



Storm protectors, Montreal, 1939

OPERATING MANUAL FOR LIVING IN THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Thursday, February 16th 2017

College Art Association Annual Conference

Panel Discussion

8:30 to 10am

New York Hilton Midtown New York City

Entry with the **conference** ticket

Cabinet

Evening Program

5:30 to 8pm

300 Nevins St Brooklyn, NYC

FREE: RSVP via EVENTBRITE

Info: intheworstcasescenario@gmail.com

Originally produced for wartime civil protection campaigns, the survival manual has evolved over recent decades alongside the escalating need for official disaster management policies. New forms of adventure-seeking and media coverage of global threats have bred an industry-turned-genre. The survival manual embodies a society haunted by potential worst-case scenarios, in which scenario design is becoming a prominent feature of the “safety industry”; from FEMA’s “family disaster plan” to online resources made by so-called “prepping” enthusiasts. Props, prompts and the reassurance of expertise are key to the survival manual’s scenario design. Operating Manual for Living in the Worst-Case Scenario is a collaborative curatorial project comprising a conference panel and a “boot camp” exploring the designed response to risk and disaster through the lens of the survival manual.

Presented at the **CAA Annual Conference**, the panel discussion focuses on how scenario design and behavior regulation are negotiated in the format of the survival manual, considered in an expanded sense. Including artistic and design contributions to the imagination of the worst-case scenario, the panel will explore imaginative strategies for surviving global, interplanetary or mundane worst-case scenarios. Chaired by Emily Candela, Royal College of Art; Maya Oppenheimer, Royal College of Art; Francesca Laura Cavallo, Kent University. The panellists include:

New Survivalism: Reimagining Escape

Jessica Charlesworth, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Visual Standards for Southern California Tsunami Evacuation Information

Claudine Jaenichen, Chapman University

Surviving a Massive Refugee Situation: A Manual for Designers

Kai Wood Mah, Laurentian University; Patrick Lynn Rivers, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
“However hard you try it’s always tomorrow”: Liam Gillick’s “What If? Scenario”
Jadine Collingwood, University of Chicago

Hosted at **Cabinet Magazine**, the evening program explores how we conceive “solutions” and “preparedness” for living in worst-case scenarios. This “boot camp” will include live debates, audio projects, “How To” exercises and a choreography workshop, featuring:

“How To” exercises by **Maya Oppenheimer** and **Afield Studio** (Kai Wood Mah & Patrick Lynn Rivers) presents the audience with brief instructions related to creative and mundane tasks in the face of the “worst-case scenario.”

Survival Hoardings: An Illustrated Tour with **Francesca Laura Cavallo**: an exploration of the survival manual as a literary genre and as a barometer for evidencing socio-cultural and historical awareness of emergencies, imagined threats and magic.

An Audio Guide to Getting Out by **Emily Candela** and Royal College of Art Information Experience Design students, reimagines museum spaces as disaster zones, blending the museum audio guide, podcast and civil defense manual.

Choreographies of Survival with the **School of Apocalypse** facilitated by the “Bodies Intersect Buildings” working group (Tal Beery, Eugenia Manwelyan, Danica Selem) is a workshop exploring how architecture shapes our physical, social, and emotional bodies and behaviors. Through a series of visual tools and prompts, this workshop aims to reclaim our right to move, feel and interact freely in the spaces we inhabit as an essential tactic for 21st-century survival.

Operating Manual is organized by Emily Candela, Francesca Laura Cavallo and Maya Oppenheimer with the support of: Design History Society, Cabinet Magazine, University of Kent, and the School of Apocalypse

Bios:

Afield (Kai Wood Mah & Patrick Lynn Rivers) is a design research practice bringing comparative interdisciplinary perspective to contemporary social issues. The practice is critically informed by the integration of design and social science methodologies that advance research-creation. Projects range from investigations of progressive housing solutions for refugees in South Africa to the adaptive reuse of a shuttered Chicago public school situated within a community impacted by post-industrialism and demographic change.

Emily Candela is a historian of design and science and a broadcaster, who teaches at the Royal College of Art in Information Experience Design and Critical and Historical Studies. She recently made the six-part radio series and podcast, *Atomic Radio*, in association with the Science Museum and Resonance 104.4 FM, exploring intersections of the science of X-ray crystallography, art and design. www.emilycandela.co.uk

Francesca Laura Cavallo is an independent researcher, curator and art critic based in London. She teaches Contemporary Art History at the University of Kent where she is also conducting her PHD on the aesthetics of risk, focusing on pre-disaster scenarios and the proximity between risk assessments, fiction writing and art. She curated the exhibition *Risk* at Turner Contemporary, and was part of the *Organising Disaster* research project at Goldsmith College (ERC funded). She regularly writes for Camera Austria International among other publications. www.francescalauracavallo.com

Maya Rae Oppenheimer’s work combines design, research, writing, history and critical pedagogy: her expertise focuses on the influence of materials, instruments, researcher intent and experiment methodologies on the outcomes of social psychology and behavior studies that inform design decisions. She teaches across the School of Humanities, Royal College of Art, and addresses critical and ethical interdisciplinary design themes in both academic and public forums. www.mayaoppenheimer.org

School of Apocalypse examines connections between creative practice and notions of survival. In light of growing cultural, ecological and technological phenomena that challenge basic assumptions about human existence, the SoA offers courses and programming that seek to develop new modes of inquiry and apply broader levels of experience to intellectual investigation. www.pioneerworks.org/soa/ - faculty

cabinet

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