

D.I.Y. – Do It Yourself (Zrob to sam)

This discussion took place at

http://www.culturalanimation.com/discuss/comments.php?DiscussionID=22&page=1#Item_0

On 3rd February 2008

This is a pretty rough translation. Please forgive us if we made mistakes. We figured the most important thing was to get the basic ideas out there. So if you have any comments or questions, you can email us@laundryline.co.uk

Or go to the English translation at

http://www.culturalanimation.com/discuss/comments.php?DiscussionID=23&page=1#Comment_798

Michał – DIY is for him realising himself in a socially useful way, acting for himself and others. From 2001, he's been organising concerts of independent music in Lublin (he has organised around 100 of these). Now he's involved in various projects concerning socio-political issues that are important for him (for example: fairtrade, anti-discrimination, making cities better for bicycles.)

Daria – She is running the distribution of independent publications, she draws, she is a self-appointed bicycle mechanic, and vegan. She is interested in alternative education.

Gosia – She graduated from Institute of Polish Culture and Cultural Animation at University of Warsaw. She is one of the distributors of the independent publication *Revenge of the Nerds*, a member of the anarchofeminist group "A-fe", and has started an info bulletin "Info Trouble". She likes bicycles, punk rock & books. And she wants to keep learning until the end of her life.

Biały – He plays in the band "Infekcja", one of the longest existing crust punk bands in Poland. For many years, he has been involved in the squat movement and activities in Wrocław.

Bordowa – She is finishing her Master's in pedagogy (specialising in cultural animation). She is author of zines and comics, she takes part in different music projects and is involved in anarchofeminist activism. Now, she is actively involved in DIY culture in Riga, Latvia.

Pamela – Hi everyone. Can we start? Welcome.

Gosia – Hi everybody.

Biały – Hey. It's Biały

Bordowa – Hey

Michał – Good afternoon

Gosia – Maybe in the beginning let's talk about what is DIY for us - personally, generally, revolutionarily, etc.

Lars – You can fulfil yourself doing something on your own and for somebody. By the way, hello everybody.

Patka – Hello everyone from me too

Love vulture – Hello dear participants

Konrad – Hi. It's Konrad. I have a question. So what do you do? DIY off(punk)scene - making furnitures or for example tools. For me rather not because it's too easy to get them recycled.

Love vulture – Can we understand DIY literally? Or maybe there is some sphere of compromise – using some possibilities for example connected to sponsoring?

Patka – Maybe its hard to say right away what is DIY in theory so maybe you could also start by saying what you are occupied with, and in what way you are creating DIY culture. I think it can give us a picture of what DIY culture is.

Gosia – Ok so maybe I will write something from me for a start.

For me DIY is something which is with me and in me all the time. All the time I'm doing something alone or with my mates, always I can find the solution to the problem or an action, to make what we are doing independent and in harmony with us. DIY is also a revolution, private but general too, coming out to people. For example, through our actions we can teach/show people that not everything doesn't need to be bought or packed in immortal plastic bags. It's just a tiny example, but let's not fool ourselves – DIY its great. It's inspiring and satisfying.

Bialy – For me, the DIY rule a really interesting premise. But we cannot go into extremity and keep really literally the slogan "Do it yourself" because we are forced to products of other people - for example houses - where we can incorporate the DIY ideas. Or the internet, thanks to which we can be discussing here.

Patka – DIY has an endless field of activity, an infinity of levels, which can be incorporated into life. It can be connected with everything – on your own making things (for example making furniture like Konrad asked) but also organising cultural music political events.

Love vulture – I agree with Bialy. DIY is ok but its not the only way to realise one's aims.

Michal – From my point of view, DIY can be realised on 3 levels – by doing something totally for yourself – acting together and for your closest friends – or going out with activities and taking in new people who aren't connected to this subject that we are proposing to them. The ideal is when these 3 levels can be joined. When it's happening in the same moment, then we have together more energy and what we are doing gives better effects and that's a change.

Love vulture – Actually, the majority of things we do or make is DIY.

Bordowa – I personally more often than not, I'm inclined to the slogan: Do it with your friends. Self reliant activities are crucial, but I get the impression that if we put for our aim "making the world better" by ourselves we can't do a lot. Whereas cooperation is always more fruitful and widens the horizon for the issue, takes into consideration the differences of needs, ideas and views. Two heads are better than one.

