

UN-PUBLISH: OUTSOURCED

A two-part exhibition project organised by or-bits.com for Banner Repeater's serial publication UN-PUBLISH.

Through presenting two consecutive solo projects by graphic designer/artist Tara Kelton and co-director of Museum of Vestigial Desire, Prayas Abhinav, UN-PUBLISH: OUTSOURCED explores the notion of outsourcing in its relationship with the users' cultures and logics emerging from communicating through web-based services and online platforms. With our day-to-day collecting of records and information we regularly outsource services online, from ready-to-use display platforms to distributive tools, usually abandoning ourselves to what these services offer us; behaving according to their terms and conditions with regards to forms of engagement and modes of sociality. These behavioural patterns are often determined by the service providers' choices, who, via anticipating modes of interpretation and logics create web architectures which are often promoted as platforms for global sociality with idea(s) of universal consumption, productivity and communication. However, these beliefs of universality and globalism increasingly collide not only with the control effects of the interfaces we quotidianly adopt, but also with the nationalisation and going-local of internet governance, which, similarly to the service providers, is shifting its focus towards putting into place laws that are tailored to the specificity of national socio-cultural and linguistic circumstances. Contributing to Banner Repeater's UN-PUBLISH serial publication, and in conjunction with the multiple modes of dissemination of artworks that Banner Repeater offers, such as free distribution of artists' publications from the reading room and public space of Platform I at Hackney Downs rail station in London, Kelton and Abhinav have developed two new bodies of work to be experienced from different locations: Banner Repeater, the UN-PUBLISH publication and or-bits.com.

Part two:

***Museum of Vestigial Desire* by Prayas Abhinav**

PV Friday 18 October 2013, 6 - 8:30pm

with a performance on the idea of *Self* by Prayas Abhinav; at Banner Repeater, **7:30pm**

Exhibition continues 19 October to 17 November 2013 at Banner Repeater, UN-PUBLISH paper 2.05 and or-bits.com.

The *Museum of Vestigial Desire* is an online platform funded and co-directed by Prayas Abhinav in collaboration with Alishan Shahibaug. The *Museum* is a textual presence, a publishing entity which seeks to enable access to residual particles of human desire which have been cached at remote sites and are made available locally via software on a web browser. Its function is that of a portal which enshrines these fragments of desire in language, thereby confronting the contemporary culture of the visual which continuously shapes our forms of communication, and thus our drives and the manifestations of our selves.

In a time when the ever-changing aggregations of images created by corporations are incessantly distributed and mediated by technological devices, the *Museum of Vestigial Desire* asks its audience to take a step back and replace the act of envisioning through images with that of seeing through reading; questioning our assumptions about the faculty of vision. For *UN-PUBLISHED: OUTSOURCED*, the *Museum of Vestigial Desire*, maintaining its original essence as a feed of text, will invite the viewer to break with the current ever-morphing flux of cultural material and instead to sit and read, to stop and listen.

As a guest presence inhabiting different contexts of display - the project space at Banner Repeater, the UN-PUBLISH

2.05 publication and or-bits.com - the *Museum* will speculate upon a future age in which there might be “nothing to show, nothing to see and nothing to disclose”. It will perform itself by enacting a new episode of browsing activity, offering a reading experience of its published books, journals and videos. This new episode of browsing, as a whole, will propose reflections upon the ways in which “reading without seeing” might materialise and potential modes of being without being seen; it will disclose a system constructed by the museum's directors by performing a process of cultural analyses upon human desires. This system, as an interconnected display, might then reveal how human desires are often formed around the false emotions generated by the visually-driven and automated interactions which are so common in our technologically-driven society. Desires and drives will be stripped down to their essence through language, which is employed here as a possible vehicle to awaken real emotions.

During the exhibition, Prayas Abhinav will present a series of live talks on or-bits.com, from Saturday 19 October to Saturday 26 October 2013. The talks will take place at the Banner Repeater project space and both the online audience and gallery visitors will be able to engage with Abhinav. Talks will be scheduled as follows:

Saturday 19 October; 2pm: *SOURCE*

Sunday 20 October; 2pm: *CHANNEL*

Tuesday 22 October; 10am: *HOLOGRAM*

Wednesday 23 October; 10am: *ORIENTATION*

Thursday 24 October; 10am: *IDENTIFIER*

Friday 25 October; 2pm: *PACKAGING*

Saturday 26 October; 2pm: *DISTRIBUTION*

on www.or-bits.com/outsourced.php and at Banner Repeater project space.

