

@.ac Biography

@.ac is an artist collective without any permanent membership, formed in response to the Browne Review of 2010. Our project, The Precarious University, is an ongoing and evolving social sculpture, realised through workshops, seminars, exhibitions and performances, established as a critical response to the financialization and commodification of higher education and its 'pedagogy of debt'. It opposes the dominant-hegemonic consumer-provider model, where UK students exit with increasingly devalued degrees and a £45k personal debt, and promotes an alternative vision of education through a series of critico-creative educational interventions that contest antagonisms between public and private spheres. These interventions open-up free and democratic educational spaces, offering a model of pedagogy as both art and resistance. We have previously exhibited at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Baltic in Gateshead, Chorlton Arts Festival in Manchester and The Lanchester Gallery at Coventry University. Messy Democracy, the project we are discussing today, opens April in Hanover Project at University of Central Lancashire, Preston. We have projects forthcoming in 2018 at The Whitworth Gallery in Manchester, Long Division Festival in Wakefield, and as part of the 15th ELIA Biennial Conference in Rotterdam.