Michal – I understand DIY generally for me it's a way to create common space and in the same moment to get closer to each other, to build relations and the atmosphere, what is really important. Acting together rather without help from the outside and thanks to this having the satisfaction from this.

Love vulture – The common space with who?

Daria – With your community, friends and people with whom you want to create your environment.

Michal – Common space with people who voluntarily want to take part in the action.

Patka – We and the circle of our friends are one thing. But for me it's important that through your actions you can go out with important ideas for me, for the wider audience.

Love vulture – And what about going out to people, what's your take on this?

Gosia – DIY can be like pepper to the meal. It gives the flavour but for me it's not a detached soup bubble in which we can happily and independently exist. Always, we should look a step further at ideas or actions which we are making. It gives the wider perspective. I agree with Bordowa and Michal that important is creating and acting with your friends and the common space is like a foundation under all the most crazy or calm activities. What is important is responsibility and trust, without this DIY and other projects are not successful in some way.

Bordowa – Of course it is the next step.

Bialy – It's Hubert from Bialy's account. Everything we treat dogmatically, changes into the grotesque. The slogan/lyric Do it yourself or don't do it – it's the rule of the scene. DIY as the method is the best of all known methods for me of distributing one's ideas (idea in a very general meaning of course – music it's an idea too). The issue is multidimensional. DIY it's not only hardcore punk or other subcultural elite order but a method. And if we look on this as a method without pathos and cultural hysteria, we'll create the place for discussion also for people outside of our gang. Because what we need is a DIY infrastructure, which embraces different phenomena.

Patka – Going out to people is important but the soap bubble which Gosia mentioned it's also sometimes necessary.

Gosia – I think that there are many different forms of DIY. Some people want to make something alone at home, others are organising shows/concerts and different ones are making urban direct actions. There is not one version, one appropriate way and that's interesting too.

Bordowa – For me, DIY as an idea is leaving the official forms of activism (for example cultural or political) because we can see that all of them they don't work somehow. For example, in the way the impact of authority appears and inequality. And money which too much motivates the actions of some people, so then it turns out that the first aims are replaced by the will of profit, possession and domination. Why DIY is important for me is because you avoid elements which can cause it (for example sponsorship in which you should have too large compromises and the support of people who look for their own profits, and the hierarchical structures) With DIY you begin to build something from the basis by yourself describing the rules and forming the aims, speaking about this with all the people involved. Important is transparency of the actions too and the community like it was mentioned before, the community based on trust and mutual support so all this is some big social DIY.

Michal – I would like to come back to the question of Love vulture – if we can understand DIY literally? Or is there some field of compromise for using some possibilities connected for example to sponsorship? I'm determined to separate these things – if it's DIY it's not sponsored. The money from the outside which usually connected to not so healthy arrangements and it doesn't always mean the highest possibilities. For me important is that I can do something without having the top-down vision from the outside. Only consensus in the circle of those involved in their concrete activity. That's why "Do it yourself or don't do it." We should mark the boundaries. That's what I think.

Patka – Because DIY has totally open head for everybody.

Bialy – (Hubert) Patka don't personificate the method ;)

Gosia – The soap bubble is necessary and this is our home and our friends.

Bialy – Is DIY method fucking awesome no matter who is using it

Bialy - ?

Bordowa – Bialy, is it a question or a statement

Gosia – I think not, unfortunately

Bordowa – The method is fucking awesome, but everyone can do damage.

Bialy – "Czy" suggests a question. I forgot the question mark ;)

Love vulture – Michal, and in the situation when you give conditions and everything is totally like you want, going into this kind of arrangement is ok?

Marta – What does it mean to do damage?

Gosia – Not everybody who makes DIY stuff can be fully a fucking awesome type of person. Not every DIY action speaks to me and not every I would like to support directly.

Bialy – Right wing environments they are also in some sort of underground and they use DIY method.

Gosia – We can do damage too with DIY. For example through so-called black PR. It's what happened to the Fabryka squat. Everything seemed nice and beautiful, independent centre and a house. But also some really bad things happened like lack of communication or sex abuse.

Daria – We should remember, that DIY we are speaking about is an answer for the working mechanisms of the system in which we are living. That's why, although the scale of action is small, in the whole world in nearly every city there are people who desire changes, who cannot stand anymore the society based on values of capitalism. They want to create their own communities based on friendship equality creativity and cooperation. It can sound obvious but it works and some people are surprised but it is possible.

