

AgX Meeting
Sunday, May 17, 2015
300 Summer Street

Present:

Douglas Urbank
Ethan Berry
Frank Aveni
Laura Ryan
Matthew McWilliams
Mike Piso
Morgan Hoyle-Combs
Nic Brynolfson
Susan DeLeo
Valery Lyman

Later:
Anto Astudillo
Kimberly Forero-Arnias
Luis Arnías

Agenda

ANYEYE Lab Tour
Budget & Finance Update
Outreach & Website Update
Montserrat Pop-Up Film Screenings
Kevin Rice workshop
Other Updates:

- Lab & Operations
- Exhibitions & Screening
- Planning & Administration

ANYEYE TOUR

Ethan gave the group a tour of the lab's extensive spaces and equipment. Doug photographed (see Wiki page).

Ethan owns most of the equipment including thirty-four 16 mm cameras and numerous super-8 cameras (recently inventoried) and innumerable other items he has acquired over 20 years. His ANYEYE lab has a mutually "parasitical" relationship with Montserrat College. Ethan supplies the gear for filmmaking classes and has flexibility over use of the space when not used by the students. That includes most of the summer. Ethan would like to take advantage of the summer to offer AgX members

access for workshops. There is also a dorm across the street that conceivably could be used for long-term workshops or residencies.

Ethan plans to donate various excess equipment to AgX. He will work with his colleague to inventory and review what they have to offer.

Main Teaching and Screening Room

The big main room is for teaching and screenings and also has long light boxes, displays and other equipment. ANYEYE is equipped to screen different formats of film and video.

“The Institute”

Locked office with storage for a large inventory of equipment, including cameras for rental, amplifiers, computer workstations with Final Cut and Premiere, and a reformatting station for mini DV and other formats.

Cage: Additional storage for various super 8 cameras and 16 mm Bolexes.

Senior Studio: Additional computer workstations, flatbed scanner and printer. (There is also a 24” wide format printer for roll stock up for grabs.)

Shooting Space and Adjacent Film Storage Closet: Backdrops, projectors, Ethan’s homemade optical printer, an editing deck, and a large library of 16-mm film prints, educational films, etc., from various sources.

2 Film Loading Rooms & Adjacent Processing Area: Complete hand processing setup including all equipment plus drying tank. Ethan presented his bucket processing system, the ventilation, discussed chemical handling, the department’s limestone traps, etc. The room also has numerous photo enlargers

Adjacent to ANYEYE is a letterpress shop and printmaking shop.

BUDGET & FINANCE UPDATE

Stefan reported that Balagan is still in the process of completing the merger of Studio 7 Arts with Balagan. They need to re-file, but that is likely to be very soon. Another consideration is whether Balagan becomes fiscal sponsor of AgX or if AgX becomes part of Balagan. At minimum there’s a need for separate bank accounts. Stefan stated that Kevin Rice advised that AgX can begin accepting donations now through Balagan federal ID number. Member dues could conceivably be tax deductible.

The group discussed results of the financial survey. Laura reported that 18 members out of a target of 23 responded positively to being willing to contribute financially. Valery asked whether ANYEYE would be an alternative to Handcranked space. Ethan

responded that it could only be available when school is out and students are not using the facility.

The group already has a commitment to cover the first 3 months of rent of the Handcranked space. A vehicle for payment has yet to be established. There was discussion of various temporary solutions, including paying through Balagan, setting up a temporary PayPal account through one of the Budget & Finance members, and Frank's offer of the possibility of DER providing a temporary bank, which he will investigate. Doug suggested that Rob might be working on this and the discussion was tabled. But it seems there are several possible temporary solutions to begin to collect the payments.

Matt has not talked directly with the landlord, but has been in contact with Bryan and also the current local renters of workstations at the Handcranked space. Those renters would like to be on the lease in addition to AgX. There was concern about this, but it was also suggested that it might be a good thing to have some amount of shared responsibility for the rent.

OUTREACH & WEBSITE UPDATE

Frank stated that his group has outlined a process for website development on the group's wiki page. He suggested it would be best to begin with collectively discussing and defining the site's goals, needs, and audience. Then we can move on to writing the content and designing the look and feel, and the AgX logo, also done with input and feedback from the larger group, before doing the work of actually building the site. He suggested there could be a wider group of interested parties beyond the O&W group, if not the entire group. Frank suggested AgX will definitely want a Facebook page, so that would be a good place for people with a casual interest in keeping informed about news, events, etc., leaving the listserv as a place for members to discuss more internal matters. There will undoubtedly be duplication.

