Seward Park Ext. 237 Smith	360 1,933 87
(Sources)	40 Jackson 41 Jennings St.	868	139 Park Rock Rehab 140 Penn-Wortman	134 336	238 Sondra Thomas Apts. 239 Straus 240 Taft	267 1,464
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(Mix	44 Marble Hill 45 McKinley 46 Metrose	1,682 616 1,019	143 Ralph Av. Rehabs 144 Red Hook East 145 Red Hook West	1,408 1,470	243 Two Bridges URA (Site 7) 244 UPACA (Site 5)	250 180
	47 Middletown Plaza 48 Mill Brook w/ Ext.	177	146 Reid Apts. 147 Reverend Brown	227 200	245 UPACA (Site 6) 246 Vladeck (I & II)	150 1,510
270	19 Mitchel	1,728	148 Roosevelt (I & II) 149 Rutland Towers	1,103	247 Wagner 248 Wald	2.154 1.848 1,511
	51 Moore 52 Morris (I & II)	1,885	150 Saint Johns - Sterling Place Rehab 151 Saratoga Sq. (Site 60)	83 250 535	249 Washington 250 Washington Heights Rehab 251 White	130 246
er and the second second	53 Morris Heights Rehab 54 Morrisania	5 206	152 Seth Low Houses 153 Sheepshead Bay 154 Sterling Place - Buffalo Rehab	1,053 125	251 White 252 Wilson 253 Wise Rehab	398 398
Allin 265	55 Morrisania Air Rights 56 Mott Haven	992	155 Stuyvesant Gardens [I & II]	479 1,098	254 Wise Towers 255 WSUR	398 236
265	57 Murphy Consolidation 58 Parkside	879 1,790	157 Surfside Gardens 158 Sutter AvUnion St.	598 100	ID Queens	Units 1.103
275	59 Patterson 60 Pelham Parkway 61 Prospect Av.	1,263	159 Tapscott St. Rehab 160 Taylor St Wythe Av.	155 525	256 Astoria 257 Baisley Park	378 1,658
la V	62 Randall Av Balcom Av. 63 Sack Wern	251 410	161 Tilden 162 Tompkins	998 1,045	258 Beach 41st St. 259 Bland 260 Carleton Manor	399 168
257	64 Saint Mary's Park 65 Sedgwick	1,007 783	163 Unity Plaza 164 Unity Plaza - Turnkey	167 461 1,714	261 College Point Rehab Progra 262 Conlon LIHFE Towers	
(7) Penrillan	66 Soundview 67 South Bronx Area (Site 402)	1,259	165 Van Dyke I	287 256	263 Forest Hills Co-op 264 Hammel	430 708
9.	68 Southern Boulevard 69 Stebbins Av Hewitt Place	87 119	168 Whitman 169 Williams Plaza	1,652 577	265 International Tower 266 Latimer Gardens	145 423
13.	70 Teller Av East 166th St. 71 Throggs Neck w/ Addition	90 1,469 219	170 Williamsburg	1,628 405	267 Leavitt St 34th Av. 268 Ocean Bay/ Oceanside	83
	72 Twin Parks East 73 Twin Parks West Consolidated	311 317	172 Wyckoff Gardens	527	269 Ocean Bay/Bayside 270 Pomondk	1,378
	74 Union Av East 166th & 163rd St. 75 University Av. Rehab	230 605	ID Manhattan 173 131 Saint Nicholas Av.	Units 99	271 Queensbridge North & Son 272 Ravenswood	3.142
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AND THE PARTY OF T	82 104-14 Tapscott St. 83 303 Vernon Av.	234 125	182 Bethune Gardens 183 Bracetti Plaza	210 108	279 Mariner's Harbor 280 Markham Gardens	604
مرا وعربه	84 33-35 Saratoga Av. 85 572 Warren St. 86 Albany (I & II)	200 1,225	184 Campos Plaza (I & II) 185 Carver	493 1,246	281 New Lane Shores 282 Richmond Terrace	276
273	87 Armstrong (I & II)	617	186 Chelsea w/ Addition 187 Clinton	96 748 170	283 South Beach 284 Stapleton	421
111	89 Bayview	1,609	188 Corsi Houses 189 De Hostos Apts.	218	285 Todt Hill 286 West Brighton	502
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	97 Brownsville	1,337	196 East River 197 Elliott	607		
Source: NYCHA	99 Bushwick II (Groups A, B, C, D, E)	276	198 Fabria Rehab			

Ocean-Village

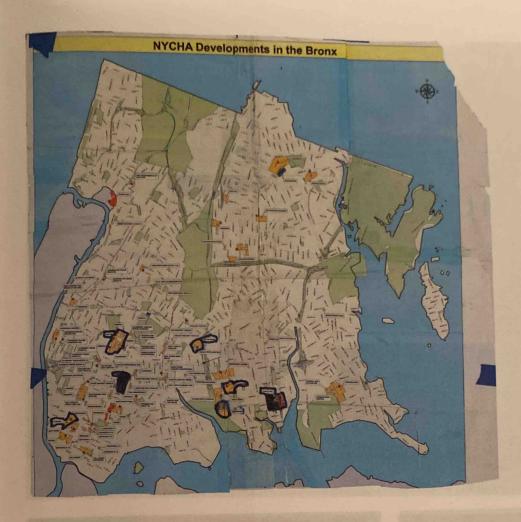
97 Brownsville
98 Bushwick II (Groups A, B, C, D, E)







Site Visit Locations



#### Site Visit Locations

BUTLER HOUSES (#18 on NYCHA Development Map) 1402 Webster Avenue Bronx, NY 11456 Subway Unes 5, 2 to 149th Street and 3rd Avenue – transfer to BX41 Bus BX41 local to 170th Street and Webster Avenue

BRONX RIVER HOUSES
(#13 on NYCHA Development Map)
1605 East 174th Street, Bronx, NY 10472
Subway: 6 to Morrison/Soundview Avenues – walk 2 blocks north to 174th Street

CASTLE HILL
(#19 on the NYCHA Development Map)
645 Castle Hill Avenue
Bronx, NY 10473
Subway Lines 6 to Costle Hill Avenue — transfer to BX22 bus
Bus Lines BX4 to Castle Hill Avenue
BX22 to Seward Avenue

MONROE HOUSES
(#50 on the NYCHA Development Map)
1779 Story Avenue
Bronx, NY 10472
Subway: 6 to Lawrence Avenue – walk south on Westchester Avenue – walk 2 blocks to
Rosedale Avenue – walk east 4 blocks to Story Avenue
Rosedale Avenue – transfer to the
BXS Bus to Rosedale Avenue

PATTERSON HOUSES (#59 on NYCHA Development Map) 301 East 143rd Street

Bronx, NY 10451 Subway: 6 to 138th and Alexander Avenue – walk east to 143rd Street and 3rd Avenue

FOREST HOUSES 1010 Trinity Avenue Bronx, NY 10456 (718) 991-0300 Fax (718) 861-4393

Street Boundaries 163rd Street/166th Street Tinton Avenue/Trinity Avenu

Subway Lines
2, 5 to Prospect Avenue – walk north 4 blocks to 165th Street

Bus Lines BX21 to 166th and Boston Road

SOUNDVIEW HOUSES 1720 Seward Avenue Bronx, NY 10473 (718) 842-2770 Fax (718) 861-4293

Subway Lines 6 to Morrison Avenue - transfer to BX27

Bus Lines BX5 to BX39 - BX39 to White Plains Road BX27 to Seward and Rosedale Avenues



















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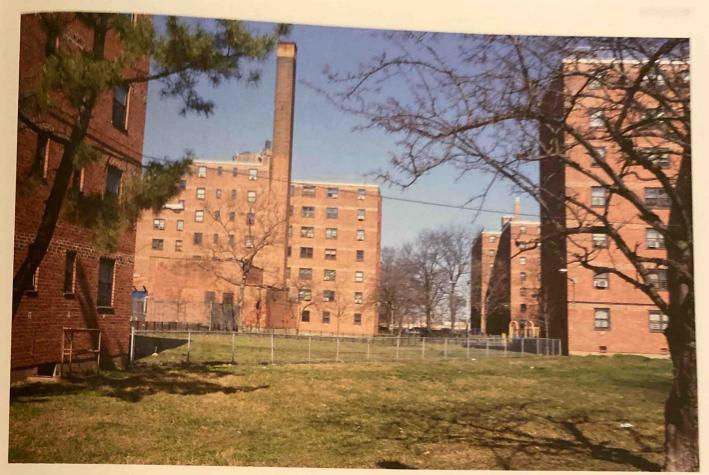
















1) Ocean-Village 1/2





Ocean-Village 2/2



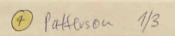


















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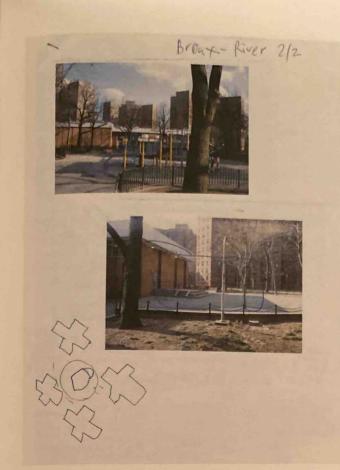




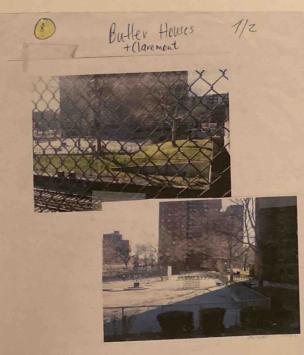
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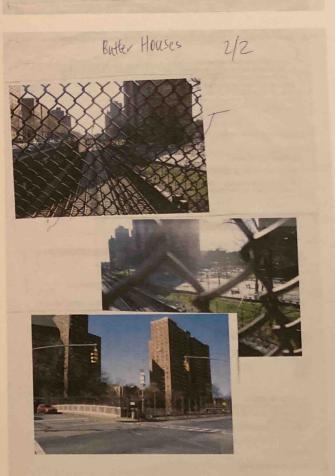