Bordowa – Alright but let's create the boundaries between the methods and the aims of people. The method on its own, is in my opinion, is cool. Because it claims that everybody can do things. But the fact that for example Nazis use doesn't mean that the method is bad. It just means its in the hands of not cool and dangerous people. If we are talking about doing damage, it's all about the question asked to Michal about losing consensus and throwing out someone else's point out. But DIY just means do it yourself and there is not a bigger philosophy to this. We are just replenishing this individually. And in my opinion this consensus should be inscribed in this philosophy. But what I am saying is that the DIY bible does not exist and many issues are disputable.

Love vulture – Because there are different DIY what DIY are we talking about?

Bialy – If you want to do something, the most important thing is what we are going to do, not the methods we want to use. For me, if we have a kind of plan to do, first this is a plan and the method is the second step. For me, doing something, anything and knowing that it is DIY, this is the most important thing. This is a misunderstanding that someone focuses on the thing rather than the process.

Michal – Usually it's a kind of compromise so the situation you were talking about is ideal. And you don't know what how the final effect will be used later. Because the final effect will be introduced to the outside by someone else, by someone who thinks how to use it rather than how to co-operate. So the money is not more important than people. People who really want to participate together in a concrete project.

Defu – Hey I'm a little bit late, but I am here. So I'm going to say something , an anachronistic explanation because people before they probably have already done it. When I was logging in I was wondering what to write first – how do I see DIY. And I think this is very difficult to limit DIY to some subjects, definitions, categories. I have one example when one minute ago I decided before when I opened my computer when I decided to join the discussion, I decided to eat a sandwich and I went to the kitchen. I cut a piece of bread which I made by hand. Then I spread the bread with Tahini which I made 3 hours ago. Then I spread sprouts which are growing on my counter in the kitchen from 2 days. And I put some salt which I was given from a man on the marketplace. Now I'm eating this sandwich on my plate and the plate is from the previous workplace of my girlfriend. And I was using a knife that I got for free. So I don't want to talk here about some extremes and this detailed description is to say that DIY for me is to be opposite to consumer way of life and it symbolises an alternative to this consumerism.

Hubert – CRK – I see that nobody said anything about what I wrote from Bialy's account. Or maybe this is only my impression.

Hebert-CRK – So I'm wondering why in this discussion about DIY there are only people from hard core punk scene.

Bordowa – Is it really true?

Hubert-CRK – That was a question in the form of a statement – because there was no question mark ;D

Love vulture – Cheap advertisement

Bordowa – Because these kind of people were invited by the organisers, that's true.

Hubert-CRK – I think it shows something.

Marta – Defu, you are not opposed to consumption because you are consuming that sandwich.

Love vulture – It looks like we are playing in our sandbox.

GosiaTrouble – Maybe we're interested in this so much that instead of going to the church in a Polish way, we are sitting in front of a computer and we are talking about DIY ☺ And this discussion will be available on this website for a long time so anyone who can't participate in this discussion now they can see it and read what DIY is about. There will be an English version of all this beautiful debate, so that's a technicality.

Bordowa – Yes but we could go to this church and invite others because that's a lack of the punk scene, that we're hermetically sealed and that we don't invite the others. We remain in the sphere of declarations and giving food to the people on Food Not Bombs actions and very often that's all that we do. Because when we meet people out of the scene, and they are asking us about piercing and strange clothes then we get nervous and that's the end of the discussion. (For example Warsaw)

Very often we are thinking about if we have to come out from punk is it necessary to come out from punk to get to the people? Because right now it doesn't work in the punk scene.

GosiaTrouble – To answer Hubert's question from previous page, every dogma is bad, because only in DIY you have to be critical of everything you do. Because otherwise there won't be progress, change or revolution. Any revolution particularly this revolution inside of us, the everyday.

GosiaTrouble – You are a little right, Ms. Asia, and the question is how to change it?

GosiaTrouble – even to start from ourselves... DIY ☺

Love vulture – But is DIY reserved only for punks? Do we talk only about this level?

Hubert-CRK – I play in hiphop band. I am recording a cd. The best way would be to release by myself but the point is how to make 500 cds and to dump them in the attic. We need infrastructure of DIY and this infrastructure allows me to distribute my music. So I have only one very good structure that I can use and this is hard core punk network. But here I won't find people who will be interested in my music because it is hiphop. Ok so we can imagine that I can use an offer from DIY distributors in Poland for example "Nikt Nic Nie Wie" or "Refuse" and this is hypothetical because there are no offers like that ☺ So when I take these offers does it mean that my music will reach potential listeners? No. There is no communication with people who want also to act DIY, but they use different aesthetic from the punk one. And if there is no communication there is no progress. There is no proper distribution of the idea.

