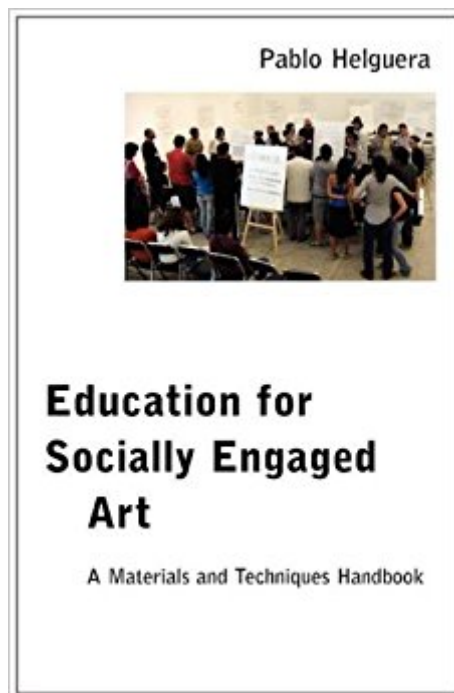




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Education For Socially Engaged Art: A Materials And Techniques Handbook



Synopsis

"For too long Social Practice has been the notoriously flimsy flipside of market-based contemporary art: a world of hand-wringing practitioners easily satisfied with the feeling of 'doing good' in a community, and unaware that their quasi-activist, anti-formalist positions in fact have a long artistic heritage and can be critically dissected using the tools of art and theatre history. Helguera's spunky primer promises to offer a much-needed critical compass for those adrift in the expanded social field." -Claire Bishop, Professor of Contemporary Art and Exhibition History, CUNY, and author of *Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship* "This is an extremely timely and thoughtful reference book. Drawn from empirical and extensive experience and research, it provides a curriculum and framework for thinking about the complexity of socially engaged practices. Locating the methodologies of this work in between disciplines, Helguera draws on histories of performance, pedagogy, sociology, ethnography, linguistics, community and public practices. Rather than propose a system he exposes the temporalities necessary to make these situations possible and resonant. This is a tool that will allow us to consider the difficulties of making socially engaged art and move closer to finding a language through which we can represent and discuss its impact." -Sally Tallant, Artistic Director, Liverpool Biennial "Helguera has produced a highly readable book that absolutely needs to be in the back pocket of anyone interested in teaching or learning about socially engaged art" -Tom Finkelpearl, Director of the Queens Museum, New York, and author of *Dialogues in Public Art*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book interested me because it divides art from social work deftly; from the perspective of a person deeply invested in both fields and disinclined to think that if you are an artist opening a soup kitchen, the soup kitchen becomes art.

As someone who earned his MFA through a Painting and Drawing track and then jumped into socially engaged art post-grad school, this book has definitely elucidated many of the situations I'm experiencing in attempting to create sincere, community centered engagement with the schools I work with. Thank you to Pablo for writing this short but concise read on this realm of artistic production.

Just came back from "SOC(I)AL: How does Socially Engaged Art Happen in LA?" @ LACE, one of the series of round table discussions exploring socially engaged art in Southern California. On this occasion participants broke into groups to discuss topics inspired by a chapter of this book. It felt like grad school all over again, made me wish we had resources like this primer when I was in school a little over a decade ago. I am very jealous of those who had the benefit of seminars by Pablo Helguera and glad he made this primer public for the rest of us who were not as fortunate.

This is an extremely smart and thoughtful exploration of socially engaged art. Helguera manages to be both incredibly practical and impressively learned in his approach. As a practitioner, it spoke to many of the issues and questions that I've grappled with. It's also very clear, concise, and compelling--I read it in one sitting! It's the book I've been hoping someone would write about the subject...

This handy little introduction is a great foray into the genre. Helguera's language is approachable, the format's concise, and the examples he uses are relevant and easily accessible via other media. Possibly of importance is that this is a primer and not necessarily a comprehensive handbook--Helguera doesn't address such issues as securing a venue or funding for projects; however, the book does an excellent job of defining the genre and highlighting fundamental concerns, such as time constrictions and desired degree of participation.

A strong blend of the practice and place of socially engaged art in community art and art education. It has the ring of truth.

The format of the book and the content are well thought through, candid and and meaningful to anyone who cares at all about the construction of community with all its contradiction and ambiguities in tact. I am exceedingly grateful that the aesthetic aspects are are not backgrounded by the intentions to sustain, reflect and build community....

how refreshing to find a book dedicated to exploring the vital concept of arts in education during these 'no budget for essentials' days...this is a great summary of a significant part of our nations future..hooray for for turning me on to it...thanks

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