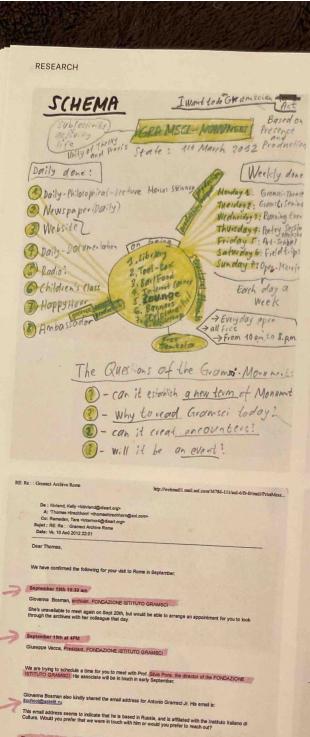






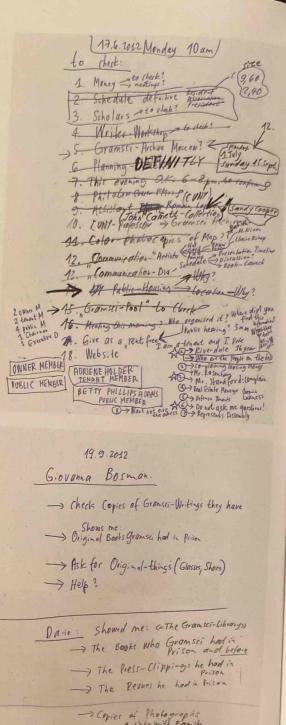


River 1/2



Via Sebino 43 a. 00199 Roma

Hirschhorn [mailto:thomashirschhorn@aol.com]
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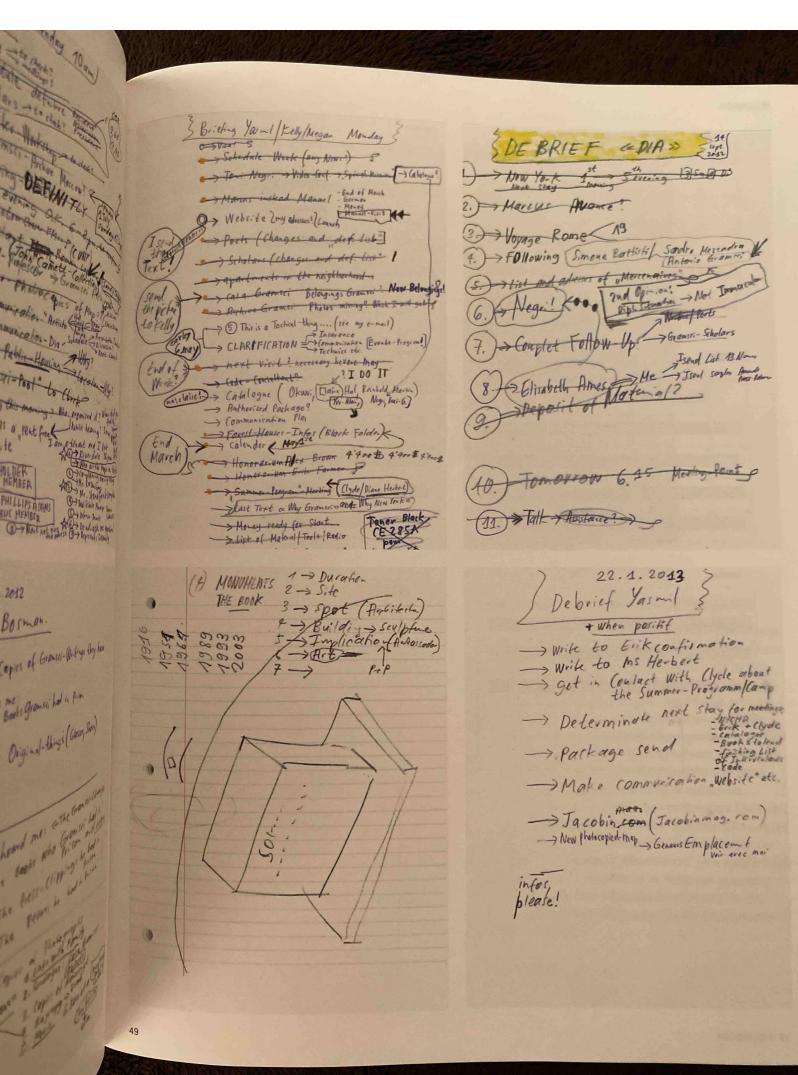
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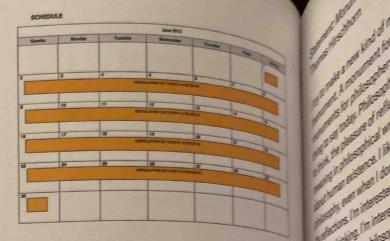
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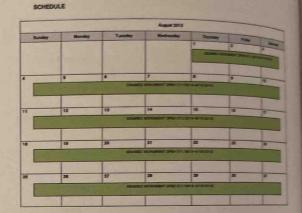


## RESEARCH

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#### SCHEDULE

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Statement: Monuments
Thomas Hirschhorn

I try to make a new kind of monument. A precarious monument. A monument for a limited time. I make monuments for philosophers because they have something to say today. Philosophy can give the courage to think, the pleasure of reflection. I like the strong meaning in philosophical writings and the questions about human existence. I like full-time thinking. I like philosophy, even when I don't understand a third of its reflections. I'm interested in nonmoralist, logical. political thinking. I'm interested in ethical questions. That's why I chose philosophers for monuments. But in contrast to the altars, which are personal commitments, these monuments are conceived as community commitments. There is something really beautiful in the fact that human beings have the capacity to think, to reflect, and the ability to make their brains work. Spinoza, Deleuze, Gramsci, and Bataille are examples of thinkers who instill confidence in the reflective capacities: they give force to think, they give force to be active. I think that to read their books continues to make sense, to question, to reflect, to keep beauty vital.

The monuments are composed of two parts or even more. The "classical part," a form, reproducing the thinker with his features, head or body. This part of the monument is a statue. And there is the "information part," a new part in the monument, the material to be consulted: books, video tapes, statements, biographical documents. This information part with its material responds to the why. The "classical" statue part responds to the who. The information part of the monument is a physical place, a small construction (like in the kiosks) open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, where one can isolate oneself, sit down, study, and get information about the philosopher's work. This part of the monument with the documentation is a proposition to make the philosopher's work accessible to the public: to those who have never been in contact with philosophy, but also to those who are "professionals," specialists, philosophers, or amateurs. I want both aspects of the monument to be equally accessible.

I want to make it possible to first be in contact with information, to read about the work, the philosophy, and then afterwards to look at the statue. I want the monument to be diversely accessible. Thus, the monument is not just standing there, but wants to offer the possibility to inform—about its meaning and furthermore about the thinking of those philosophers.







From top: Spinoza Monument, "Midnight Walkers City Sleepers," W 139, Amsterdam, 1999. Deleuze Monument, "La Beauté," Avignon, 2000. Bataille Monument, Documenta 11, Kassel, 2002

There is an active part and a passive part. This monument will not intimidate. It does not come from above. It is made through admiration; it comes from below. The monument will not remain there for eternity. The plastic aspect of the monument—cardboard, wood, tape, garbage-bag covering, neon lights—shows its limitation in time and enforces its precariousness. The form conveys the idea that the monument will disappear. What shall remain are the thoughts and reflections. What will stay is the activity of reflection.

The four monuments are to Spinoza, Deleuze, Gramsci, and Bataille. I made the "Spinoza Monument" in a street of the Red Light district in Amsterdam in 1999; I built the "Deleuze Monument" in a public housing space, Cité Champfleury in Avignon in spring 2000; and I made the "Bataille Monument" in the Friedrich Wöhler housing complex for Documenta 11 in Kassel, in 2002.

February 2003

TEXTS

Tribute to Form
Thomas Hirschhorn

The "Gramsci Monument" is a Form; it is a new Monument Form. It is a new Monument because of its Dedication, it is new because of its Location, it is new because of its Duration, and it is new because of its Outcome. Everything related to it and coming from it is new and is—above all—Form. The "Gramsci Monument" is a tribute to Form and my answer to the question: What is Form? To give Form requires making a Statement, fighting for it and being at War for it. It means understanding Form as Resistance and thinking its Universality.

Form is essential in Art; Form is the most important thing. By Form I mean something coming from myself, from my own, something that I am the only one to see and perceive as logic, something that only I can work out and can give. The decision to dedicate a Monument to Antonio Gramsci is Form. The "Gramsci Monument"—in its precariousness is Form and the decision to do a time-limited Monument is Form. The decision about the Duration of the "Gramsci Monument" is Form. It is necessary to understand "Form" as nonsplittable, nonnegotiable andeven-nondiscussable. "Form" only exists as something entire, undividable, and complete, as an atom or a core—this is hardcore—and this "hardcore" is Form. "Form" and "Aesthetic" are interdependent but not to be confused. Form is what gives ethic, preciseness, and clarity in the incommensurable, complex, and chaotic world we are living in today. Aesthetic is the answer to the question: What does this Form look like? How is it made? What materials are used?

Form never seeks a function, Form is not reductive, Form is never exclusive, and Form can never be qualified with terms such as "the good Form."

To give Form is a Statement and an Assertion I have to stand up for. To give Form is an act of emancipation; it is a resolution and a decision I myself must take. No one asked me to do the "Gramsci Monument" and no one asked me to do it in the Bronx. The decision about Location of the "Gramsci Monument" in the Bronx is Form. I am responsible for this Form. No one "needs," no one "wants," and no one "waits" for the "Gramsci Monument." This work is an absolute Affirmation, and therefore cannot be reduced to any supposed function. I am doing it because I authorize myself to do it. Working out Form is a matter of production, of taking pride and dignity in this production. Form is never a fact, and Form never refers to the

only factual. Form is never an opinion and doesn't appeal to opinion. Form is never a comment and doesn't need to be commented on.

In standing up for a Form it is clear that I have to pay for it, and as the artist I must be first to pay. Why? Why be ready to pay the price for the "Gransci Monument" and for all my other artworks? Because to do a work of Art is a kind of War-not against something or somebody—but for something, for a Form Because being at War implies to fight, to insist, to struggle, to make sacrifices and to have a strategy. Because I understand Form as a mission, and doing the "Gramsci Monument" is a mission. I am "on mission." as artist I have my own mission, it's an art-mission, something to accomplish, something to absolutely fulfill, and something to live or die for. "Mission" is a War term—War for Form—never a religious term. To do the "Gramsci Monument" is perhaps an impossible mission but—in any case—it's a mission. Form—as mission is a commitment, an engagement, and a position. To struggle for a Form is the opposite of thinking "career" and playing tactics. And thinking about "Targets" and "Opportunities" has no place in this War for Form.

