

INSTITUTE OF CARE -- Proposal for a Money Art Project

We acknowledge our debt to the Maintenance Manifesto by Mierle Laderman Ukeles from 1969. This document is inspired by it and follows its structure.

I. Money Mediates Care and Carelessness:

- A. Money is not a vice. Care is not a priceless, moralistic virtue.
- B. Care is a part of our physical and material being. Take back your prayers. It is immoral to deny that we are cultural and physical beings with needs to be met.

Money pays rent. Money gets security and comfort. Money gets resources. Money allows mobility. Denying money that pays rent, gets security and resources, and allows mobility denies care.

- C. Fuck altruism. Fuck GoFundMe. Fuck 'Friends and Family'. Money is a right, and rights are a democratic question.

Money is a relationship, and relationship is politics. Money is a democratic project.

Money is a token of value that allows one to have a claim in society. Money claims care.

- D. Care is limitless. To care is to create limitless possibilities.

Care work is not a bullshit job. Care is creative work. The more we care, the less bullshit we give each other. Care takes away the bullshit so society can mean something. Care is about us in the future. Acknowledge that care contributes to society. Like accounting can contribute to society. We have infinite human resources. Give us the money.

Or let us create it.

- E. Proposal for "The Institute of Care" (IoC)

We will establish a Care Currency, and an institution that governs and administers it: The Institute of Care. The IoC's care currency will make money current, by ensuring that money moves through the world for care, and with care.

II. THE MONEY ART PROJECT:

Three Parts: Personal, Cultural, and Institutional.

- A. Personal Part: Care is when I/You want someone or something to do well. Care exists because of expectations and because there are others. Absence of care is negligence.

Expectations are cultivated by culture.

We grow up depending on care of others: changing diapers, wrapping in blankets, crossing street, teaching, guarding. Personal independence is a myth that we internalize when we stop physically depending on others as we grow up. Then we start to mate and reproduce, hoping our children will take care of us when we get old. Or if your children won't take care of you, then work hard so you can buy care when you get old. And hope you don't end up in a senior home where they ration diapers and blankets to increase profit.

- B. Cultural:

Money is a relationship; relationships are culture and politics.

Money is a cultural product. Money makes things happen when there are no personal favours. It allows for a world beyond the personal. It allows new relationships to be built with people you don't know, however utilitarian this sounds. Money is a social contract. Social is cultural, and cultures are made of decisions. Artists make culture-changing decisions as their occupation.

"Everything I say is Art is Art. Everything I do is Art is Art. 'We have no Art, we try to do everything well'."(Ukeles, Manifesto! Maintenance Art - Proposal for an Exhibition)

We will do money, and we will do it well.

- C. Institutional:

Currencies are current because they are widely accepted. Institutions can guarantee their acceptance.

The state is the biggest collective we have and its institution is the government. The government has a responsibility to care. It has the ability to care. The Institute of Care is not to absolve the government of its responsibility.

