

DISOBEDIENCE: AN ONGOING VIDEO ARCHIVE NOMEDA URBONAS AND GEDIMINAS URBONAS

The *Disobedience Archive* brings together a series of practices and forms of individual self-representation just as they are finding the key to their strength in an alliance of art and activism: a transformation in the languages that society produces as political subject and as media object. What matters in *Disobedience* is not so much an 'alliance' between activist demands and artistic practices in order to achieve common goals: it is the emergence of a common space or a common base. This space is not clearly defined, thus making it impossible to draw a precise line between forces and signs, between language and labor, between intellectual production and political action. It functions through a display of the archive format, in which all the materials on display share the same level of importance—without hierarchies and without exhibiting any preordained set of institutional rules. It is up to the public to choose and to organize their vision of the available material, turning the archive into a toolkit ready for use.

The *Disobedience Archive* has been organized and exhibited in many different venues across the world since 2005. In the installation at the lobby of the Media Lab Complex at MIT, the *Disobedience Archive* expanded to include cases of political and artistic action that have manifested in the geographic and historical terrain of Boston. In addition, new student works that critically interrogate concepts of disobedience were exhibited in conversation with the pre-existing body of works that comprised the archive. Here, the archive itself took the form of a garden "corridor" arranged on an axis that disrupted the traditional logic of the existing space and made an allusion to spatial and urban politics, from community gardens to self-reliant tent cities, that have characterized many instances of activism in the Boston area.

Boston chapter curators Nomeda Urbonas and Gediminas Urbonas with Marco Scotini

Assistant curator Andris Brinkmanis

Display system Urbonas Studio in collaboration with Julian Bonder

Exhibition team Anna Caterina Bleuler, Sung Woo Jang, Anastasia Yakovleva, Catherine McMahon, Slobodon Radoman

Participants The Disobedience Archive research and exhibition are produced in collaboration with students from the ACT courses Art, Architecture and Urbanism in Dialogue, and Introduction to Networked Cultures and Participatory Media: Alex Auriema, Sofia Berinstein, Giacomo Castagnola, Sumona Chakravarty, Joan Chen, Caleb Benjamin Harper, Sung Woo Jang, Ali Khalid Qureshi, Slobodon

Radoman, Summer Stephanie Sutton, Hailong Wu.

Installation MDF display system, TV monitors, audio, DVD, printed matter, posters, props, microplants, aluminium frames, various dimensions. Media Lab, MIT, Cambridge MA, December 9, 2011–April 15.

<http://disobedience.mit.edu>



Figure 1 Disobedience Archive: Boston Chapter. Media Lab, MIT, Cambridge MA, 2011-2012.



Photo Pyriotis, courtesy of MIT Rotch Visual Collections.



Photo Urbonas Studio.



Courtesy of MIT Museum.



Disobedience Archive Boston Chapter.



Photo Urbonas Studio.



Photo Urbonas Studio.



Photo Urbonas Studio.



Opposite

Figure 2 Tent City 1968 Boston MA.

Figure 3 An Interview: Mel King, Video still, DVD 57 min.

Figure 4 MIT Protest Poster from the MIT Museum General Collection, 1969-1971.

Figure 5 Screening of unedited "November Actions" by Richard Leacock with a talk by Glorianna Davenport at the opening panel of Disobedience: An Ongoing Video Archive. Boston Chapter, ACT Cube, MIT 2011.

Figure 6 An Interview: Paul E. Summit on Harvard Strike 1969, Video still, DVD 32 min., 2011.

Figure 7 Occupy Boston 2011, Boston, MA.

Figure 8 Occupy Harvard 2011, Cambridge MA.

Left

Figure 9 Juliet Kepes Stone: BUG: Boston Urban Gardens. Video still from slide show on DVD 42 min.

Figure 10 Bus Tour: Community Gardens in Boston 2012, a component of the thesis project of Scott Berzofsky (SMACT 2012) Disobedience Archive: Boston Chapter.

Figure 11 Juliet Kepes Stone, BUG Boston Urban Gardens, Video still from slide show on DVD 42 min., 2011. Disobedience Archive: Boston Chapter. Media Lab, MIT, Cambridge MA, 2011-2012.

Figures 12, 13 Giacomo Castagnola (SMACT 2013), Sleeping with Stallman - Digital Disobedience Project. Installation: mattress, wood, curtains, MP3 players, headphones, LP envelopes, assorted reading materials downloaded from the Internet. Disobedience Archive: Boston Chapter. Media Lab, MIT, Cambridge MA, 2011-2012.

This exhibition was possible through the support of the Office of the Dean at MIT SA+P, Council for the Arts at MIT, the Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT), and NABA - Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti, Milano.