GI

As a warrior for Form I must appeal to Artas Resistance. Art-because it's Art-is Resistance as such. Resistance toward aesthetical, cultural, and political habits. The problem to me—as artist—is: How can! do a work today, in my time, which resists the actuality of today? How can I do a work in my historical context today that reaches beyond its historical time? And how can I do a work which is, in any case, Ahistorical? The "Gramsci Monument" wants to be Resistance—Resistance as such. Other terms for Resistance are Belief, Creation, Risk, Dynamic, Positiveness. The "Gramsci Monument" is resolutely based on Positiveness, but this doesn't guarantee a positive outcome; it means that—as a work of Art—it is created in Positiveness, because Positiveness is Resistance. The "Gramsci Monument" in its Outcome is Form. This Outcome will be the Resistance. Resistance is never based on Solution or Justification. Resistance stands opposite to Argumentation, to Academicism, to Contemplation. In doing the "Gramsci Monument" I need to resist all kinds of phantasms. The "Gramsci Monument" is not a phantasm—it is a Dream and as a Dream it will be rebuilt—every day—as new.

Art—because it's Art—is based on Universality, consequently the "Gramsci Monument" wants to be a universal artwork. There is no Art which doesn't own "Universality." Universality of Art is the condition granting to touch the Other, the Reality, and the "Truth."

As an artist, Universality is my belief and my will. My aim is to be in touch with the Reality, with the World. with the one, and with the unique World we are living in. It is only by aiming at "Universality" that one can implicate a "Non-Exclusive Audience," and it's only by aiming at Universality that I can bring "Politics," "Love," "Philosophy," and "Aesthetics" into the core of the "Gramsci Monument." Universality is just another term for "Equality" and for "Justice." To aim with insistence at "Universality" is a way of fighting "Tradition," "Identity," "Culture," "Particularism," and "The Personal." The "Gramsci Monument" wants-through its Dedication, its Location, its Duration, and its Outcometo be a Form, a Universal Form.

December 2012

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**TEXTS** 

Unshared Authorship
Thomas Hirschhorn

In doing my work in public space and furthermore, in doing works involving residents on location such as the upcoming "Gramsci Monument," I am confronted with the question of "authorship."

**Unshared Authorship** 

Consequently I want to propose a new kind of authorship: the Unshared Authorship. This means that I, the artist, am the author of the "Gramsci Monument"; I am entirely and completely the author, regarding everything about my work. As author-in Unshared Authorship-I don't share the responsibility of my work nor my own understanding of it; that's why the term: Unshared. But I am not the only author! Because the Other, the one who takes the responsibility of the work also, is-equally-author. The Other can be author, completely and entirely, in his/her understanding of the work and regarding everything about the work. That's why, again, the term: Unshared. Unshared Authorship is a statement, it's an assertion, it's offensive, and it's a "hard" term in opposition to the "soft" term "collaboration." Unshared stands for clearness, for a decision, for the "non-exclusive," for the opening toward "coexistence." Unshared means saying yes to complexity, and implies multiplication, not division. Today's issues about claim for "responsibility" come from those "shared responsibilities," which push you to the "I am not responsible for this, I am only responsible for that!" excuses. Unshared Authorship-we could also say "Unshared Responsibility"-allows me to take responsibility for what I am not "responsible" for. Furthermore, Unshared Authorship allows me to be author even when I am not the "author." This is the essential, this is the new.

#### Equality

I believe in Universality and in the universal power of art to transform each human being. Other words for Universality are "Equality," the "Non-Exclusive Audience," "Truth," "The One World," or "Justice." Other words for Belief are "Resistance," "Intensity," "Movement," or "Creation." I want to confront my Belief with reality—through my work—and I want to be engaged with art in absolute Equality. "Belief" and "Equality" are both constitutive for art. "Belief" is to be absolutely convinced of this, to follow it as a decision, as a hope, and to use it as a weapon, as an affirmation. I cannot understand the skeptical, the disappointed,

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UNSHARED AUTHORSHIP

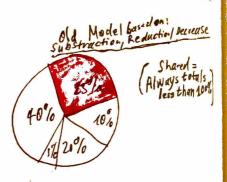
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"Unshared Authorship" Schema, 2014

the resigned, the cynical, the critical—nothing can be done when there is no belief in equality. Belief in equality is a strength, it's active, and it's a resistance to objectivity or neutrality. With a part of dream and innocence, the notion of <u>Unshared Authorship</u> can build, throughout "equality" and "non-exclusivity," a basis to engage directly "The Other." There is no artwork—that stands as such—based on inequality or exclusivity.

#### The Other

The only possibility to encounter the Other is "as equal." This is not easy and is being avoided by today's many circumstances, conditions, and contexts. To resist this must allow myself "Equality," I must authorize myself to assert "being equal." This means establishing a relation with the Other out of my belief in equality. This means concerning the "Gramsci Monument" that in order to encounter the residents of possible sites that will host my work, I need to follow my belief in equality without forcing an attitude, remaining truthful to myself. Should equality not be the most obvious thing? Unshared is the contrary of unequal. To act in Unshared Authorship is an act of emancipation and of

self-understanding that doesn't require response. To establish a contact with the Other-through artmust be something "given," something essential, something absolute. It is a necessity for any artistic "fieldwork." For the "Gramsci Monument," I am doing this alone and solitarian, because I am convinced that the only possible contact with the Other can happen "One to One." This is not self-enclosure or a romantic attitude. Only a "One to One" contact can create a dialogue or even a confrontation with the Other.

I or Me

I have always understood "me" or "I"—which I use often and with no bashfulness—as something already including the Other. The Other, the reality, the worldmy own world also-should be included within "I" and "me." I'm not first nor last expressing this, but the term "Unshared" in Unshared Authorship-enlarges the entire dimension of "I" and "me." I want to do everything to use art as a tool for involving the Other-throughout my work. That is the problem and the challenge, and why I love so much to do a work of art. I want to do a work in which the affirmation: the Other is included in "me" and in "I," takes a form. This is my competence as an artist.

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February 2013 s year fighting the netty arter to be the first of "Gramsci Monument" at Forest Houses, The Bronx, NYC Thomas Hirschhorn

The decision to do the "Gramsci Monument" at Forest Houses, the Bronx, is an essential decision. Such an important decision can only be taken after a long process of fieldwork; it cannot be taken by an institution or an administration, it's an artistic decision and as such has to be the outcome of a process. This process is fieldwork. The fieldwork for the "Gramsci Monument" consisted of visits to Public Housing sites all around the City: to begin with, I visited forty-six projects in the five boroughs, then reduced the visits to fifteen sites in three boroughs where I met with residents, presented my project, and tried to find out if a cooperation might be possible. I finally focused on seven sites, all in the Bronx: Castle Hill, Soundview. Monroe Houses, Patterson, Bronx River, Claremont and Butler Houses, and Forest Houses. There, I had several encounters with residents who are actively involved in their neighborhood. To discuss with all of them was instructive, fun, and truly helpful. I admired their commitment, their implication, and their thoughts toward and for the neighborhood, which reinforced my conviction that the question of the site is a question of human encounter. Therefore the decision to do the "Gramsci Monument" at Forest Houses was taken in common—by Erik Farmer, President of the Forest Houses Tenant Association, and myself. It was he who invited me to do the "Gramsci Monument" at Forest Houses together with his neighbors in the spirit of coexistence and cooperation. The encounter with Erik Farmer was decisive also, because he was the one who asked me to give him a book of Gramsci to read. I met Erik Farmer thanks to Clyde Thompson, the Director of Community Affairs/Employment and Training at Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers—which is located at Forest Houses-it was Clyde Thompson who sent me to him. The Encounter and Discussions with Clyde Thompson were very important to me, and I remember it as a beautiful moment when I met him for the first time in the office of Diane Herbert, the Director of the Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Center at Forest Houses. It was in August 2012 when Diane Herbert and Clyde Thompson welcomed me, listened, and questioned me about the "Gramsci Monument." I realized immediately that I was making a real encounter. I remember this moment as a moment of happiness-the happiness of an artist creating the conditions of a dialogue and a confrontation through Art, his Artwork! Therefore to do the "Gramsci

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Monument" at Forest Houses is a decision taken in happiness.

I love to do fieldwork, I love to do it alone, I love to encounter the Other through an Idea, I love to do it through a mission I give myself, and I love to do it through Art. It's the questioning of the Universality and Autonomy of Art in a simple and direct gesture.

The angle-stone of my fieldwork is always to ask for help because I cannot do a "Presence and Production" project alone in Public Space. Help can come from residents, from visitors, or from someone around who sees me present, fighting for my work and committed to producing something. Cooperation may occur as a gift of the residents. It is not me-the artist-who has the pretence to bring help; on the contrary it's me-the artist-who is asking for help! My proposal is: "Can you and do you agree—as residents of this neighborhood—to help me—the artist—do the 'Gramsci Monument?' Can we do it together in cooperation and co-existence?" With this in mind, it is clear that I'm not the one who "selected" or who "found" the location for the "Gramsci Monument." Deciding about location obviously comes from the residents; it can't come from me, nor from architectural purposes nor geographical reasons. The residents are the ones who invite me, who agree with me, and accept to help me do my work, here, in their neighborhood, on their grounds. My mission consists in creating the conditions for an encounter, discussing and finally convincing the Other of the sense and seriousness of the "Gramsci Monument." This part of the work is the most difficult, but also one of the most beautiful. It's the moment when, alone with my idea, I am meeting the Other, discussing art and an artwork today. It's the moment of grace when I understand-again-that there is a possibility to talk about art with everybody, with each and every Other.

I am full of gratitude toward the residents of Forest Houses, toward Diane Herbert, Clyde Thompson, and Erik Farmer, whom I met once, twice, several times and with whom I always found a welcome. I feel happy—Art has given me the tool to establish a contact—beyond the questions of "interest" and "profit." Diane Herbert, Clyde Thompson, and Erik Farmer understood that my competence to do the "Gramsci Monument" at Forest Houses, the Bronx, NYC, doesn't come from my understanding of Gramsci but from my understanding of Art. They offered me their time to speak about my project and explain the "Gramsci Monument." I was challenged and taken seriously. These where the real encounters between me and the

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Other-and one can easily understand that without these encounters, no decision regarding a possible location can be taken. This is why the "Gramsci Monument" will take place at Forest Houses.

