

# *In-Habit.*

## ***In Habit – Cultural Exchange and community – A Manifesto about how we work – something akin to a code of practice or guidelines.***

1. Ours is a process of continual negotiation where our actions and those of the curators, artists, institutions and community members with whom we work need to be understood in relation to each other.
2. At the same time, through our practice, we question and challenge mainstream art institutions and their representatives who sustain dominant cultural agendas.
3. We build mechanisms for reciprocity in exchange and therefore for learning. Ours is an equitable process of exchange and mutual education where our presuppositions (about each other and community members and their specific social, cultural and political issues) are challenged and expanded through our work.
4. Our work is an important catalyst for the development of new alliances and coalitions however temporary.
5. Each interaction with community members is a specific constellation of difference that requires its own carefully considered response. Each needs to be examined in its particular and unique context.

### **What we are not**

1. We are not delegates representing or signifying the community groups with whom we work.
2. We are not vehicles for an unmediated expressivity on the part of a given community.
3. We are not here to appropriate a community for the consolidation of any personal professional agenda.
4. We do not represent a particular category of community artist nor unquestioningly undertake, as artists, that which an institution would have us represent.
5. We do not see community groups as passive silent entities amongst and upon whom artists perform transformative magic.

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