



**Collective Art Activism:  
A Lecture and Workshop on  
Tactics, Models, and Imaginative Possibilities**  
NYU Barney Buildin #6E: 24 Stuyvesant Street, NY, NY 10003  
Gregory Sholette - April 4 2013: 2:30 – 6:30 PM

Why is it that artists' collectives typically focused on political activism have emerged in such numbers over the past few years? What are the specific advantages to working in a group context, but also what are the disadvantages? How does the art world (both local and global) perceive the work made by activists, informal groups, collaborations, and collectives? What is the difference between a collective as opposed to an art's organization? Artist, writer, and activist Gregory Sholette will address these questions in a lecture presentation before leading a workshop on the theory and practice of contemporary collectivism in which participants engage in activities focused on collective problem solving while debating the practical and aesthetic issues related to civil disobedience and tactical media. Drawing on several decades of cultural organizing in New York City participants will seek to develop alternative models for how artists can work together, make decisions, avoid conflicts, engage in social change, and sustain their activities over time.

- 2:30 – 2:45      Introductions
- 2:45 – 3:45      Power Point presentation on collectivism & contemporary art with group discussion.
- 3:45              Short break: 15 minutes
- 4:00 - 4:30      Split up into smaller focus groups to discuss aspects of collective experience.
- 4:30 - 5:15      Regroup and present outcomes of focus group discussion sharing experiences.
- 5:15              Longer break: 25 minutes.
- 5:40 - 6:00      Return to groups for collective problem solving: “disappear the pineapple.”
- 6:00 - 6:30      Wrap up of workshop and reflections.

**Gregory Sholette** is a New York-based artist, writer, and founding member of the artist collectives *Political Art Documentation/Distribution* (PAD/D: 1980-1988), and *REPOhistory* (1989-2000). His publications include *Dark Matter: Art and Politics in an Age of Enterprise Culture* (Pluto Press, 2011); *Collectivism After Modernism: The Art of Social Imagination after 1945* (with Blake Stimson, 2006); and *The Interventionists: A Users Manual for the Creative Disruption of Everyday Life* (with Nato Thompson, 2004). He recently installed the project *15 Islands for Robert Moses* at the Queens Museum of Art, and has co-curated the exhibition *It's The Political Economy, Stupid* with Oliver Ressler in order to address art, theory, and the financial crisis. A book about this project with writings by Judith Butler, Brian Holmes, and Slavoj Žižek among others will appear in early 2013 from Pluto Press. <http://gregorysholette.com> <http://darkmatterarchives.net>