

PORTFOLIO

Amitesh Grover | Arnika Ahldag

Grover & Ahldag are based in New Delhi, India and make context driven performance and art-based projects.

Their practice spans gatherings-as-performance, interactive-gaming, digital art & installations, documentary-stagings, and occupational realism; essentially their practice explores the meaning and threshold of performativity in a highly performative world. Recent projects include ENCOUNTER 6134 (Philosophy in Crisis, 2014), DOWNTIME (Sleep as Performance, 2014), and NOTES ON MOURNING (Mourning as Practice, 2015). They have created projects investigating work-as performance and have inquired into the changing notions of profession and labour, the transactional value of work, situational implementations of work, and the new emerging figure of the worker. They remain interested in the emergence of new (and often informal) work-force, as also in forms of work that become extinct and disappear. Through these projects, they reflect upon how value gets generated in a market, and on notions of use and uselessness.

They experiment with different forms of collaborations with 'experts of the everyday' and specialists (philosophers, scientists, historians, coders, stock-brokers, hackers et al). These projects are based on research, during which they produce texts, objects, images, audio and video documents. They activate archives, and are currently evolving a studio practice based on the idea of 'Performapedia' (how to build experiential archives). Performapedia is an attempt to find new ways of building archives that can contain (often local) knowledge, and explore how this form of archive can remain open, interactive, and mobile, so it may circulate, get exhibited and achieve different forms, different purposes, and multiple access points. Their work has received acclaim both in performance and visual art, and he has received numerous awards and residencies.

BRIEF ABOUT THE DUO

Amitesh Grover holds the post of Assistant Professor at National School of Drama, India, and leads a course in Interactive Art, Arts & Design Department, Shiv Nadar University, India.

Arnika Ahldag is a visual arts researcher from Germany and PhD candidate at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, with a special interest in exhibition histories and archives, as well as Art and Labor in India. Outside of her academic efforts she works in the field of performance art, often as a researcher or dramaturg.