# "Presence and Production"

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The guideline for the "Gramsci Monument" is Presence and Production: I call it a "Presence and Production" project. "Presence and Production" is a term I use for specific artworks that require my presence on-site and where my production takes place during a given time on a specific location with the cooperation of others. I think it is important to use your own terms, terms you invent as an artist, and agree with.

As I once said, I never use the term "participatory art" in referring to my work, because someone looking at an Ingres painting, for instance, is participating, even without anyone noticing. I never use the terms "educational art," "community art," and my work has never had anything to do with "relational aesthetics." The Other has no specific ties with aesthetics. To address a "non-exclusive" audience means to face reality, failure, unsuccessfulness, the cruelty of disinterest, and the incommensurability of a complex situation. Participation cannot be a goal, participation cannot be an aim, participation can only be a lucky outcome.

To be present and to produce means to make a physical statement here and now. I believe that only through presence-my presence-and only through production-my production-can my work have an impact in Public Space or at a public location. To be present all the time at the "Gramsci Monument" means to understand full-time presence as a noble task, as the task of taking responsibility. The artist is not present because he is the artist (the creator of the work)—he is present because being present is the most important. To give his time, to share his time, there is nothing more important elsewhere. That is the commitment and the meaning of my presence.

The issue is not "The artist is present" as announced on exhibition opening cards. The terms "charismatic," "artist-leader-pedagogue" are inappropriate, they convey something unknown, distorted or cynical. I am not complaining, I am not crying, I have always seen my mission—as an artist—as taking over responsibility. Responsibility for everything touching my work, but also responsibility for what I am not responsible for. To work out "Presence and Production" projects demands my absolute responsibility. This is sometimes misunderstood, but that's what I mean by:

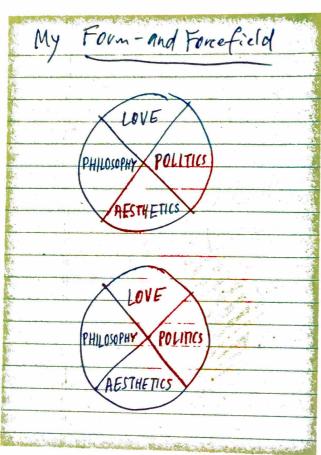
"I am an artist, not a social worker." When doing art in Public Space, there is nothing more beautiful and more persuasive than to proceed from Art as Art. And by insisting on the notion of Art, doors are open for the other, open to encounter what the other does not know and does not want. Precisely because Art can achieve something which one does not want. This is what is unique about art and philosophy. Therefore I do not distinguish between a person who could be a "receptive participant" and the person "hanging around." Not making a difference can only be justified in regard to the principle of Equality-which demands making no difference in regard to all differences. It is not always easy to insist upon this, but if I resolutely keep to it, this assertion can lead to miraculous and enchanting moments, which—to me—are the most sublime and beautiful moments in my work. The "Gramsci Monument" will remain an affirmation of an autonomous artwork that is made in a gesture of love. This gesture doesn't necessarily call for an answer; it's both utopian and concrete. I want to create a new form, based on love for a "non-exclusive audience." My love for Antonio Gramsci is the love of philosophy, the love of the infinitude of thought. It is a question of sharing this, affirming it, defending it, and giving it form.

February 2013

3MSCi JSIY. and the Why Gramsci? Why New York? Thomas Hirschhorn

### Why Gramsci?

The decision to do a monument dedicated to Antonio Gramsci comes from my commitment toward Art. As was the case with my other monuments to Spinoza, Deleuze, and Bataille, my competence to do the "Gramsci Monument" in the Bronx, New York City, comes from my understanding of Art In Public Space today, and not from my understanding of Gramsci. My decision to dedicate four Monuments to these four Philosophers comes from my schema:



"Form- and Forcefield" Schema, 2014

There are four important points in this schema:

- 1) From the very beginning, I decided that my work would assert itself and move in the Form-field and Force-field divided into four parts: "Love, Philosophy, Politics, and Aesthetics."
- 2) My work doesn't necessarily have to cover all four parts equally, but each part should always be touched to some extent.

MANUAL PROPERTY.

- 3) The "Love" and "Philosophy" parts can generally be considered as positive, and the "Politics" and "Aesthetics" parts as negative. I am aware and even interested by this fact, because I understand the world I live in as "One," undivided and unique, as a world with the positive and negative, but also with the "not-only-positive" and "not-only-negative." I therefore decided that my work would always include all four parts.
- 4) Dividing the circle in the four parts—"Love, Philosophy, Politics, and Aesthetics"—creates four intersecting points: "Love/Philosophy," "Philosophy/Aesthetics." "Aesthetics/Politics," and "Politics/Love." I decided that the intersecting point "Love/Philosophy" would be dedicated to Spinoza, the intersecting point "Philosophy/Aesthetics" to Deleuze, the intersecting point "Aesthetics/Politics" to Bataille, and the intersecting point "Politics/Love" to Gramsci.

I decided to do the "Gramsci Monument" because I love the work and the life of Antonio Gramsci. That is my response to "Why Gramsci?" My love includes everything coming from him, without exception. I am a "Gramsci-Fan." As a fan-as every fan-there is no criticism, no distancing, and there is no limit. Being a fan cannot be explained or justified, but I can and will clarify, for myself and for you:

# "Why Gramsci?":

Because he was a hero.

Because he was a revolutionary.

Because he was ready to pay the price for his commitment.

Because he was a strategist.

Because of his passion for the Political.

Because of his proposition to define one's own position.

Because of his hate of indifference.

Because he wrote Notebooks and Letters in Prison, and each one is a beautiful and strong foundation, from which to build an education.

Because his faith in the capacity and competence of the human being was unlimited.

Because he wrote: "Every human being is an intellectual," which is echoed by Joseph Beuys declaring that "Each human being is an artist."

Because he understood Art and Philosophy as a friendship-movement.

Because of his question: "Is Philosophy independent from politics?" which then encourages me—as an artist—to ask: "Is Art independent from politics?"

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"Why New York?" It is easy to explain w icated to Gramsci, bu in New York," simply this is the point! But t is an artistic logic. It i cific cities, specific co places for my Monum for are universal place "Universality" confron and contradictions of lam interested in—the ticularism and obscur harbor of dreams, but

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Because his texts are a toolbox for everybody who is willing to confront today's reality.

Because of his definition of what crisis is.

Because he wrote constitutively about art, as "Art itself is interesting, it is interesting in itself, in that it satisfies one of the necessities of life." and "The content of Art is Art itself."

Because of his fight for Universality against particularism. Because of his love of ideas and also his insistence to make these ideas work, to act and be efficient with them.

Because he wrote: "The only justifiable enthusiasm is that which accompanies the intelligent will, intelligent activity, the intelligent richness of concrete initiatives which change existing reality."

Because he is an example of loyalty.

Because he was fearless.

Because to read his writings today is such an encouragement.

# "Why New York?"

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It is easy to explain why I want to do a monument dedicated to Gramsci, but less so to give reasons for "why in New York," simply because there is no reason, and this is the point! But there is a logic. It is my logic-it is an artistic logic. It is my logic not to "choose" specific cities, specific contexts or specific community places for my Monuments. Because what I am looking for are universal places. Places where terms such as "Universality" confront reality, complexity, chaos, and contradictions of today. This is the "Universality" I am interested in—the Universality which fights particularism and obscurantism. Not "Universality" as a harbor of dreams, but "Universality" as a beautiful and absolute idea, an idea one has to fight for at all times, an idea to be reconstructed everyday—anew, as the "Gramsci Monument" itself.

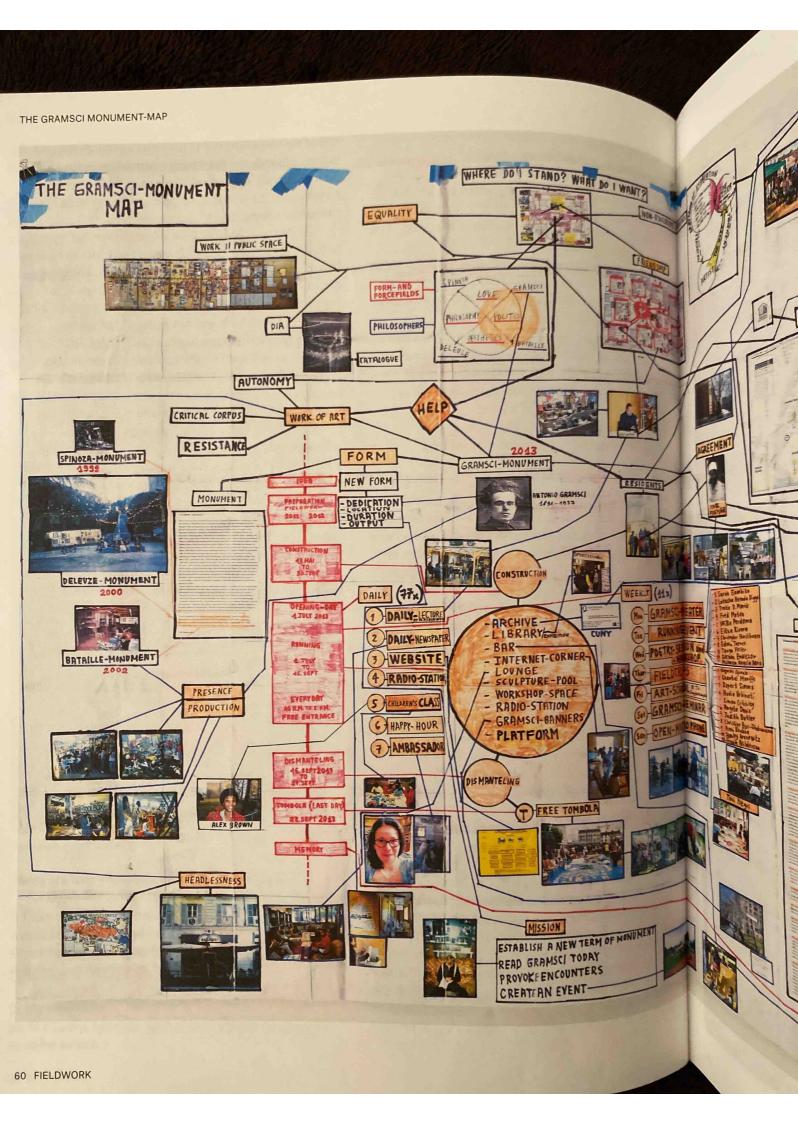
It might be quite clear already that my decision to do the "Gramsci Monument" dedicated to the Marxist thinker Antonio Gramsci is not a political decision but an artistic one. I am aware of today's confusion and misunderstanding regarding what is "political!" And the "Gramsci Monument" gives me-once again-the occasion to clarify and insist on what differentiates "working politically" as an artist—which I want to do and "the political" in art, which is only a "trademark" like many others. The meaning of "working politically" or "acting politically" is to decide for myself who is my hero. This is the artist's own decision, according to his logic. What is crucial and what makes a big difference,