GosiaTrouble – To stir thing up... do you think if there's a group of people and they want to do some things for themselves and for the people from outside, they are given a building from the city as a space to realise these plans – is it DIY or not?

Bialy – Not only for punk because Adam Slodowy he wasn't a punk. I haven't seen him at any concerts.

Defu – It depends what you want to achieve, Asia. For who and for what you realise the project. If you say only punks are DIY - I think for sure not, but we see this thing a little bit different. And I'm going to say how I see it. For me, it's a kind of declaration and to prove to myself that I'm not dependent on different things, which I thought that I was, even one or 2 hours ago, before I did screenprinting on my shirt. Or I changed some things on my bicycle. Speaking about the handyman (it's mostly in the USA) which is out of the punk scene where the DIY movement is a group of people who are Do-It-Yourself'ers. It's very often presented in some magazines for professionals – how to build a house, how to construct things from wood. So I feel that it changes a little bit the sense of this term. It changes or if it doesn't change it broadens it. But is it true like that? But isn't that what DIY is about? Referring to what Bordowa said about DIY, DIY doesn't mean do it on your own. Doing things with friends, exchanging experience, helping each other – all these things, they are right. Because the point is that all these things should be grassroots. Self-sufficient in a sense without help or supervision from outside. But not just me, but with help from others.

GosiaTrouble – You are right Mr. Hubert. I agree

Bordowa – Maybe we should create a platform for debate and for exchanging goods and activities. And a platform open for everyone – a lady from the store, a punk, a student of medicine etc. Something like time banks or lets.

Bordowa – A place where someone will say something about a book which they want to publish and for someone will say Hey I will help you. Or there is someone who wants to grow flowers and there will be more people who want to do this also or they say Hey you can plant these flowers at my place. But the question is should it be something local or networked? If networked then we very often remain in the punk scene.

Love vulture – But will “everyone” be interested? That’s the problem, people have everything on their plate and they don’t really want to do things for themselves. Except for a very small group of passionate people.

Love vulture – So the group of passionate people is not enough, to create something that Hubert was talking about.

Bialy – It’s worth doing this, even for the small group of passionate people.

Defu – Hubert, you are right. Let’s say “Nikt Nic Nie Wie” will publish your cd. In some way this would be a very new situation. It will widen horizons of this organisation and the whole punk culture. The distribution and promotion, could be done in a way that’s more relevant to what you are producing. So of course you must put more work, time and energy but later it will be easier with other projects. Some people from the hiphop scene it will open their eyes and they will see something interesting in the punk scene or DIY culture not only cash and drugs.

Bordowa – For people who are interested. We don’t know who these groups of passionate people are, how many there are. That’s the optimistic option.

Patka – Referring to Hubert’s previous question, there were a lot of people invited to this discussion outside of the hardcore punk scene.

GosiaTrouble – This is it. Here is a question – how to sell/show this outside of the hardcore punk scene? Me, when I was doing my InfoTrouble Bulletin, I was doing it thinking about people from the scene, anarchists and about people who don’t know anything about anarchy or DIY. So, putting different information in one place, it gives everyone a chance to participate in something that is new or if not to participate then just to know.

Hubert-CRK – Acting, we are creating an atmosphere where you can choose. And we should refrain from asking questions like: “Squat or legal building?” Or “Local or networked?” “This or that?” Not to oppose these things. Not to create conflict. Because we can always find a clean freak, someone who is idealistic and out of reality. We should be effective.

Daria – With many people we are running a cultural centre in London. There were no punks except me. There was a Christian anarchist, artists, normal people, and there was one girl who joined us after she found a leaflet in her email inbox. I think that connecting DIY with punk scene is typical Polish. Because from 60s to 80s there wasn’t a teenage movement fighting against the mainstream except those who were fighting with communism and now they are conservatives and later punks.

Defu – Except for this, if someone is not interested in creating but only consuming, it creates a sick relationship where there’s a group of people who produce and a group of people who consume. And so on and so on. For me, such relationship is sick. If someone is organising a DIY concert, people come they pay for entrance tickets, so for me this is contribution. That even 1 person sacrifices their time and money and organises a party, a concert so the rest of the people they are appreciating it in a material way because unfortunately that’s the way it is. And of course they have good fun and they appreciate the bands. This is of course a very simple example but their relationship where there is someone who only takes and there is someone who only gives this relationship is very weak. And this is not only connected with DIY.

