

BLESS

Dear Extra Academy participants,

Profiting from having been together in Berlin the very moment that your email arrived to us, we started spontaneously to answer your questions, wanting to surprise you with our answers and reactivity (see below), but while answering these questions we also realized that it totally made no sense to us answering them, as many of these questions were too generalizing, and as such we did not feel our answers could 'serve' as what we believe is a BLESS experience.

Please do not get us wrong, as we perfectly understand the questions that you asked and we would have probably asked the same questions 25 years ago when we were students at the edge of graduating. But one of the big advantages in growing older is that you start to understand yourself and your place and practice better and this insight comes with the understanding that there is actually no magic, general formula and no short-cut, but to undergo and collect experiences yourself. Therefore you will understand that most of the 'sense and purpose of life and work' questions are not answerable in a generalizing way as there is no such 'allgemeingültige formel.'

All we can offer are counter-questions. Supposedly we would answer i.e. a question like 'Can a work of art be considered as finished?', but in what way the answer would be fruitful for you and bring you further in your current practice? Do you not agree that there is no single answer, but a multitude of answers that are as diverse as there are ways of defining art and artistic practice itself?

Our general deeper understanding that we gained over all those years is that it is healthy to assume full responsibility for all of your actions. You are in the privileged position to have chosen a profession that is payed for 'creation'; somehow a divine profession. Responsibility for your creations that they enrich rather than add to the current

'too much of everything', may be one of the most important parameters to consider, especially in a time where and when human damage has been done by the last century generations to the environment which becomes life-threatening for our children.

Is it necessary what you want to create? Do you have something to say and how can you formulate and articulate it at best? Do you like your creation? Do you apply it in your daily life? If you are not convinced with yourself it is very likely that you will not be able to convince others.

Other than this we believe in collective spirit and exchange. We confirm that this needs constant effort, sport, work-out, as it never stops, is always in motion, always in some sort of flow. And, it is an amazing feeling when it works out.

When it comes to BLESS, we are happy to be not one but two, sharing the same path, constantly challenging and questioning each other. If you change partners in life it makes you live similar situations over and over again and again and it stays at the surface of things, while staying with the same partner you experience a never ending multitude of variations, going deeper and deeper within this same relationship. We are on this latter track and cannot tell you yet where it will lead us. So far we have seen deep valleys but also the most amazing views and consider it to be absolutely worth it. But you are very welcome to ask us again in 20 years.

With all best wishes and the hope to seeing each other somewhere in the next semester.

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