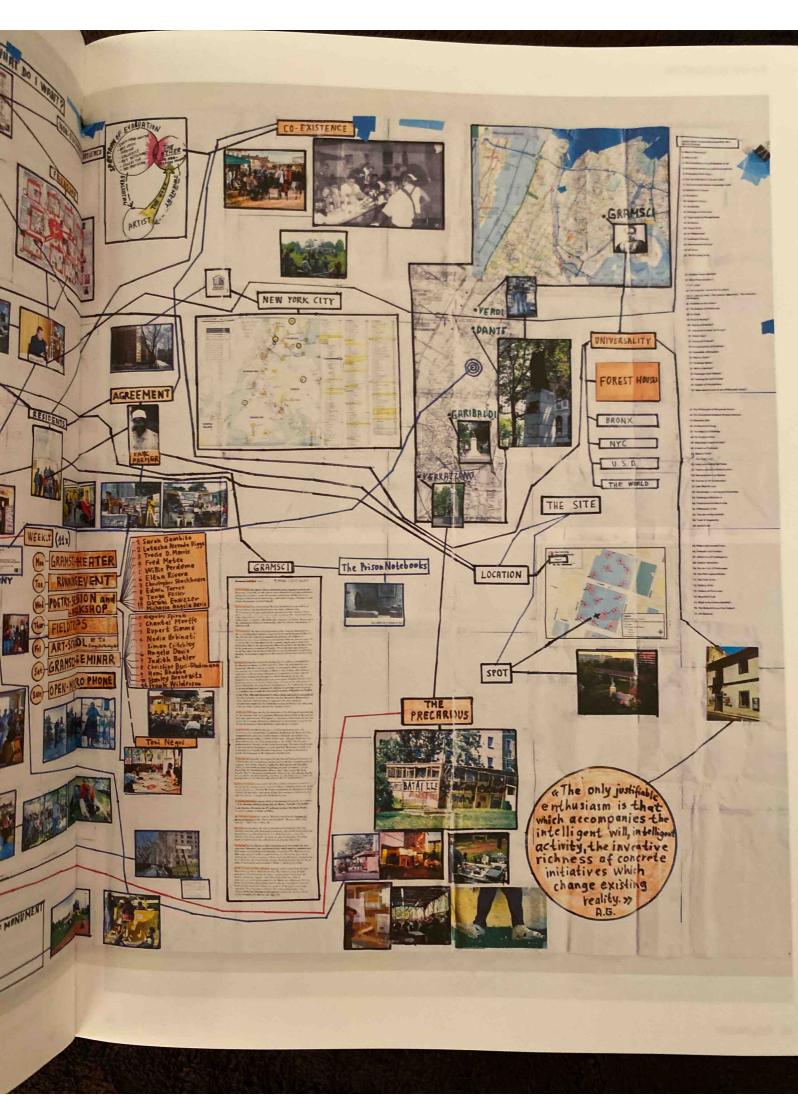
is that no one asked me to do a monument dedicated to the cofounder of the Italian communist party Antonio Gramsci. And no institutional power, no official, no historian, no scientist, no politician suggested I do a monument dedicated to Gramsci in New York City.

Antonio Gramsci is my hero-I am not trying to convince anyone of adopting my hero, just as no one has asked me to do something for his hero. The only decisive thing I want is to do something, myself, for my own hero! I would be happy if the other establishes himself his own hero and hierarchy of heroes-in order to give form to the human capacity of selfdecision, of self-authorization, of self-determination, and of emancipation. The "Gramsci Monument" must be a Universal Monument, it must be mentally transplantable anywhere in the world, in other cities, other locations, other public housings or places where people are living. This is the ambition and the affirmation of the "Gramsci Monument." The only valid answer to "Why New York?" is: because it's a universal work of Art. Universality-which is the condition for every Artwork-means Justice, Equality, The Other, The Truth and The One World. The "Gramsci Monument" exists at Forest Houses, in the Bronx, in New York City, in the USA, in America, in the World, in the one World, the unique World, in our World.

April 2013

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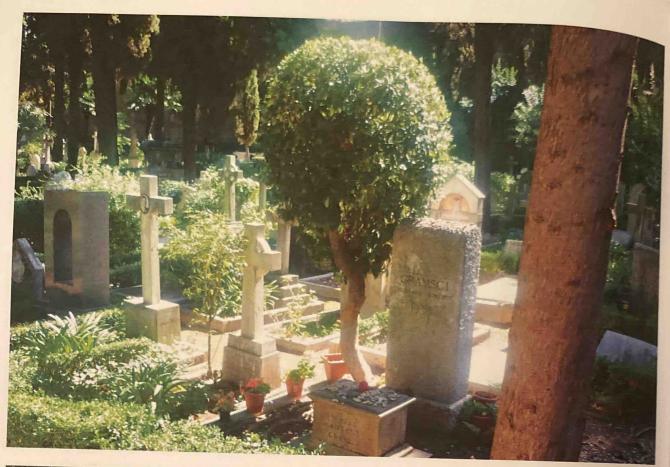