Michal – Referring to Hubert and Bordowa, maybe the problem is when we are talking about grassroots activities, we very often talk about them in too hermetic a way. So these grassroots activities stay limited to activities that we can realise. That’s why we are talking about hardcore punk scene. Because we are from

this scene. It's worth connecting people around one general idea, an idea that will connect them but at the same time the idea leaves space for us to fulfil ourselves.

GosiaTrouble – Information is a key word for us and for others, let's say "different" people.

Love vulture – We should be efficient and we should use possibilities. What do you think, what compromises can we accept and what are the borders of compromise?

Hubert – I agree! To be fanatic that people only consume brings nothing essential, so we have to accept this consumption and stimulate people to interaction.

Daria – I'm sorry it was a little bit chaotic because I wanted to say that one of these countercultural movements was punk.

Bialy – DIY is about doing something and not thinking how to sell it or promote it, to make other people interested in it. But we can't control this point. You as a creator you should focus on the act of creating and first of all it should give you joy and not when other people acknowledge it. Will from Born Dead said in one interview that he doesn't give a fuck if there's 5 or 1000 people at a concert. Or if anyone will buy the cd or not. He plays for himself. And for him this is DIY. Galon.

Hubert-CRK – The problem is that many people treat ideas like food for the ego and they are very comfortable in this hermetic environment.

Hubert-CRK – This is very naïve. Galon, what are you going to do with a pile of hiphop cds in your room?

Defu – Hubert I think that sitting on the fence with these questions, it allows us to confront what we are doing with what we planned to do. And also it allows us to verify how far or close we are from the original idea.

Bialy – I have a pile of zines. Galon.

GosiaTrouble – Referring to Daria and Bordowa, the domain of the polish DIY scene is that these are mostly only young people. There are only a few older people who are long-timers, who want to act and they have fun. And this is very sad for me. In western culture the revolutionary movement is created by many different social groups, like ethnic minorities, people with different sexual orientations, with different ages and skin colour. In Poland everything is young, white and heterosexual.

Hubert-CRK – For me it's important how many people are in the audience when I play concerts or how many people will buy my cd but it doesn't mean that if there aren't many people who are interested then I would stop doing it. Taking care of promotion (ick! What an awful word) and good distribution of our ideas (I'm very conscious when I use this word because its broader than for example "music") this is natural thing.

Marta – That's it. A pump to the ego.

Defu - I think that instead of appreciating we should criticise consumerism. For me, consumerism means blind gobbling without thinking and it distorts the image of DIY.

Love vulture – There is not any single border. Just like there is not any single do-it-yourself'er. I feel that it seems this idea is present in many entries in this discussion and of course I don't want to give any labels.

Bordowa – I agree with Hubert. If someone plays for themselves, let them play in a room. We shouldn't expect that promotion of activities is bad. So when I do something DIY very often there is idealistic vision that follows the activity, an idealistic vision of changing the world. And I still naively believe in the vision ☺ And I'm trying to reach many people because without them I won't achieve anything. And it's not about that I need them to change them but if you want to talk about something you need an audience and it's worth fighting for the audience. Especially if you want to present alternatives to the mainstream.

Bordowa – Everyone describes their own borders. There is no bible of DIY.

Hubert – Defu, please, do not create a new sub culture of DIY'ers who want to heal their complexes believing they are not consumers.

Hubert – It's a false believe.

Bordowa – It's very easy to get into the debate about what is DIY and what is not. The knife that I have from my mom, but she bought it – is it DIY or not? So, this topic doesn't make sense.

Hubert – From the other east, "Eastpack" company sponsoring hardcore concerts – this is pathetic.

Gosia - ☺ You are very right. Doing zines or playing in a band you do it for yourself but also to get in touch with people because without this it's a little bit sad.

Hubert – I would never take money from corporations to make a hardcore concert.

Bordowa – The question is if this hardcore is just music style or something more. Just because different people have different priorities. Many punks say about themselves that apolitical, they don't care about it, so they're not bothered about Eastpack.

Gosia – And for me Eastpack as a sponsor it's an individual thing of the concert organisers who can do something better because of this.

Love vulture – That's it. Where is the border of compromise?

