

# CURATORIAL READING GROUP

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## OUT OF THE LIBRARY

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### READING LISTS

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AA Bronson & Gareth Long

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## LIBRARY GUIDE

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PUBLICS

LIBRARY

PUBLICS is a curatorial and contemporary art commissioning agency with a dedicated library, exhibition and event space and reading room in Vallila, Helsinki. The organisation explores an institutional 'work together' model with multiple overlapping objectives, thematic strands and collaborations. The space functions as a public event space, with a library of 8000+ publications.

PUBLICS hosts reading groups, talks, events, exhibitions and performances in collaboration with other partners in the city, nationally and internationally. PUBLICS is a peer-to-peer educational platform and a critical agency where artists, curators, researchers, students, communities and professionals are invited to engage with social issues, as well as gain and share knowledge through various discourses. At PUBLICS, contemporary art production and discursive practices are in constant dialogue through multiple strands. Taking the form of PUBLICS Library and its public program of Talks, Events and Commissions, these overlapping strands are organised alongside PUBLICS Youth program, placing art education, critical research and publicness at the core of curatorial practice.

## PUBLICS LIBRARY AS CURATORIAL PRACTICE

↳ PUBLICS takes the Library as one starting point for Curatorial Thinking. PUBLICS thinks with the Library, with its readers, its guests.

Thinking can begin with one book, but then on to another, and another, a different kind of conversation takes place.

Having books side by side is more than the sum of their parts; it's being in contradiction to one another; it's being plural. Arranging things together and working in groups is a productive form of collaboration.

PUBLICS Methodology and Curatorial Thinking (re-)imagines PUBLICS Library:

Library as collection of bodies,  
books, words, ideas

Library as process

Library as lived time and space,  
sometimes in between

Library as past, present, and future publics

Library as form and content

Library as resource

Library as reference

Library as space for gathering, participating,  
and producing

Library as conversation

Library as setting for events, exhibitions,  
interventions, and art making

Library as public practice

Library as listening and reading,  
and writing

Library as slow programming

Library as body practice

Library as its people

Library as remembering;  
as collective memories,

Library as traces, remainders, reminders

Library as educational;  
as learning,  
as counter-knowledge

Library as institution;  
as instituting

Library as organising and organisational  
structure

Library as map

Library as work-together model

Library as host and guest

Library as parahosting

Library as shared and sharing

Library as publisher and distributor

Library as curator and commissioner

Library as making research public in public

Library as resistance

## WHAT IS PUBLICS LIBRARY?

↳ PUBLICS Library is a public research space dedicated to critical social thinking, learning and education – a place for coming together, discussing, reading and thinking about contemporary art and its many publics. The library is dedicated to representing and challenging the many concepts, theories and practices of curating contemporary art and publicness.

PUBLICS Library is the largest dedicated contemporary art curatorial library in Finland and the Nordic Region, housing the most important books and catalogues related to contemporary art curating since the 1960s as well as rare and out-of-print content, with purchases from and donations by some of the leading figures of contemporary art over the last thirty years.

As our program changes with every season, we organise and host book launches, lectures, talks, reading groups, presentations, symposiums and other publication-related events and exhibitions with local and international guests.

In 2024 PUBLICS launched The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, a new centre in the Nordic and Baltic region focusing on the significance of past and present



thinking, knowledge, and critique within practices of the curatorial.

With The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, PUBLICS provides a critical framework to engage different levels of expertise and local groups in the region and internationally, making visible, developing, and disseminating critical knowledge of curatorial practices with a wide range of institutions and actors.

Through The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, PUBLICS co-curates a program of archival exhibitions, listening sessions, and the Curatorial Reading Group. The aim of the centre is to provide a platform for local curators and art professionals to interact with international colleagues who have contributed to the evolution of innovative curatorial practices of the last sixty years or so.

Each session of the Curatorial Reading Group will be accompanied by an exhibition at PUBLICS of reading and archival material related to our pioneering guests. The aim of this group is to encourage and facilitate interactions between local and international art professionals and curators.

PUBLICS Library is structured around the following 16 categories:

- P1 PHILOSOPHY
- P2 ART THEORY
- P3 PUBLIC ART
- P4 CURATORIAL
- P5 GROUP SHOWS
- P6 ART WRITING
- P7 BIENNIALS
- P8 SOLO SHOWS
- P9 BOOK SERIES
- P10 SMALL
- P11 EDUCATION
- P12 NEW
- P13 ARCHIVE
- P14 MAGAZINES
- P15 SOUND
- P16 FOREIGN LANGUAGE



## OUT OF THE LIBRARY

↳ Every now and then we bring attention to some of the Library contents, and focus upon some key topics and thematics. Out of the Library lists are compiled by invited guests, artists, curators, PUBLICS staff and highlight publications under selected subjects. The lists offer a wide range of materials for study and research and serve as thematic guides to our Library collection.