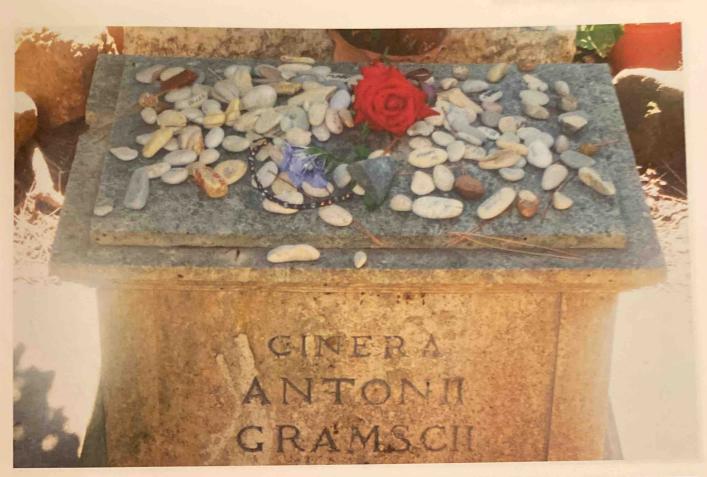




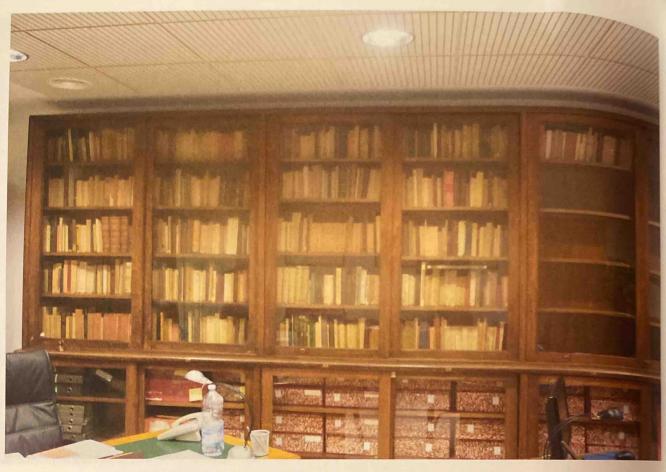


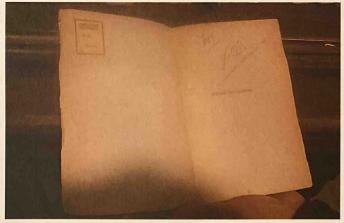


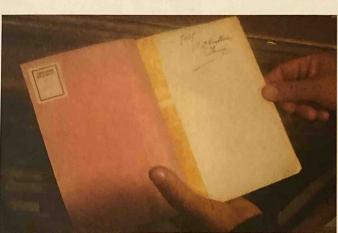


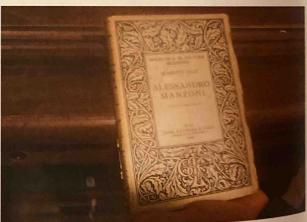




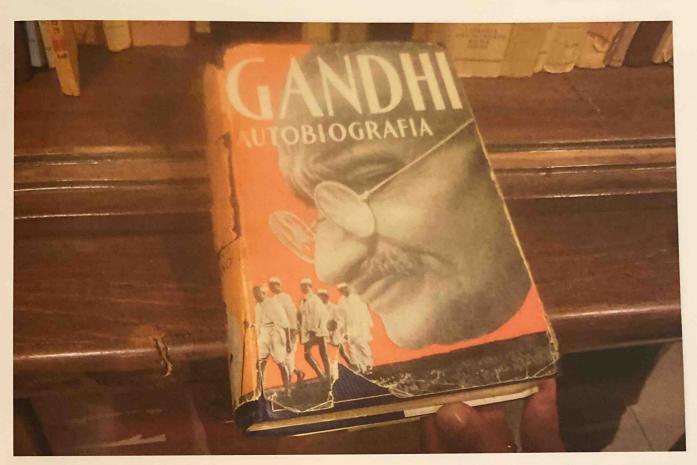




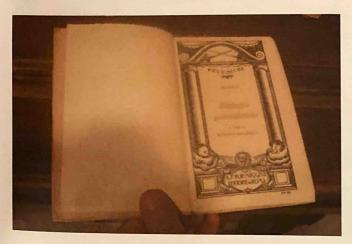




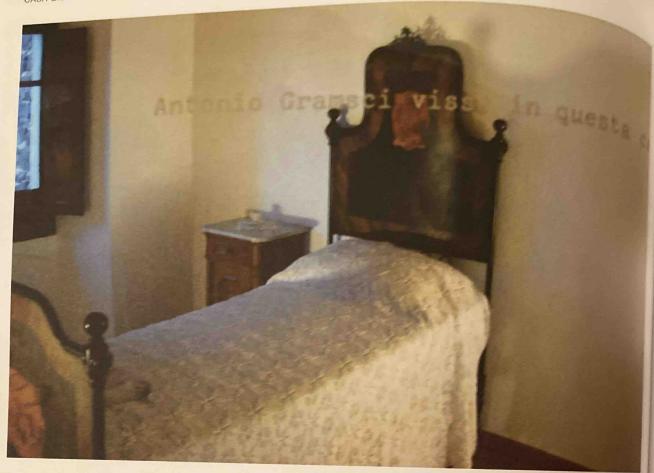
















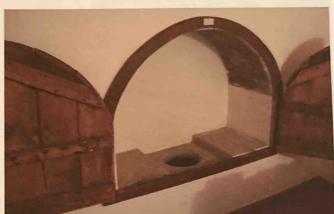






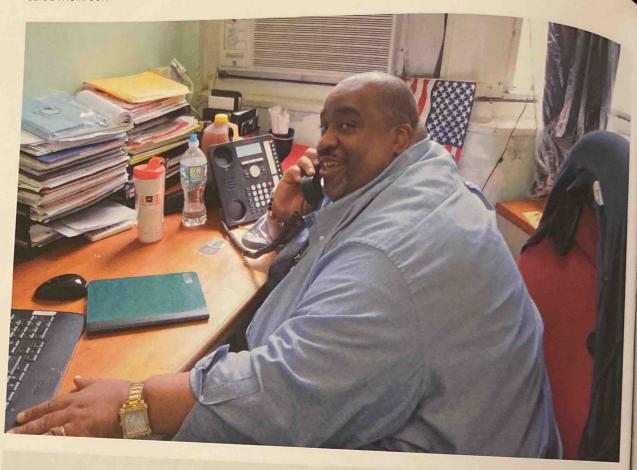








### **CLYDE THOMPSON**



### Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

11 am

Meeting with John Weed
Assistant Executive Director, Bronx Works
This establishment serves the Butler Houses area
Location: 1130 Grand Concourse (between McClellan Street and East 166<sup>th</sup> Location: 1130 Grand Conco. Street) Subway: B, D at 167th Street

Phone: 718 508-3040

### Thursday, August 23rd

2:30 pm Meeting with Glisette Rivera Director, James Monroe Senior Center This senior center serves the Monroe area

Location: 1776 Story Avenue (between Taylor Avenue and Rosendale Avenue)
Subway: 6 at Morrison - Soundview Avenues

Phone: 718 893-3484

Meeting with Glenda Jarvis Monroe Resident Association President

11 am Meeting with Diane Herbert (Executive Director) and Clyde Thompson (Director of Youth Affairs) Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Center, Inc. (SEBNC) This establishment serves the Butler Houses area

Location 955 Tinton Avenue, Bronx, NY 1045 Between East 163<sup>rd</sup> Subway: 2, 5 at Prospect Avenue

Phone: 718 542-2727 ext. 16

Meeting with Terrance Williams Mullaly Community Center This community center is adjacent to the Bulter Houses. 1 pm

### 12/02/13

De: Thomas Hirschhorn A: mwitko ; kkivland Sujet: debrief 4 Date: Sa, 25 Aoû 2012 14:23

dear kelly, dear magan, here is my debrief 4:

the meeting with diane herbert and clyde thompson was good, they are very concernd by "what is the benefit for the community" - and about the communist antonio gramsci! it was a frank discussion, I refused to "sell" (their term) my project to them, I told them that I am not a socialworker or an artist who serves de community - I tryed to tell them that I have only to serve the art, they understand that, - it was a nice moment - the fragile beginning of a real dialog between equal human beiings, I loved this short moment, I made no concession in anything and they were attentive to this, se I will have another meeting on wednesday with them in order to present precisely my project to 4-5 people of the neigboorhoud, I want to go there with yasmil (I hope she can) in order to allready present them "THE AMBASSADOR"!

I will think a bout how to make my presentation technically and I will talk about this with you on monday morning at 'Dia, -, the other meeting (with terrance williams) was not interesting, he just gave me another name and another number to call, gladstone is a gramsci fan, he is italien (from rome) and he offered to make phonecalls to rome — in italien — whenever for whatever we need, I think this can be very helpful — I also propose to speak about this have a nice weekend — both of you!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10"

DEAR (LYDE,

I HOPE YOU ARE DOING,

WELL, I JUST STOPPED

BY TO SAY HELLO TO YOU.

I VER MUCH WOULD CITE

TO SPEAK TO YOU

ABOUT MY PROJECT

& CRAMSL-MONUMENT

IN FOREST KOUSES.

I TRY TO SEE YOU

LATER THIS WEEK

TAK (ARE, THOMAS

(THE ARTIST)

(BESIDE THE PROJECT WE [NE+DIA]

SUBMITTED TO NYCHA)

DEAR CLYDE,

T AM - AS PROMISED - HERE
FOR TO MEET WITH YOU

INFORTUNATLY I HAVE TO LEAVE
NOW (BECAUSE I HAVE AMOTHER
MEETING) PLEASE UNDERSTAND.

I JOIN YOU THE FOLDER WE
DID FOR WHA - BUT I STUL NEED
TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO PUT
MY ARTWORK,

AND BECAUSE YOU ARE ON
THE TOP OF MY WISHLIST FOR
EMPLACEMENT I REALLY WANTED
TO CHECK WITH YOU FIRST.

I CAN COME BACK ANY MOMENT

MANAGED BY: FOREST POLITICAL DISTRICTS: U.S. Congress.		NY State Senate: 34			TDS No: 059  NY State Assembly: 79  JANUARY 1, 2011  Asian Other Total			HUD No: AMP No: 2000 CENSUS TRACT: NY City Council: 16 PERCENTAGE DISTRIB! White Black Hisposic			NY005220F NY005000590 133, 135 Com. Dist: 03 BUTION	
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NUMBER OF FAMILIES	13	566	758	5	4		1.0%	42.1%	56.3%	0.4%	0.3%	
FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	12	459	622	3	3	1,101	1.1%	41.7%	56.5%	0.5%	0.37	
MALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	1	107	136	0	1	245	0.4%	43.7%	55.5%	0.0%	0.49	
POPULATION	32	1,267	1,839	15	15	3,168	1.0%	40.0%	58.0%	0.5%	0.59	
AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE	2.5	2.2	2.4	3.0	3.8	2.4	10000	1318	nam.	NO.		
NUMBER OF MINORS UNDER 18	12	387	614	5	4	1,022	1.2%	37.9%	60.1%	0.5%	0.4%	
AVG. NO. PER FAMILY	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	CONT.		MEL	47.11	-	
AS PERCENT OF POPULATION	37.5%	30.5%	33.4%	33.3%	26.7%	32.3%				No.		
AVERAGE GROSS INCOME	\$17,909	\$23,219	\$19,710	\$15,599	\$33,636	\$21,177	1	3000	A Laboratory	The same	The same	
AVERAGE GROSS RENT	\$372	\$425	\$387	\$370	\$495	\$403						
NUMBER OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD 62 YEARS AND OVER	5	194	238	0	0	437	1.1%	44.4%	54.5%	0.0%	0.0%	
AS PERCENT OF ALL FAMILIES	38,5%	34.3%	31.4%	0.0%	0.0%	32.5%					AT S	
FEMALE HEAD & YEARS PLUS	4	159	176	0	0	339	1.2%	46.9%	51.9%	0.0%	0.0%	
MALE HEAD 62 YEARS PLUS	1	35	62	0	0	98	1.0%	35.7%	63.3%	0.0%	0.0%	
PERSONS 62 YEARS AND OVER LIVING ALONE	3	121	135	0	0	259	1.2%	46.7%	52,1%	0.0%	0.0%	
POPULATION 62 YEARS PLUS	6	212	286	0	0	504	1.2%	42.1%	56.7%	0.0%	0.0%	
IS PERCENT OF POPULATION	18.8%	16.7%	15.6%	0.0%	0.0%	15.9%		Will live	SINE	I make	11	
UMBER OF WELFARE AMILIES	3	93	97	1	1	195	1.5%	47.7%	49.7%	0.5%	0.5%	
S PERCENT OF ALL FAMILIES	23.1%	16.4%	12.8%	20.0%	25.0%	14.5%	No. of Concession,	WATER IN	THE PERSON	NAME OF TAXABLE	TO S	
VITH HEAD 62 YRS, AND OVER	0	8	8	0	0	16						
N FULL WELFARE	2	50	27	1	0	80	No. of Lot				3	
UMBER OF ONE PARENT AMILIES WIMINORS UNDER 18	6	179	275	3	2	465	1.3%	38.5%	59.1%	0.6%	0.4%	
S PERCENT OF ALL FAMILIES	46.2%	31.6%	36.3%	60.0%	50.0%	34.5%	THE REAL PROPERTY.	THE OWNER OF THE OWNER,	The same	OTHER DESIGNATION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAMED IN COLUMN TWO	200	
EMALE ONE PARENT	6	169	264	3	2	444						
IALE ONE PARENT	0	10	11	0	0	21						
N WELFARE	2	59	75	1	1	138						
MBER OF FAMILIES WITH NE OR MORE EMPLOYED	6	274	371	3	2	656	0.9%	41.8%	36.6%	0.5%	0.3%	
PERCENT OF ALL FAMILIES	46.2%	48.4%	48.9%	60.0%	50.0%	48,7%		-	THE REAL PROPERTY.	TO LOCAL	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	
THE ADULT AS SECONDARY AGE EARNER	2	56	79	1	1	139						
PUBLIC HOUSING	17.3	27.2	16.4	7,7	8.1	20.9	NUMBER OF	YEARS I	ROJECT	N	54.1	
PULATION BY AGE GROUP U	NDER 4	40	41	1413	14-17	16-20	21.42	5941	-	1000		