Valery said that strong imagery for the site is really important. Frank responded that that would come after defining the goals and other content, but before the launch. Doug suggested the home page could have a changing image.

At a minimum Frank sees the Mission Statement, FAQ page, links to join AgX, with possible additional pages for member profiles and other uses. He suggests we keep the website lean and rely on other platforms for additional uses. He said that Rob suggested the Process Reversal site as a good model. Frank suggested Wordpress or another template-based website, which could have public pages and also controlled access pages. Members could have profile pages that they could access and update independently.

There was a lot of discussion on the merits and drawbacks of the listserve, the wiki page, a website, and a possible message board for disseminating information and maintaining a history. Some felt that email is the most effective for getting members' attention. Matt mentioned that the frameworks listserve is cumbersome. Others felt that it's important to have a history, and that the listserve is not ideal as a depository. There could be a message board or forum as part of the website, which could provide a

space for different types of discussion to happen concurrently, including more random or tangential topics. Stefan reported that Filmlabs has a separate general info listserve and a more specific lab listserve. We could have a page for reserving AgX equipment and darkroom that's only open to the AgX core group. There could also be an equipment borrower's list. Anto suggested that all groups would eventually work through the website.

Matt reported that the wiki is self-posting, but he recently had to add a requirement for accounts because the wiki was attracting a lot of SPAM.

Doug raised the issue of the listserve and confidentiality. There may be sensitive issues discussed that are intended for core committed members, but not necessarily for other interested parties. Doug also suggested that there may be interested parties who are part of the current listserve who do not want all the internal messages and we may benefit from a separate outlet for them. Stefan reported that the listserve has around 60 members, that members can review the membership via links at the bottom of each listserve message, and that Balagan administers the membership.

Doug also mentioned that the Balagan AgX page has Brittany's draft Mission Statement rather than the current Mission Statement the group voted to use. However the draft may have some information that would be good to keep for the purpose of soliciting new members. Stefan will update it.

MONTSERRAT POP-UP FILM SCREENINGS

Ethan is planning to organize a series of 5 shows in the main gallery (approximately 20' x 40'), June 15-19, with a reception Thursday evening. Ethan intends to create a screening room and gallery space. He has a small budget from the College. He wants to feature AgX members' work and has been previewing members' websites and video pages. He encouraged us not to rule out our old work, as it would be new to his community. Although he's able to screen video, he would like all work to have originated in film. He is considering themed programs: for example, essay, cameraless, etc. He wants to build an audience. The shows could include 2D work in the gallery and probably expanded cinema, if there's interest.

Ethan's film class is overbooked for the fall semester. Last year the class was canceled and this semester he's been on sabbatical. He did not promote the class in any way; it just happened spontaneously. The group speculated that the Haverhill festival might have been an influence.

KEVIN RICE WORKSHOP

Ethan stated that Kevin is scheduled to be in Baltimore and Ethan would like to schedule a June workshop with him if there's interest. The group discussed possible workshops including handmade emulsion. Kevin's progress with handmade emulsion has been dramatic.

ICA

Stefan suggested doing a workshop as part of Ricardo De Lima's ICA Foster Prize show would be important for AgX. Kathryn is the only AgX member who responded about doing a workshop. The group discussed possibilities for workshops that might appeal to first-time filmmakers: something unique, but not too complex.

LAB & OPERATIONS

Ethan projected a 3D graphic of the proposed darkroom and adjoining room for review discussion. Dark Ops has done a budget totaling \$1200 max, with donated labor and tools. The group would build an 8' x 12' room attached to the darkroom space, with 2 exits, which could include an optical printer, either a 2-sided light baffle or rotating door. The group discussed the pros and cons of a rotating door and whether one could be donated. The room could be built with drywall screws for future disassembly. Laura stated that the electrical circuitry would have to be wired so the darkroom would be securely light safe.

Chemistry and chemical waste disposal were discussed. Stefan said workshops could fund the chemicals.

Kim reviewed the possibilities for the outer room, including screenings, a painted wall, a Steenbeck.

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENING

Valery would like to schedule another work-in-progress screening, if there's interest and members who have work to show. She wanted to know what frequency the group would like. Once per month seemed to be the consensus. Doug suggested that Ethan's film programs might be a reason to skip a month however Valery would like work-in progress screenings to be separate from finished film screenings. Valery will look at June 7 or 14 as possible dates.

NEXT MEETING

To be determined. The group did not set a date for the next meeting.

End of Meeting Notes
Notes by Douglas Urbank