Out of the Library lists can be found online and books are available to browse on site at PUBLICS. As the program keeps on growing, please find a list:

- Maaretta Jaukkuri & Tominga O'Donnell
- Maria Lind & Martí Manen
- Brian Dillon
- Maria Fusco
- AA Bronson & Gareth Long
  
- Shimmer & Gordon Hall
- Black Studies
- Education
- 2084
- The Publishing Reader
- Nomadism
- Collaborative Articulations
- Geographies of Resistance
- WITH Askeaton Contemporary Arts



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Curatorial Reading Group:  
AA Bronson & Gareth Long  
28 November, 2024

AA BRONSON & GARETH LONG  
SUGGESTED READING

- General Idea, 'This is the story of General Idea' in *FILE Magazine, Glamour, Volume 3, No. 1, Fall 1975*  
(Art Official Inc., Canada, 1975)
- General Idea, 'Mondo Cane Kama Sutra', in *FILE Magazine, Volume 5, No. 4, 1983*  
(Art Official Inc., Canada, 1983)
- Bronson, AA, 'The Humiliation of the Bureaucrat', p. 29-37, in *Museums by Artists*  
(Art Metropole, Canada, 1983)
- Bronson, AA, 'The Transfiguration of the Bureaucrat', p. 25-47 in *Institutions by Artists: Volume One*  
(Phillip and the Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres, Canada, 2012)
- Long, Gareth, 'Widening Concentric Circles', p. 136-145, in *Distributed*  
(Open Editions, United Kingdom, 2018)

BOOKS EDITED, CO-EDITED OR WRITTEN  
BY AA BRONSON IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

- Bronson, AA, *AA Bronson's House of Shame*  
(Edition Patrick Frey, Switzerland, 2021)
- Bronson, AA, Miller, Ben, *A Public Apology to Siksika Nation*  
(Mitchell-Innes & Nash, United States, 2020)

- Aarons, Philip, Bronson, AA, eds., *Queer Zines 2*  
(Printed Matter, United States, 2014)
- Bronson, AA, Hobbs, Peter, *Queer Spirits*  
(Creative Time, United States, 2011)
- Aarons, Philip, Bronson, AA, eds., *Queer Zines*  
(Printed Matter, United States, 2008)
- Bronson, AA, Vanbelleghem, Kurt, ed., *Tick-Tock*  
(Imschoot, uitgevers, Belgium, 2006)
- Bronson, AA, *The Quick and the Dead*  
(Power Plant, Canada, 2003)
- Bronson, AA, *Mirror Mirror*  
(List Visual Arts Center, United States, 2002)
- Bronson, AA, *Negative Thoughts*  
(Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, United States, 2001)
- Bronson, AA, *AA BRONSON 1969-2000: 5.10-26.11.2000*  
(Secession, Austria, 2000)
- Bronson, AA, *From Sea to Shining Sea*  
(Power Plant, Canada, 1987)

BOOKS WITH CONTRIBUTION  
BY AA BRONSON IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

- Getsy, David John, ed., *Queer: Documents of Contemporary Art*  
(The MIT Press, United States, 2016)
- Steeds, Lucy, ed., *Exhibition: Documents of Contemporary Art*  
(The MIT Press, United States, 2014)
- Detterer, Gabriele, Nannucci, Maurizio, eds., *Artist-Run Spaces: Nonprofit Collective Organizations in the 1960s and 1970s*  
(JRP/Ringier, Switzerland, 2012)
- Beasley, Mark, Pasternak, Anne, *A Guide to This World & Nearer Ones*  
(Creative Time Books, United States, 2009)
- Ecole du Magasin, ed., *Aids Riot, New York, 1987-1994, Collectif d'Artistes Face Au Sida = Artist Collectives against Aids*  
(Magasin, France, 2003)

GENERAL IDEA PUBLICATIONS  
IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

- General Idea, *A Rare Gift of the Tropics*  
(Nieves, Switzerland, 2023)
- Bronson, AA, Welch, Adam, eds., *General Idea*  
(JRP Editions, Switzerland, 2022)
- Bovier, Lionel, Gilman, Claire, eds.,

*Ecce Homo: General Idea Drawings, 1985-1993*  
(JRP Editions, Switzerland, 2022)

→ Bronson, AA, Obrist, Hans Ulrich, *Ziggurat: General Idea 1968-1994*  
(Mitchell-Innes & Nash, United States, 2017)

→ Bonnet, Frédéric, ed., *Haute Culture: General Idea: A Retrospective, 1969-1994*  
(JRP/Ringier, Switzerland, 2016)

→ Bordowitz, Gregg, *General Idea: Imagevirus*  
(Afterall Books, United States, 2010)

→ General Idea, Fischer, Barbara, *General Idea Editions: 1967-1995*  
(Blackwood Gallery, Canada, 2003)

→ Bayer, Fern; Ritchie, Christina, eds., *The Search for the Spirit: General Idea 1968-1975*  
(Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada, 1997)

