

Art Party: Anthologies Assembly Manifesto



Image: Eastman, P. D. (Philip D.), author. (1961). *Go, dog, go!* (New York, NY: Beginner Books)

The Anthologies Assembly is where the *cool kids* of academia and the avant-garde artists of the world come together for a week of creative exploration. As a student-guided assembly, this isn't your typical stuffy academic affair. No, it's more like a bohemian jam session where ideas flow freely and boundaries blur. Where you can meet people you may have seen in a digital realm, but now you can touch them (- with consent, of course!)

Think of it as an ***art party*** where theories mingle with paintbrushes (and theorists with painters), and narratives dance alongside sculptures (and dancers, sculptors - and so on).

"Practice-based research is an original investigation undertaken in order to gain new knowledge partly by means of practice and the outcomes of that practice" (Loveless 2019). Which provides, "permission to know from elsewhere," (Rogoff 2021). It's a place where you're

encouraged to dispense with rigid academic silos and binaries, to go with the flow, and to *know from elsewhere*.

We acknowledge the effects of institutionalization on our artmaking and knowledge creation, and assemble within a collective spirit to critique and reflect on our practices together.

We exercise critique as a mutually agreed upon method of respectful and productive question-based dialogue.

We desire to create the structures within which we become accomplished professionals, not succeed within existing structures which marginalize, exploit, or oppress. This is a space of intention and mutual support towards articulating our practices more care-fully and purpose-fully; a space for encounters.

Come with questions about your own research and practice, not answers. We welcome imperfection, process, experimentation, and work in progress, rather than rigid pedagogies. Each personal hurdle in research and practice has the potential to resonate outwards, to cross imposed boundaries of mediums and methodologies, and to contribute to shared learning and reflection.

We invite intersectionality in all its complexity, making space for pleasure, discomfort, play, and spontaneity. Make things, take things, give things away, trade them, think, talk, listen, or look.

We support an embodied approach that nourishes and allows space for personal needs such as reflection, rest, writing, wandering, shared meals, and pauses for creative inquiry - alongside more conventional structures like panel discussions, presentations, exhibitions, or lectures.

Anthologies Assembly was imagined as a means for working through students' programmatic requests and to respond to past intensives. It is meant to shift with the needs that arise each year. For this first edition, as we work through what this looks like and as an act of openness, all student proposals were generously accepted and given space.

As scholars and artists we may at times have to *perform* academia, but with this assembly we gather together to ask whether we perform it with intentionality, or just because we are conditioned by it to do so. What kind of knowledge can we enact if we are liberated from committees and review boards?

So grab a drink, join the conversation, and let your imagination run wild at Anthologies Assembly. Because this week, knowledge isn't just something you read about in a textbook—it's something you experience firsthand on the dance floor of multi-disciplinary discovery.