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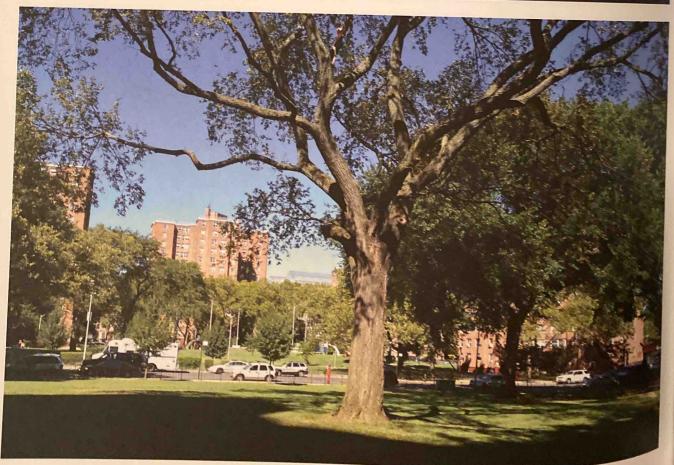
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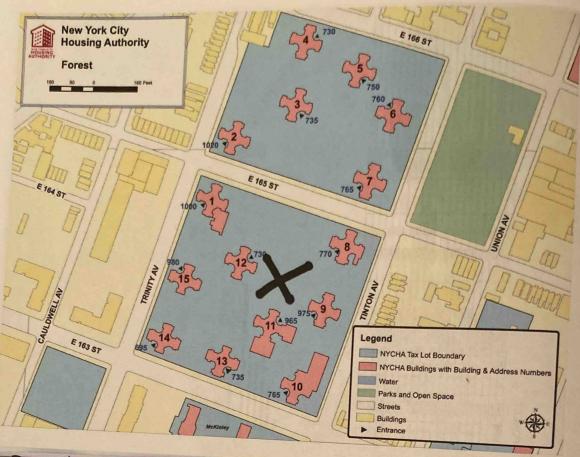














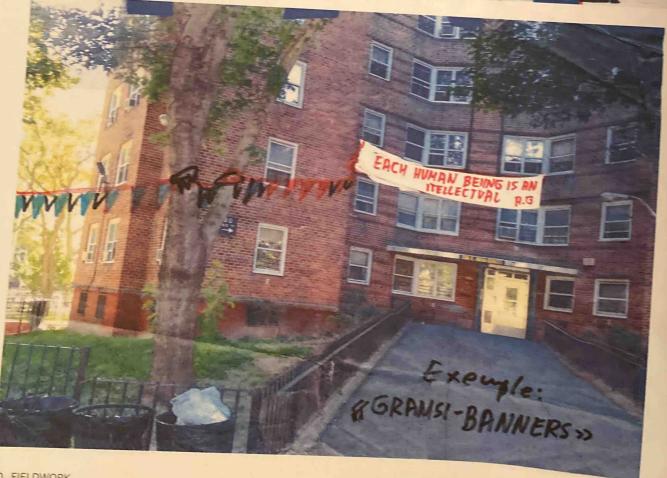








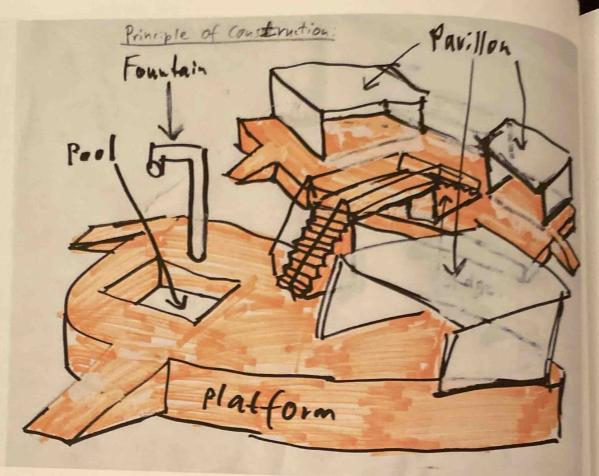




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## ERIK FARMER AND CLYDE THOMPSON

# INVITE YOU TO A COMMUNITY GATHERING

## TO MEET ARTIST THOMAS HIRSCHHORN

Come meet artist Thomas Hirschhorn and learn more about his project, "Gramsci Monument," taking place this summer, from July 1-September 15, at Forest Houses.

"It is one thing to particular, another thing to preach particularism." Antonio Gramsci (Prison Notebook 3)

EACH HUMAN BEING IS AN

Saturday, May 4th, 1-4 pm

"Is philosophy independent from politics?" Antonio Gramsci ison Notebook 8)

**Location: Forest Houses Community** 

Center Gymnasium

"The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born." Antonio Grams isan Natebook 3)

"In mass politics, telling the truth is, precisely, a political necessity." Antonio Gramsci (Prison Notebook 6)

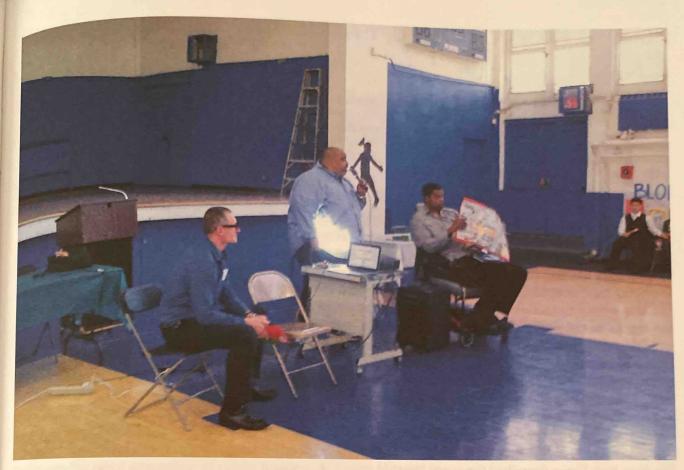
"Reality' exists independently of the thinking individual." Antonio Gramsci

(Prison Notebook 7)

"Quality should be attributed to men, not to things." Antonio Gramsci (Prison Notebook 1)

Food and drinks will be served.

All are welcome to attend.











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### HOUSING, HEGEMONY, HISTORY: A FRAGMENT

### Reinhold Martin

Reinhold Martin is associate professor of Architecture in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University, New York. He is the director of Columbia University's Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, which sponsored the 2009 conference Public Housing: A New Conversation. He is author of Utopia's Ghost: Architecture and Postmodernism, Again (Minnesota, 2010) and a founding coeditor of the journal Grey Room.

New York has had many "ground zeroes." For a few hours, one of these was located at the intersection of Forest Avenue and 163rd Street in the The Bronx. Forest Houses, which temporarily hosted Thomas Hirschhorn's Gramsci Monument, now stands at this intersection. But on December 13, 1952, a citywide civil defense drill was conducted there, in which it was imagined that, at 8:40 am, an atomic bomb had been detonated 2,500 feet above the intersection of Boston Road and Southern Boulevard, about ten blocks to the north. City officials selected the 163rd Street site for detailed evacuation and firefighting exercises related to the drill. At the time the site was a demolition zone, which the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) was clearing to make way for the construction of the new public housing complex. Shortly after the imagined blast, firefighters and rescue workers with recently upgraded equipment descended onto the half-demolished structures to contend with smoke bombs that had been detonated and fires that had been set to simulate post-attack conditions. The New York Times described the scene like this:

The test in the Bronx was grimly realistic, for it was held in an area of dismantled old houses with jagged walls, piles of bricks and broken windows. . . . Towers of water leaped skyward as the pumpers fed 3,600,000 gallons of water into the "devastated" area.

Miles of wire and hose were strewn through the streets—the wire to maintain contact with top defense officials, the hose to reduce the fire hazard. At the scene, Arthur W. Wallander, former director of the New York City Office of Civil Defense, said the test was going "very well."

The first section of Forest Houses opened in 1954 and the remainder in 1956.<sup>2</sup> Funded by a combination of New York State housing loans and New York City bond issues, the group of fifteen cruciform residential towers ranged from nine to fourteen stories in height on 19.6 acres across three city blocks that had been combined into two. Intended as what NYCHA termed "low-rent" housing, for "low-income" residents, the qualifying minimum income for tenancy was higher than any other previous New York State-sponsored public housing at the time.<sup>3</sup> The complex, designed by the architectural firm of Rosario Candela and Paul Resnick, was built on land the city had acquired between 1950 and 1951 through a combination of condemnation and purchase as eminent domain.<sup>4</sup> Somewhat ironically, for most of his career Candela had been among New York's most prolific designers of bourgeois apartment buildings, with twenty-four addresses on Fifth Avenue and twenty-three on Park Avenue to his credit.<sup>5</sup>

I am grateful to Jonathan Pathowski for his imuluible assistance with the research for this essay. de

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- 1 Kalman Seigel, "Biggest Raid Test Turns New York ide a 'Ghost City," New York Times, December 14, 1952.
- 2 Untitled NYCHA Press release, May 16, 1956; Subseries 1.1 Bronx 1930-1999, Box 3, Folder 6, records of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council of New York (henceforth CHPC records).
- 3 Untitled NYCHA Press release, May 16, 1956.
- 4 Deeds acquired by NYCHA for the site are listed in a NYCHA Legal Department memo, "Deeds for Filing in the Vault—Forest Houses," December 27, 1951, New York City Housing Authority Collection, La Guardia and Wagner Archives, Box 0073E1, Folder 5.
- 5 Earlier that year NYCHA adopted a resolution for acquiring the property for the site. Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Certain Real Property as the Site for Forest Houses (New York State-Aided Project Mo. NYS-57\*, January 11, 1951. NYCHA Collection. Box 0073E1, Folder 5.5. Following Candela's death in 1953, Resnick seems to have supervised the design and 1953, Resnick seems to have supervised the design and 1951. Building Plans filed. New York Times, June 9, 1951. Building Plans Filed. New York Times, June 9, 1951. Business & Finance. On Candela's work, see Andrew Candela and James Carpenter (New York: Acardies Press, Candela and James Carpenter (New York: Acardies Press, Candela and James Carpenter (New York: Acardies Press, Candela and Acardies Carpenter (New York: Acardies with the for its Future: Forest Houses, "Subseries I.1 Bronx 1940.

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ir Raid Drill. Civil defr rth), December 13, 1952

The demolition of the site's existing mix of tenement houses, apartment buildings, and shacks, and the erasure of three blocks of Forest Avenue and one block of East 164th Street, had resulted in the realistically "devastated" area required for the civil-defense exercise.6 But the destruction of existing neighborhoods through "urban renewal" was not yet as controversial as it would later become in New York, most infamously in the confrontation between neighborhood activist Jane Jacobs and urban planner Robert Moses that climaxed in the mid-1960s. Instead, the principle, citywide issue addressed by NYCHA planners working on the project, by independent housing advocates, and to some extent in the media, was the racial integration of public housing. At Forest Houses, to avoid the ghettoization of minority populations, NYCHA set up a "Balanced Community Committee" in partnership with local civic organizations, including the Forest Neighborhood House, a progressive settlement house one block north of the site.7 The committee was established in 1952 to act as a liaison with community organizations, to publicize the goal of a multiracial tenancy, to attract a diverse mix of potential tenants, and to recruit volunteers to interview applicant families.