→ General Idea, *Fin de SièCle*  
(Power Plant, Canada, 1992)

→ General Idea, *Pharmacopia*  
(Generalitat de Catalunya, Departament de Cultura, 1992)

→ FILE Magazine, *Retrospective Issue 1968-1984*, 1984  
(Art Official Inc., Canada, 1984)

→ FILE Magazine, *Glamour Issue*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1975  
(Art Official Inc., Canada, 1975)

→ *The 1984 Miss General Idea Pavillion*, No. 101, 1973

→ General Idea, *Manipulating the Self*  
(Coach House Press, Canada, 1971)

BOOKS WITH CONTRIBUTION OR MENTION  
OF GENERAL IDEA IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

→ Pichler, Michalis, ed., *Publishing Manifestos: An International Anthology from Artists and Writers*  
(The MIT Press, United States, 2019)

→ Monk, Philip, *Glamour Is Theft: A User's Guide to General Idea, 1969-1978*  
(The Art Gallery of York University, Canada, 2012)

→ Arnold, Grant, Henry, Karen, eds., *Traffic: Conceptual Art in Canada, 1965-1980*  
(Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada, 2012)

→ Allen, Gwen, *Artists' Magazines: An Alternative Space for Art*  
(The MIT Press, United States, 2011)

→ Brand, Victor, *In Numbers: Serial Publications by Artists Since 1955*  
(PPP Editions, Switzerland, 2009)

BOOKS BY, WITH CONTRIBUTION OR MENTION  
OF ART METROPOLE IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

- Shaughnessy, Jonathan, Scott, Kitty, eds.,  
*Art Metropole: The Top 100*  
(National Gallery of Canada, Canada, 2006)
- Herrmann, Matthias, ed., *Artists' Books  
Revisited*  
(Art Metropole, Canada, 2005)

BOOKS BY, WITH CONTRIBUTION OR MENTION  
OF GARETH LONG IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

- Blamey, David, ed., *Distributed*  
(Open Editions, United Kingdom, 2018)
- Blamey, David, ed., *Specialism*  
(Open Editions, United Kingdom, 2016)
- Chicago, Judy, *Politics of Study*  
(Open Editions, United Kingdom, 2015)
- Long, Gareth, Schafhausen, Nicolaus eds.,  
*Tony Conrad: Two Degrees of Separation = Über  
Zwei Ecken*  
(Sternberg Press, Germany, 2015)
- Gallagher, Mike, Long, Gareth,  
*The Temptation of AA Bronson*  
(Witte de With Centre for Contemporary Art,  
Netherlands, 2013)
- Long, Gareth, *Never Odd or Even*  
(Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Canada, 2012)
- Long, Gareth, Sullivan, Derek, *The  
Illustrated Dictionary of Received Ideas*  
(Artexxe Editions, Canada, 2010)
- O'Brien, Paddy, ed., *Gareth Long: Second,  
Third, Fourth*  
(Oakville Galleries, Canada, 2008)

AA BRONSON

AA Bronson lives and works in Toronto and Berlin. In 1969 he formed the artists' group General Idea with Felix Partz and Jorge Zontal. For the next 25 years they produced the living artwork of being together, undertaking over 100 solo exhibitions, and countless group shows and temporary public art projects. They were known for their magazine FILE (1972-1989), their unrelenting production of low-cost multiples, and their early involvement in punk, queer theory, and AIDS activism.

In 1974 they founded Art Metropole, Toronto, a distribution center and archive for artists' books, audio, video, and multiples, which they conceived as the shop and archive for their Gesamtkunstwerk: The 1984 Miss General Idea Pavillion, a kind of meta-museum. From 1987 through 1994, they focused their work on the subject of AIDS.

Since his partners died in 1994, AA has worked and exhibited as a solo artist, often collaborating with younger generations, most provocatively in his performance series Invocation of the Queer Spirits. From 2004 to 2010 he was the Director of Printed Matter, Inc. in New York City. In 2009 he founded the Institute for Art, Religion, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. In 2013 he was the founding Director of Printed Matter's LA Art Book Fair.

GARETH LONG

Gareth Long is an artist whose diverse artistic practice unifies around a range of recurring motifs; repetition, seriality, amateurism, translation, collaboration, pedagogy, knowledge transmission, and the retelling of narratives. Often, this has seen him working across the converging roles of artist, curator, archivist, editor, educator, and student, as he has sought to further complicate notions of artistic creation and production. These themes are both a central thematic concern and a method in the production of the work.

Long is currently the Program Director of the Visual Studies department at the University of Toronto where he is also an Assistant Professor. He has previously taught in numerous Universities in North America, the UK, and Europe. He holds an honours BA in Visual Studies and Classical Civilizations (2003) from the University of Toronto, and a MFA in Sculpture (2007) from Yale University. His work has been shown at numerous galleries and institutions worldwide.

NOTES

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PHOTO CREDITS  
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