

# Assembly Point

LCC Studio Space, London

April 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

Thematic Premise:

*This text is in progress. It is developing from our discussions and encounters as they happen here. Assembly Point orbits the concept(s) of care and support; at once examining and adopting the act of assembly as a sovereign act of care within the exhibition space.*

As individual practitioners, our explorations of this theme have been varied. As a curatorial collective, we have unified our research towards a performative and still emerging show. Our exploration of care continues...

How often do we pause? Life only speeds up, as the system we currently find ourselves existing within seems to be regulated only by an obsession with acceleration and the accumulation of capital. This mindset governs social behaviour, and suppresses the individual's capacity to care as our personal resources are harnessed towards a tenacious cycle of labour and consumption. Elephant & Castle's busy shopping centre, our exhibition site, represents a component of this cycle. Publics dash through on their commute to work or study, while others buy and sell goods in the shops and stalls; the most convenient transport link between North and South London, for Jamaal, who assembled with us on day 1. We see our four-day situation within this flurry as an opportunity to disrupt an often exhausting rhythm, offer a brief respite for visitors, and magnify a different hue of the shopping centre's character: its potential as a support structure for togetherness and the assembly of publics. To do this we offer tea and an open space. Tea spans cultures and generations as a symbol of gathering.

A perpetual need to find, assign and act on 'meaning' or 'reason' in situations of engagement with others agitates the authenticity of *assembly* as a sovereign act; inherently an act of care, support and commonality. Can we assemble without reason? *Should* we assemble without reason? Who gets to call an assembly? Who assembles? It is important to remember that answers are only found through a mindset of openness; César prompted us to reflect on this as he assembled with us on day 1. *Assembly Point* is a four-day assembly testifying against needing a reason to assemble. Intending to neutralise the power dynamics at play within institutional arenas for knowledge production, the show extends an open invitation to sit with us, have an (undirected) conversation and share a drink of tea at any moment throughout its duration.

With an acute awareness of our own position and intentions as soon-to-be graduates operating from within an academic institution, our claim is not that we are seamlessly (or even successfully) presenting answers to the questions or concerns we have laid out. Rather, we hope to trial strategies which may offer up propositions for a broader movement towards a society of care.

Collectively spanning processes of physical and digital production, sculptural, video, photographic and text-based and participatory pieces shepherd an inquiry into what constitutes an act of care.

*Assembly Point* communicates with the absence of nonalignment within the vast majority of existing arenas for public assembly, discussion and knowledge production ((within London?)). We believe this manifests in various ways. We see that ..... often conform to traditional power dynamics to some degree; whether they are facilitated by an institution, modelled on a teacher / learner format or .....

*[The Nature of caring and support The possibilities for the facilitation of care What constitutes an act of care. Diagnosis*

### **Notes:**

*Abnormalities in the human condition. Social Condition Transcending the perception of care as something that is reactionary in relation to one's physical condition but also the social and emotional condition.*

*This abnormality being a symptom of society and its adverse effects.*

*These symptoms being signs that there are things that should not be.*

*caring in relation to reversing the narrative]*

*[ caring - the idea as a society, especially with the idea of privilege - some people are naturally cared for, rather than requiring energy or something which is sought out or actively supplied*

*Care is not naturally occurring, it comes from experiences*

*Relatability / familiarity in the act of care*

*What constitutes an act of care?*

*What is the nature of caring? What counts as care? Why is it so important today?*

*Give & take within caring - something not which is just done but something which is accepted - something fuelled by experience*

*relatability in relation to care. Intimacy in relation to care. Acts of care which do not actually constitute caring.] The constitution and nature of care depending on one's privilege.*

*[Engage with strangers and others (requires intervention) The agency of these conversations in relation to movements, groupings, rebellions, the cause of changing, commonality, rallying. Is essential in a way if we look at other forms of this e.g. crowd funding, Brexit rallies. It's an*

*urgent act.*

[Coming from an institution who's reality/perception of care is conflicted (or conflicting) we nevertheless regardless feel that the show's subjectivity is necessary within the public sphere surrounding this space

*Is naturally occurring (but not happening as often as it used to. TEA. A western world thing? Larger city thing. Society nowadays.)*

*There has to be a reason for us to assemble. But why? Engaging with those around us. Giving back assembly the autonomy it once had?]*

The shifting nature of care within a rapidly transforming society. Is the nature of care changing in the increasingly fast paced society we live in? What do we prioritise

Random / strangers? Unified in their? agenda? Scramble?

What can emerge?

The Generational nature of the show [work would be produced as a part of the show] was inspired by Adam Farrah discussion of "momentations". It aligned well with out non-hierarchical approach to exhibition making as Assembly Point was co-curated between 5 individuals including me.

*" Neither solo or group show, it signifies a gathering, a congregation of momentations. Bringing together works that call out with intersecting desires, motives and expression, to perhaps prop each other in conversation, energy or the like.*

*An art without an ego driven authority of permanence – but concerned more so with a needed moment of expression or working through things. A momentation disidentifies and sits elsewhere between or perhaps away from the false binary or hierarchy of importance in relation to the art object per say vs traditional performative or ephemeral concept type art? (not sure if that makes much sense to me but hey, I said it)..."*