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PROJECT SHEET:

CONSEQUENCES: PUBLIC ART AS EXQUISITE CORPSE

PowerPoint Slide presentation movie. Dimension Variable

The lexicon of institutionalized Public art appears like a set of indefinitely suspended notions, traded across the parties involved, sustained by commissioned reports and replicated ad libitum to the point of meaninglessness, not unlike a mantra.

The interchangeability of some of these basic notions is the mechanism at the heart of 'CONSEQUENCES', which takes the old surrealist game of 'exquisite corpse' as its model and the PowerPoint presentation as its chosen format.

The constituent blocks of this game are extracts from local authorities Public art policies across the UK and statements from commissioning bodies and public art commission documents, freely pillaged with the intention of checking their currency as established across countless cases, but rarely crosschecked beyond promotional and self-interested exercises.

In 'CONSEQUENCES' these fragments are rearranged in a deliberately conflicting and incoherent configuration and re-presented as a plausible but meaningless series of slides. The persuasive element of address implicit in the PowerPoint presentation is embellished by tasteless transitions available in the program. The theatrical drapery used as backdrop for each slide, suggests the possibility that more truthful statements are hidden behind the curtain.

The piece was commissioned by the public art agency BEAM as part of the 3rd National conference on public art organized in Nottingham by the magazine Art & Architecture in December 2007.

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