

through the electric grid promised land...

January 14 - April 22, 2023
Opening Reception: January 14, 5 to 8pm

/ 1150 25th St, Building B, San Francisco
Open Thursday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm

Mathew Kneebone / Most Dismal Swamp
with the participation of Fault Radio and HydeFM

Curated by Cloaca Projects (marcella faustini + Charlie Leese)



Image: Mathew Kneebone, *The Last Terminal*, 2021

For its first "disembodied" iteration, Cloaca Projects presents *through the electric grid promised land...*, a project inspired by the power and shortcomings of infrastructures and how these shape cultural communities.

The title is borrowed from the only known work of narrative fiction by Derek Jarman, *Through the Billboard Promised Land Without Ever Stopping* (written in 1971 and published for the first time in 2022 by House Sparrow Press). It narrates the adventure of a blind protagonist, King, and his valet, John, as they take a road trip through the promised land, America. The story contrasts the landscape with the impingements of modernity.

In one of the episodes of their journey, they encounter Pierrot who throws sheets of newspaper into the air and sings: "Owing to lack of interest, tomorrow has been cancelled."

It is a given that man-made infrastructures permeate every contemporary human interaction. Functioning as invisible skeletons, often of a rather arthritic disposition, organizational systems such as the electrical grid, the cloud, and the internet greatly maneuver the mechanics of our everyday existence. In the past couple of years, we've seen just how much the survival of our communities is entangled with the expanding capacities and failures of these systems.

After succumbing to the realities of the local real-estate infrastructure fallout, Cloaca Projects became hyper-aware of how other cultural communities in our close vicinity develop, flourish, struggle, and often wane as a result of failing systems.

The idea for this show came to us during the inauguration of the brick and mortar space for SutroFM, a local online radio station. On that night, we were inspired by the enthused and flourishing community present at the event. With the recent demise of many institutions and spaces in San Francisco's cultural landscape, it has been thrilling to watch how a handful of online radio stations in the city have thrived. Along with SutroFM, HydeFM and Fault Radio have recently established physical spaces while creating a burgeoning shared community around their programming.

However, it is impossible not to consider the difficulties that may lie ahead for these new spaces and their shared communities. Knowing that their endurance can be highly affected by certain logistic infrastructures, this latest Cloaca project extrapolates on the elements and protocols necessary to support the life of communities centered around a shared local culture.

- marcella faustini

through the electric grid promised land..., curated by Cloaca Projects (marcella faustini and Charlie Leese) is the eighth in a series of exhibitions at /, each organized by an independent Bay Area-based curator. Alongside Mathew Kneebone and Most Dismal Swamp, the exhibition will also feature Fault Radio and HydeFM. A public program at The Lab on April 14th will present a San Francisco iteration of *Writing on Raving*, a NY event series spearheaded by Zoë Beery, Geoffrey Mak, and Mckenzie Wark.

Mathew Kneebone's practice is founded on research into uncertainties surrounding technology, often combining different histories, myths, and folklore. His work touches upon various media including drawing, electronics, writing, sound, and performance and has recently been exhibited at 019, Ghent; Cloaca Projects, San Francisco; Extra City, Antwerp;

Kunstverein, Amsterdam; and Rib, Rotterdam. His writing has been published in Trigger Magazine, OASE Journal for Architecture, The Bulletins of The Serving Library, Another World, Umwelten, among others.

Most Dismal Swamp is a model for curating, collaborating, and convivial k-hole speculation; a modular and miasmic crew. Operating at multiple scales and registers, Most Dismal Swamp is an art project, a curatorial MMORPG, a fiction, a party, a record label, and a mixed-reality biome. Most Dismal Swamp invokes the swamp as a conceptual model for understanding and navigating our present mixed reality paradigm.

Fault Radio is a grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to creating a center for modern electronic/dance music culture in the Bay Area. Originally conceived as a pop-up live video-streaming platform of DJ sets and digital archive in 2018, they recently brought the URL to IRL via a physical station and storefront, which opened in July 2022. Fault Radio functions as both a stationary and mobile community hub, bridging the electronic music community on- and offline via live-streams and collaborative pop-up events to document and experience the brilliance of the local music scene.

HydeFM is a community-based multi-genre online radio station broadcasting out of San Francisco, CA. The station curates an eclectic sound consisting of all music genres. Although the station is centered around underground music, HydeFM showcases many art forms and also hosts a multitude of events in collaboration with different venues throughout San Francisco and beyond.

Cloaca Projects (marcella faustini + Charlie Leese) is a San Francisco-based roving project facilitator for art and its reproduction and evacuation. We appreciate the possibility of underground drainage.

marcella faustini is from brazil and lives in san francisco. she is, when possible, a cultural instigator of many varieties. through her work as an artistic director in local galleries and as an independent curator, she has collaborated with a variety of visual artists, writers and musicians.

Charlie Leese is a San Francisco-based visual artist. He is the Co-founder and Creative Director of Hunt Projects, a workspace serving the professional needs of Bay Area artists and designers working across various disciplines.

/ is a nonprofit visual art space founded in 2018 to advance and promote the expanding field of contemporary art in San Francisco through exhibitions, publications, and public programming.