(Previously on show) Part one:

KARIZMA BY TARA KELTON, 14 September - 13 October 2013 at Banner Repeater project space and reading room, UN-PUBLISH paper 2.04 and or-bits.com

Forthcoming exhibition event:

Into Practice Book Sprint, Saturday 16 November 2013, 10am-5pm.

Into Practice, a collective of UK-based artists, curators and researchers that exists to support professional practice within the field of contemporary art and evolving technology, will organise a one-day Book Sprint exploring the themes of UN-PUBLISHED: OUTSOURCED. Distributed participants from within and outside the art ecology will be invited to contribute, either at Banner Repeater or remotely, their inside practical knowledge to the book. Taking many forms, from diagrams to diaristic writing and from visuals to code, the book will come together by the closing of the event which will also be open to Banner Repeater's audience. The book as event and the event as the book.

Banner Repeater

Platform 1, Hackney Downs Network Rail

Dalston Lane, London, E8 1LA

Opening times: 8 - 11 am, Tue to Thu; 6 - 8pm Fri; 12 - 6pm Sat and Sun



or-bits.com

This project is supported by Banner Repeater with funding by Arts Council England.

Notes to the editors:

Prayas Abhinav is a writer, occasional artist and teacher. He lives with his family in Bangalore and Ahmedabad. In the last few years he has worked on numerous pieces of speculative fiction, software, games, interactive installations, public interventions and curatorial projects. He is interested in politics, pedagogy and the interaction of the humanities and the digital. He contributes to research and projects at northeastwestsouth (n.e.w.s) (Amsterdam, NL). He has conducted workshops at Center for Environmental Planning Technology (CEPT) (Ahmedabad) and Dutch Art Institute (Arnhem, NL). In the past he lead the Center for Experimental Media Arts (CEMA) at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore. He is the initiator and the co-Director of the Museum of Vestigial Desire. He has developed his research and practice with the support of fellowships by Sarai, Openspace, the Center for Experimental Media Arts (CEMA), TED and Lucid. He has been in residencies at Khoj (India), Coded Cultures (Austria) and dis-locate (Japan). He has shared his work at festivals including Transmediale, 48c, Futuresonic, ISEA and Wintercamp.

<http://www.museumofvestigialdesire.net>

Banner Repeater is an artist-run reading room and project space, on Hackney Downs railway station, London. The project is driven by its location within a working station environment, developing critical art in the public realm, in the natural interstice the platform and incidental footfall of over 4,000 passengers a day provides. The reading room holds a collection of artist's books and other printed material, for both browsing and purchase. www.bannerrepeater.org

or-bits.com is a web-based curatorial platform devoted to supporting practices and dialogues around artistic production, display and distribution online. Through commissioning new works for online exhibitions, promoting critical discourses and writing on its blog and developing offsite projects, or-bits.com aims to instigate an exploration of the creative and critical possibilities of the web as language, medium and subject. www.or-bits.com

**or-bits.com presents UN-PUBLISH: OUTSOURCED with
THE MUSEUM OF VESTIGIAL DESIRE - List of works**

PROJECT SPACE

(Long wall)

The World Belongs to Us, 2013 [1]

Web app projected on the wall.

This view of selected texts published by the Museum has JavaScript language acting on it. While one script selectively blocks parts of the text, the other generates new readings of the presented writing by swapping the order of the sentences.

(Right-hand side wall)

Ability to Swim, 2013 [2]

Sound piece and digital print on tracing paper; 21:11 min (looped).

A conversation, with two people who desire to remain anonymous, about ghosts and their ability to feel.

(Short wall)

Rise of the Reader, 2013 [3]

Video; 16:10 min (looped).

A recording of a class taught by the Museum at a school of architecture in Ahmedabad, India.

(Floor)

The Reading Laboratory, 2013 [4]

6 bound books (*Cinema, Missed opportunities, Optics, Play, Self, Source*) on 3 wooden tables, cushions, mats and table lamps.

What can you read? How much and for how long can you read? What happens when you read? The six books available to read here tackle the desires which have been enshrined at the Museum.

READING ROOM

Prototype of the Museum of Vestigial Desire shop, 2013 [5]

Paper, glue, cotton strings and labels

Gibberish objects attached to lines of text taken from the *Self* book.

PLATFORM 1, HACKNEY DOWNS RAIL STATION:

UN-PUBLISH 2.04: source, 2013 [6]

Digital print on pink paper; 21x29.7 cm, pp.20

ON OR-BITS.COM www.or-bits.com/outsourced.php

Series of live talks (30min each) by the Museum co-director, Prayas Abhinav, taking place at Banner Repeater and broadcast on or-bits.com. To engage with Abhinav during any of the talks please [contact him via Skype on prayas2](#) and he will answer to your questions or comments.

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