A 1955 draft report in the files of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council (CHPC) evaluated the outreach programs, which also included a series of community conferences and educational programs, as follows:

In all instances was found an acceptance and understanding of the Balances [sic] Community Committee's objectives, as well as an awareness that this social experiment was a big step in the right direction of concern for the needs, abilities and potentialities of human beings, realizing that the "technique of the small bite" was reaching out beyond the concept of housing for shelter and reaching into the area of housing families in communities.8

This "technique of the small bite" meant small-scale local engagement to offset the public perception of heavy-handed central planning associated With urban renewal. Among this technique's instruments were brochures in the Output In in the CHPC archives, shows on one side a photograph of a multiracial group of men gathered around a table, juxtaposed with an architectural

- 6 Sylvia W. Stark, Citizens Housing and Planning Council of New York (CHPC), "Report on Site of Forest Hous Draft, February 27, 1950; Subseries 1.1 Bronx 1930-1999, Box 3, Folder 6, CHPC records. As Forest Houses was being designed, the planner Robert Moses had begun to exert control over NYCHA from his post as as a member of the City Planning Commission and chairman of the Mayor's Commission on Slum Clearance and in order to leverage its budgets toward tabula rasa "urban renewal" exercises with which his name later became synonymous. See Nicholas Dagen Bloom, Public Housing that Worked: New York in the Twentieth Century (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008), p. 112.
- 7 "Racial Tolerance for Bronx Urged," New York Times, March 19, 1952; and Murray Illson, "Interracial Move in Tenancy Begun," New York Times, July 16, 1954.
- 8 "FOREST HOUSES BRONX, NEW YORK: PILOT PROJECT," marked "Rec. 16 December 1955," p. 3; Subseries 1.1 Bronx 1930-1999, Box 6, Folder 13, CHPC records. The report details the activities of the Balance Community Committee and other outreach programs associated with the project.

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olution perty as the ded Project lection, 's death in e design and sted as having y as June s, June 9, 1951, e Andrew Rosario Canthus Press an undated nick with the

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rendering of the planned housing complex. On the other side is a series of rhetorical questions to potential tenants, posed in this format:

Dear friend,

If you and your family are looking for an apartment;

If you want, along with a home, a wholesome community in which to live:

If you are anxious to help your children grow into mature healthy citizens;

If you believe that good facilities should be made available within walking distance of your home;

If you would like to participate in a plan in democratic living;

Where people of many races, religions and cultures will be neighbors

Where city departments of housing, police, sanitation, health, education, water supply, gas & electricity, parks are eager to cooperate in this project [...]

Then we suggest you apply to live in Forest Houses.9

Hegemony, as we know from Antonio Gramsci, tends to construct "community." This often occurs in small and unobtrusive ways ("small bites") that can go by almost unnoticed. In this case, fear of a common enemy, at the end of the Korean conflict and at the height of the Cold War, was expressed theatrically in the civil-defense exercises. But it was also coded as an invitation to participate in "democratic living," a tone that was reinforced by the priority given to military veterans in tenant applications. Meanwhile, in other channels, bureaucratic documents nervously referred to the existing neighborhood as "substandard" and unsanitary, or, in the case of a CHPC report, simply "a typical slum area." These pictures of uncertainty and insecurity converged on the December day in 1952 when the entire city briefly and quietly paused, awaiting the "all-clear" sound of three bursts from the air-raid siren, while thousands of firefighters, rescue workers, and volunteers continued to practice emergency measures at the

Since its founding in 1934 as the country's first public housing authority, NYCHA has built and maintained housing for a mixture of income groups that currently includes over 400,000 residents. This mixture reflects a longstanding debate in the United States regarding the purpose and legitimacy of housing built under the auspices of federal, state, or municipal agencies. When the construction of the neighboring federally aided Forest Houses South (later renamed the McKinley Houses) was announced in 1958, it was noted that the development would also stand adjacent to another new complex, the Martin van Buren Houses, which

- 9 Undated draft of a brochure, "A Community Plans for Its Future: Forest Houses, CHPC records. As it happens the "small bite" was also broadcast on television when, as the CHPC report also noted, New York City Civil Service Commissioner George Gregory Jr. was featured on the NBC program This Is Your Life, with testimony from two families from Forest Houses who, as the CHPC reports. "had the opportunity to explain their part in the experiment as well as the value and importance to them and their neighbors." "FOREST HOUSES - BRONX, NEW YORK: PILOT PROJECT, P. 5.
- 10 I am using the term "hegemony" in one of the several senses in which Antonio Gramsci develops it in his Prison Notebooks, as the consent to domination elicited by a mixture of state and civil society through the manipulation of culture. Relevant references are scattered throughout the Notebooks. For one example, see Antonio Gramsci, Prison Notebooks Vol. 2, ed. and trans. Joseph A. Buttigieg (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992), p. 177. For a detailed account of Gramsci's use of the term, see Perry
  Anderson, "The Antinomies of Antonio Gramsci," New Left Review 100 (November-December 1976), pp. 5-78.
- 11 Thomas F. Farrell, Chairman, NYCHA, "Application 11 Inomas r. Parren, Chairman, N. 1 Cha. Application to the City Planning Commission for Approval of a 'Plan' and 'Project' relative to a State-aided low-rent public and 'Project' relative to a State-aided low-rent public housing project to be known as Forest Houses in the Borough of The Bronx," February 6, 1950, Box 3, Folder 6, CHPC records; and Sylvia Stark, "Report on Site of Forest













"A Community Plans for Its Future: Forest Houses" brochure draft

was planned for residents with somewhat higher incomes. (Martin van Buren Houses was ultimately not built, and the McKinley Houses was later extended onto its site.) Referring to these plans, NYCHA chairman William Reid argued that "the city was avoiding 'economic segregation' by putting two types of public housing together," which would result in a "socially healthy" environment for residents and local businesses.<sup>12</sup>

By the time the McKinley Houses opened in 1962, however, federal, state, and local public housing programs had already begun to experience the long series of cutbacks that would culminate in 1973 with the Nixon administration's moratorium on new federal housing projects. The subsequent Carter administration briefly reintroduced traditional, federally funded construction, but after 1981 the programs were essentially replaced with private sector incentives, vouchers, and other market-based policies. Although NYCHA has been recognized for its relative success in maintaining the nation's largest stock of public housing, like many other public agencies it has increasingly sought partnerships with real estate developers and other private sector entities in order to compensate for the loss of public sector support.<sup>13</sup>

The turn was complete when, in 2003, the office of New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development announced a policy initiative called "The New Housing Marketplace" that prioritized publicly subsidized private development. The initiative followed in the wake of federal HOPE VI legislation from the 1990s, which had funded the demolition of public housing and its replacement with privately developed "affordable" (rather than public) housing for mixed-income groups. Dedicated to what the Bloomberg

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<sup>12</sup> William Reid quoted in Charles G. Bennett, "Housing to Unite 2 Income Groups," *New York Times*, August 15, 1958.

<sup>13</sup> Bloom, Public Housing that Worked, p. 245.

administration called "harnessing the private market to create affordable housing," the program emphasized partnerships among city agencies and private real estate developers to build new housing for a range of income levels, although in this case ostensibly to complement rather than replace existing public housing stock.<sup>14</sup> The presumed self-evidence of market relations, and hence their hegemony, was confirmed despite the absence of any supporting ideological claims, which by this point would have seemed redundant, so thoroughly had such assumptions colonized the civic imagination.

In 2013, shortly before Gramsci Monument was constructed, one such project opened on what had once been the grounds of Forest Houses. Suitably named Arbor House, and equipped with a rooftop hydroponic garden and "a living green wall installation in the lobby," the project was built by the Blue Sea Development Company on formerly public land located on a corner of the Forest Houses site, with direct public subsidy. 15 The developer bought the land from NYCHA at below market value under the provisions of the Bloomberg plan, which, despite its language of "affordability," was and remains a privatization engine designed to encourage speculation on increasingly scarce inner-city sites.

We are able to hear in the language of the original Forest Houses integration policies a self-assured, white-identified paternalism that sought, for its own economic and political purposes, to smooth the roughest edges of racial and class inequity associated with the American housing system. We are typically less attentive, however, to the structural violence implicit in the simple exchange of "public housing" for privatized "affordable housing" in the civic lexicon. This exchange constitutes the latest step in the delegitimation of public sector investment in basic urban infrastructures, and their systematic exposure to market-oriented development. In that sense, the "community"-the historically contested "public" of public housingconstructed (however problematically) by and for Forest Houses no longer exists as an object of official political discourse. Arbor House is only one of many instruments of the new hegemony that testify to this official nonexistence. It does so not only by turning its back on Forest Houses to present a greenwashed visage to the street, but also-and more forcefully-by tacitly discounting the residents of public housing as a nonconstituency, by virtue of their nonparticipation in "the new housing marketplace." Regardless of income, race, or other social markers, the uncertain public of public housing has vanished from the dominant political imaginary, leaving millions of persons living in its wake.

Gramsci Monument, erected across an intersection of pathways between Buildings 8, 9, 11, and 12 in the Forest Houses complex, opened up a temporary breach in the alternating rhythm of what Gramsci called a "war of maneuver" and a "war of position." With respect to housing in the United States (and increasingly, worldwide), the real estate industry, which has relished the prospect of public land made available through coercive privatization-as-last-resort, has fought a war of maneuver. In response, housing residents, who constitute a bulwark against perennially threatened demolition, have been forced to conduct a war of position, by continuing to lay claim on the category and rights of the "public." The celebrated Arbor House, just around the corner from the Monument's makeshift forum, marks that war's most recent front line.

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<sup>14</sup> City of New York Department of Housing tion and Development, "The New Housing Market Creating Housing for the Next Generation 2004-2013 n.d., http://www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/downloads/ 10 year HMplan.pdf. The program's develop documented at http://www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/html about/plan.shtml.

<sup>15</sup> Details on Arbor House are given in New York City and State Officials Join Blue Sea Development to Celebrate the Opening of a New Healthy and Energy

Efficient A Efficient Affordable Housing Development in The B. New York City Department of Housing Preserve Development press release, February 21, 2013, http://www.nic.com/ www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/pr2013/pr02-21-13#