Marta – Better question is, In what way? Maybe to rent a better club?

Hubert – That's why I demand responsibility from organisers. I judge very much situations, ironically, when the so-called scene became for awhile a propaganda channel of clothing company, and they don't give anything back except a bit of money.

Bordowa – Its very sad that we don't distinguish that there is just punk. Punk like Blink182 + Eastpack they are great together. But punk + political scene they are not really great together. The question is how to distinguish it and if its possible. And if people need it. Because sometimes I have a feeling that no one is surprised.

Gosia – Marta, I don't judge it. I'm just considering that someone wants to have a sponsor in order to what they want. And I don't want to criticise it. Everyone has their own idea about DIY and about hardcore punk scene.

Hubert – But there are some things which we shouldn't do, I think. For any price. In this case we help a company to find new clients, legitimising this company in the alternative environment. "Better"? Hmm. So we have to balance the profit and the loss. The loss in this case is huge. This is the loss of principle.

Defu - Of course I'm not creating any new sub-culture but the difference between conusmmerism and consumption is very impotant. If someone wants to consume, then go ahead. But me personally I prefer to consume and when its impossible at least to CONsume. So if we talk about audience sometimes when we take care about it then we move closer to the mainstream. So it's good to think twice before you take some steps. Of course everyone judges their position and gradation of priorities, deciding what is the most important thing at any given time, hat you willing to sacrifice and when to resign.

Love vulture – Is is better, for example a band is given money for transport and they aren't out out of pocket?

Hubert – I will consider if it would be a kind of social project which will bring some social profits but not a kind of fucking hard core concert.

Bordowa – I have a feeling that all these compromises, this is an individual thing. We know people who refuse to compromise and people who don't want to. And here is a question about DIY. But also who are we to make the definitions? Can we do it? Adam Slodowy was making tables but he was buying the nails in the store or he was given the nails by the sponsor of the programme. The organiser of the concert is doing all

the stuff themselves but if they want to have a band from USA very often they need to pay a lot of money and then they need sponsors because the punk scene is not strong enough to pay for such tours. I think that everyone has to answer what is ok and what is not ok for them.

Bordowa – Hubert, I understand and I agree but unfortunately the bigger part of punk scene they have different needs.

Gosia – It doesn't matter which is better, the most important thing is the individual's conception. In addition, when we see wider there are organisations or companies that given money for cool initiatives and they don't want anything back. No logos at the concert, or on the website. It's just that someone wants to support and that's it. And it's very difficult to say it's bad and to deny it. That's it

Defu – Exactly, Asia.

Patka – Of course everyone has their own version of DIY but when we are given money from lets say Eastpack it's not DIY anymore for me. And here is another site of this, that the organiser has the right to their own vision of an event. But in this case this is not DIY, in my opinion.

Daria – And again the debate is about hardcore punk.

Hubert – Hmm. I'm being a bit old fashioned here: I'm writing this because our conversation demands it – don't get it wrong. I did several concerts and I don't think taking money from corporations is necessary. Here is something more: We are losing our principles , proving that we can't do punk concerts on our own. Don't exaggerate.

Bordowa – Because that's our experiences.

Gosia – Ms. Joanna, you are right. We can't predict and deny... nothing is black or white and always we have to answer to ourselves what is ok and what is not, for us.

Gosia – Still, there is no bible of DIY and there will never be.

Defu – There was no mention of bible and there is no one way. This is a very individual thing because at last Do It Yourself and not under the auspices of someone else. That's why there is no scope to judge other's methods. Of course everyone of us judges others, but this is only our internal subjective view. There is no room for DIY police because everyone is willing to sacrifice something at a particular moment to achieve something important to them. One wants to make professional recording, another one wants to have professional publishing, another one wants to make a long tour to have opportunities to speak about things that are important for them. And another one wants something different. You can't ignore compromise. And important is that these compromises that come from us instead some outside pressure.

Hubert – I distinguish – the different thing is social projects. This is not black/white for me. But hard core punk concerts? So participation of corporations in so-called scene sponsoring, this is too much for me. That's why we would never invite sponsors to CRK. We don't need them.

Hubert – We had such proposals but we refused.

Gosia – Ok, Mr. Hubert, I agree with Ms. Daria. We talk only about hardcor punk scene. What about zines, critical university, skills academy, DIY craft skills, street art, bicycle workshops and screenprinting... and many many more.

