

fag-o-sites

The hyphenated and neologistic title of this exhibition, in its homologous resonance with the term *phagocyte*, references a lexicon of AIDS discourse, micropolitics of desire, and the consumption or destruction of discrete units, and thereby begins to cite counter-strategies of queer sociosexual, cultural practice, and the multiplicity of spaces, geographies, and architectures that they fabricate, disrupt, re-invent, and appropriate as fag-o-sites. fag-o-sites are materializations of temporary, mobile, and collective, social-sexual relations articulated across contested cultural terrains by radical queers today. Out of this queer movement one might begin to imagine the possibilities of an insurgent queer geopolitics. Through deterritorializing logics, fag-o-sites are fabricated and dispersed across a queer geopolitics and thereby constitute some of the critical sites and escape-routes of queer movement today. The materialization of these transitory events and practices generate a multiplicity of effects, and combine to form differential networks of relations in which social-cultural differences are neither assimilated into a singular unity, nor equalized across a liberal plurality, nor caught in the trap of a binary, either/or logic. Queer geopolitics operate via a spatial logic of "where" instead of a onto-logic of "what," and in this way provoke the need for a queer spatial theory and practice that is based upon locally situated, material conditions which at the same time remain open and tactically mobile. fag-o-sites are non-ghettoizing, de-domesticating, survival fabrications of queer everyday life, through which spaces are temporarily claimed and dislocated for purposes of queer resistance and future survival (an activist utopics).

The queer cultural workers assembled here, work on or across purifying definitions, exclusionary resolutions, absolute certainties, and various forms of cultural assimilation, reform, and rehabilitation. As active producers of queer movement, these artists and architects dislocate the borders distinguishing: public & private; grief-eccstasy; safety-risk; violence and visual modes of evidence; abjection and subversion; fantasy and reality; childhood-adulthood; work and play; machine or body; cultural supremacy versus political supremacy. In the wake of these critical traversals come levels of ambivalence, contradiction, and conflict; anti-normative positions and oblique or anamorphic points of view; and sites that are difficult to map or circumscribe in the name of control. As non-apologetic, often in-your-face, hyper-sexual spatial practices and formations, fag-o-sites do not operate under imperatives of heteronormativity, nor obey bourgeois sensibilities of privacy, interiority, and propriety, nor support the urge for "positive images" and the accompanying hopes for tolerance of queer cultural practices, as they mobilize for survival rather than acceptance.

Through the forms of queer cultural production dispersed across a single gallery space, this exhibition visualizes some of the un-mappable maps, and architectures-without-definite-plans, which constitute the possibilities of a highly sexualized, radically dispersed, and thoroughly contested queer geopolitics: a geopolitics mobilized through micropolitics of desire and materialized as fag-o-sites.

An exhibition curated by Doug Ischar and John Paul Ricco
13 February-11 March 1995

Gallery 400
School of Art and Design
University of Illinois at Chicago
400 South Peoria Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607-7034

participating artists

Shonagh Adelman

Stephen Andrews

Bastille

Sadie Benning

Christa Black

Robert Clarke

Pierre Dorion

Iran do Espirito Santo

Paul Evans

Fernandez and Zogran

Jackie Goldsby

John Greyson

G.B. Jones

Deborah Kass

John Kramer

Clifford LeCuyer

Nina Levitt

Micah Lexier

Glenn Ligon

Jeffry Mitchell

Mark Niblock-Smith

Ria Pacque

Marco Paulo Rolla

Collier Schorr

Joe Smoke

Edgard de Souza

Margaret Stratton

Anne Torke

Millie Wilson