

## THE PROVISIONALISTS

The Provisionalist Art Movement was launched in September 2011 through an exhibition at a London gallery, called 'Useless Stuff?' ?

The Provisionalists are motivated by a concern to give dimension to ideas ~~to~~ and facilitate the development of alternative perspectives and better questions.

The priorities of the Provisionalists are summarized in the 26 principles outlined below but the most obvious characteristics are enshrined in the movement's name. The Provisionalists avoid making dogmatic gestures preferring to create hesitant, halting and tentative iterations that are intended to stimulate conversations rather than stand as an end in them.

The Provisionalists are concerned to give dimension to big and little ideas so that they can enable users of their work to actively participate in the construction of a debate a debate. The Provisionalists have resisted limiting their output to a focus that is determined by the established genres that frame our understanding of contemporary art.

The Provisionalists have focused on the production of functional objects, interfaces and environments that are more typically associated with the commercial practiced like architecture and design.

Provisionalist practice is concerned to challenge the norms that limit art to a narrow definition of the word 'function'



The Provisionalists are interested in the role that 'value' plays in the artist's ability to question and disrupt tradition. Through their adoption of a 'one-off' and "very limited batch strategy" the Provisionalists have demonstrated a resistance to the legacy of Fordism.

Giving emphasis to a strategy of making that is driven by origination rather than replication is a costly process that the Provisionalists intend to recoup from discerning investors. They argue that the serious collector provides an important conduit for the spread of ideas by according status to modes of participation that might otherwise be neglected.

Although the Provisionalists set out to challenge the narrow spectrum of possibilities that have emerged from the efficiency driven priorities of industrialization they have deliberately resisted an 're' or 'up-cycling' approach. The Provisionalists believe that limiting the range of functional and aesthetic possibilities that an open approach to material and processes allows encourages users to construct a long-term relationship with the stuff that they buy thus negating the need for replacement based on style obsolescence.

To date the most significant evidence of Provisionalist practice is to be found in the work of Crook and Jones. Their commitment to Provisionalist principles is exemplified by their decision to form a collaborative partnership a deliberate challenge to the tradition of art making as a solitary activity *crookandjones.co.uk*

## Provisionalists Principles:

Provisionalists favour creative collaboration rather than independent practice

Provisionalists begin with ideas and conclude with questions

Provisionalists prioritise art that works over art works

Provisionalists prefer tentative iterations to dogmatic statements

Provisionalists produce objects, interfaces and environments as invitations to the user to engage in embodied participation

Provisionalists provide opportunities for multi-sensory engagement

Provisionalists propose disruption in preference to conformity

Provisionalists advocate fluidity as opposed to stasis

Provisionalists believe that knowledge is a product of active participation

Provisionalists promote humour as a valid mode of developing insight

Provisionalists resist instrumental rationality through the promotion of emotional opportunity

Provisionalists argue that common sense is a bi-product of a life well lived

Provisionalists believe that reality is just one version of an endless range of possibilities

Provisionalists propose that experience is informed by the participant's capacity for fantasy

Provisionalists give priority to the imagination

Provisionalists promote playful participation

Provisionalists give priority to the word 'maybe'

Provisionalists aspire to connect the past and the present and the future

Provisionalists encourage ritual participation

Provisionalists hope to provide opportunities for enchantment to re-enter human experience

Provisionalists believe that art should be full of opportunity for irony, contingency and solidarity

Provisionalists are passionate about metaphors

Provisionalists aspire to give dimension to philosophical concepts

Provisionalists advocate holding positions rather than absolutes

The Provisionalists never knowingly repeat anything