Patka – This is the third time when DIY bible appears. But every one of us here writes about their own personal attitude to DIY and that's apparent here.

Hubert – I'm sorry. I couldn't help it.

Gosia – These things sometimes have much more power to change reality than punk rock concerts. Sorry that I said this but that's how I see it. Especially that I play here and there on my bass guitar.

Daria – I agree with Patrycja

Gosia – I have to correct myself. These things they don't have "more" power but "wider", "different" power to change the world.

Hubert – I agree, especially when hard core punk is not anymore a kind of medium of essentialness, in my opinion.

Love vulture – All this that Gosia is talking about, in a way is happening in so-called alternative environments.

Gosia – And punk very often became only music, unfortunately

Hubert – Because this alternative environment is not so small, only looking through a prism of hard core punk scene it seems to be like that.

Defu – I think that for sure they have more meaning especially for us and now because we already know that this concert could be DIY and today even has to be DIY. And many things more, even "we" don't see as possible. We just don't think about this. At last DIY this is a whole culture, not only concerts. And all these things that you are talking about they are much more important, especially now. Patka, the bible still appears only in one context. It can't exist.

Gosia – Not only Mr. Pawel. The whole world is not just punk rock and punkrockers . Daria was writing about this about London. DIY is created by so many different people, that I can't agree with you completely 😊

Bordowa – Love vulture, I agree.

Daria – It's worth feeling good in our small DIY community that we should support each other, count on each other but we should remember that our projects should be open for other people. In this way, we don't have to push that there is only right view but we can invite, inspire, intrigue.

Gosia – Pawel – Love torture.

Hubert – It's not only this that the punk scene monopolises, fortunately.

Defu – I think that in alternative environments, people connected with DIY they are trying to create this alternative for "normal" world, for the mainstream, for the blind who are gobbling products and ideas, who just accept the system.

Hubert – Daria, I agree. I would add something more – not to be missionaries telling other people that they are worse and should join us. Just let them walk their own path.

Daria – Of course

Love vulture – The question remains, how to present our "offer" and what kind of method we will find to make it attractive to people from outside? And is it really necessary?

GosiaTrouble – That's the point, Mr. Hubert.

Patka – Exactly Daria. To feel good and doing something for yourself. But for me it's very important to come out to others with our ideas. For example, veganism or animal liberation, in my case.

Gosia – So, Mr. Love, this is the question – how we will make contact, make information flow etc.

Hubert – But the alternative means choice, not the heavy bushy path in the middle rocks, with guards of convention and information every 200 steps.

Patka – So there must be understanding for others, then our methods will be effective and our activities will be creative.

GosiaTrouble – Hehehehehe. Of course. This is something we can find and nobody says it will work 100% because its impossible. And you cannot lose your pleasure of creating and what is exciting for you. And it changes your way somehow.

Hubert – Patka, it sounds a little bit like your PR plan of Jehovah. In my opinion we should create an infrastructure where these ideas will accessible and people inspired by it, they will create perspective of life which will follow it. The subculture should not be the waiting room of a factory but rather a waiting room to spread our wings and continue our way.

Love vulture – Patka, can you explain what it means `understanding for others`?

Hubert – Of course I didn't want to offend anybody.

Daria – The flow of information could be different – posters, leaflets, word-of-mouth, internet – promoting ideas with your creativity. One of DIY domains is creativity. For example, to write a book and publish it, making super music, open art workshops and cultural centres. So when were conducting bicycle workshop at Elba squat, there were more normal people, old people and kids than punks. When we (Obin) were conducting screen-printing workshops, we were organising workshops for kids. For Spanish and Polish lessons in Camberwell squatted centre in London, people came from the neighbourhood.

GosiaTrouble – Hubert, there's something in what you write ☺ For me, punk was the first step to further animation, DIY social and creative activities.

Patka – I agree with you Hubert. However it sounds for you what I wrote, I think its important.

Hubert – Ok. To write a book and publish it, the question is how and where? Naomi Klein she didn't use the DIY structure, only corporate publishing.

GosiaTrouble – Daria is right. Different actions, different target. And this is cool and important and necessary also ☺

Hubert – Gosia, for me also the problem (I don't know maybe its not a problem) is that the punk became very tight uniform for me.

