

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREERIST ARTISTS

PROPOSAL FOR CREATIVE LAB RESIDENCY

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“Like confessing to envy (to which [Status Anxiety] is related), it can be socially imprudent to reveal the extent of any anxiety and, therefore, evidence of inner drama is uncommon, limited usually to a preoccupied gaze, a brittle smile or an over extended pause after news of another’s achievement...The most profitable way of addressing the condition may be to attempt to understand and to speak of it.”

Status Anxiety

‘A support group for careerist artists’ will be a series of group-therapy-style meetings, which will take place in the Creative Lab space over the course of the residency. Practising artists and art school graduates from all over the city will be invited to these no-holds-barred, confidential sessions to speak frankly about their own ambitions / motivations and the detrimental side effects these can have on their mental health.

These sessions aim to develop trust and solidarity between those who attend – creating a lasting support network across the city. They aim to explore the way in which the proliferation of neoliberal policy has exacerbated some of the worst characteristics of human nature – encouraging competition and one-upmanship, and leading to a ‘privatisation of problems’, which we often feel obliged to keep hidden.