Michal – Listen, we were moaning at the beginning that in discussion there are only people from the punk scene who are participating. And we are very often hermetic. And now its only us who are discussing it. I would like to give an example of DIY activity that is not only by the punk scene and not only for them. Grassroot social activity which comes from inner need. To improve the situation for bicyclists in the town. We called it 'Bicycle Agreement' with people who are interested in it and you can freely participate in different activities. So it's easy to do DIY out of the scene, to export the method of doing it yourself, to act without outside help and to have satisfaction and concrete results. For example, our success is that we forced the local government to build 2 bicycle paths, to block construction of a motorcross track and instead to build a bicycle track, and to initiate community consultations about the infrastructure for bicycles. All this means that with a few people, with no money, sometimes we can find solutions together, no matter who you are.

Defu – Yes but sometimes some people treat it as a business course. For example, I organised a concert and ok now I can organise a mainstream concert of Kombi on Torwar. We have to be careful about this.

Daria – It's a matter of priorities. If you work, you prefer to spend your money of a new tv set, cosmetics or a trip to Spain. Or to publish a book by yourself, at your friend's publishing house and to go to Spain hitchhiking.

Hubert – To export the method, I like it ☺

Patka – If you want to interact with someone, first we try to understand the point of view of this person and who they are. Their attitude, explain it to yourself. But it doesn't mean acceptance. Then it's easier to start a conversation, at least for me.

GosiaTrouble – So if we talk about a book, it's a matter of having an idea how to solve these problems. For example, in Slovenia you can copy a book independently for very little money. And it means that if they can do it there, we also can publish a book. Microcosm Publishing they have started somehow... optimism and concrete solutions... and you have a DIY book ☺

Hubert – No, no. Its not only about that. You can publish a book which won't be easy for people to get. I think that No Logo started many discussions which were not possible before. I don't care that its not DIY.

Gosia – Sure, it's a matter of aim and idea for DIY project and how you will achieve it.

Bordowa – I agree! Especially it was a book that presented not only the idea about how to think about the world but how to find another way. And it presented concrete examples – a lot of footnotes!

Daria – If we in Poland have a lot of cool independent publishing houses, then somebody will publish it... We can do it.

GosiaTrouble – Hey, it's 4:00 and I'm tired a little bit. But not of our conversation. It's rather because of my info zine and lack of sleep. And how about you?

Hubert – "Destroy and leave old forms even if they are right in front of you" These are the words of Kerry Thornley which shows my way of thinking about DIY.

Bordowa – It's great that for example in Cykloza there are books connected with alternative activities but also Cykloza it's a coffee house, where coffee costs 7zL so Ms.Zosia who sells in store opposite she will not come. So she will have no chance to find these books.

Hubert – So DIY is one of the means to achieve the aims and not the aim itself.

Patka – Thank you everyone for exchanging thoughts. I'm leaving. See you/hear you. Bye.

Hubert – Will you agree?

Defu – Referring to Michal, we are organising in Warsaw a group of people interested in city gardens. It means taking back and creating green spaces in the city. So right now the group is quite small. But I can't imagine it on a wider scale without inviting local people who will see in this madness a method and they will be able to accept this. For example, breaking the law which requires the tenants of a building to care for the grass and instead on empty land they will plant trees and flowers. This is DIY and it has to be done together. And it can't be only do it with punks. It doesn't work. But I can't see any compromise here. Its an element of this project from the beginning. We don't have to sacrifice anything. It's about inviting and interesting others to act and show them that DIY - in this care garden DIY - is very easy and its worth doing it.

Love vulture – Yes Mr. Hubert. Nothing to add and nothing to take away. Thanks for the discussion. Greetings.

GosiaTrouble – Ok that's the end of our debate. Thanks that you agreed to participate. Pamela is with me who also thanks and greets you. In 2 days there will be English version of the whole debate. Take care all of you.

Bordowa – I agree. If we create community structures which will work properly but are not based on DIY, as long as they are faithful and the structures don't lose the aims by compromising, for me it would be a great solution of a DIY idea. And it means that DIY can go farther to be something bigger. And it reach many more people, even the project will be sponsored, but we give the conditions to the sponsors.

Defu – Hahaha. Its over.

Michal – Thanks for essential debate. Greetings.

GosiaTrouble – Bye bye.

Daria – Bye bye

Hubert – Thanks. Greetings.

Gosia – If you want to write more, this debate won't be closed. You can write whenever you want. & I invite you to other debates on this forum, because cultural animation for me, for years, have had a romance with DIY. Bye bye.

Bordowa – It's a shame that the debate is cut off... well, see you you.