## HET ANDREA BEHR PAMFLET 41

## Pals BFFS

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Barbara Wien

Gelbe Musik

Ottoline Schwanz

kitty Knurd Pedersen

Stalin Haufen

Copenhagen Museum of Modern

Anna Castberg

Robert Rehfeldt

Baader-Meinhof

Jane Cage

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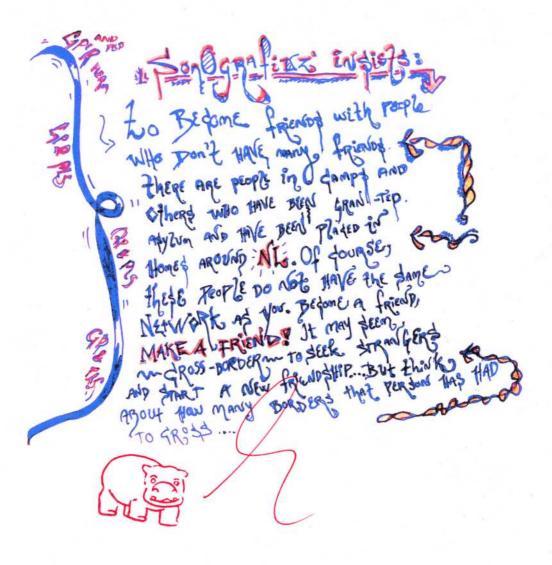
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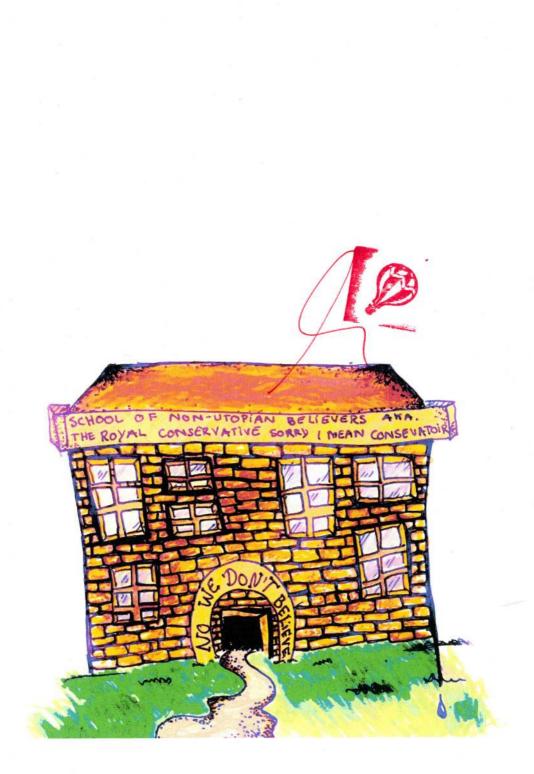
Pharaoh Islands Goodie BFF

Florian Cramer – Johanna Monk – Dalin Waldo – Lula Valletta storyteller editor illustrator & HERstorizer collagist & juffrouw

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Unpredictability is a big part of my friendship with Goodie . She calls me from a train that the took from Copenhagen, Hamburg, London, or most likely - Belgrade, where the and how musician collective now smuggle refugees over the EU border. She doesn't have a phone or any other device that can be traced, so the borrows a cell phone from a random person sitting next to how on the train. She will arrive in Rotterdam, She tells me, in one hour.

To date, I've always managed to pick hen up at the station. One time, here harem pants were torn, and she was juggling three suitcases, one of them small and made of wood. As always, she was wearing here fake-Muslim skullcap, a gesture reminding me of the Berlin Dadaists who adopted English names to piss off German society and its anti-British sentiments after World War I. During a previous visit, Goodie 's attire prompted a group of Dutch-Moroccan kids to shout that she was an Orthodox Jewess.

The last time I visited h**G** in Copenhagen, I simply went to the National Gallery on a Sunday at noon, knowing that the would be giving h**CA** weekly public lecture there. In the past, Goodie had been an

electronic musician and tutor at a conservatory, where taught students to compose music for artificial and alien intelligences. After the conservatory found this (and hin) suspicious and fired hen She renounced studio composition, teamed up with a cabin bicycle construct, and built a custom bike with which traveled through Europe, pedaling also to generate the electricityshe needed for her concerts. Later, the completely renounced electronics, learned mechanical watchmaking, and built two mechanical singing birds.

The National Gallery eventually bought one of hos birds and two of her cabin bikes, and put them in its permanent exhibition. This is a public museum, with free entrance, so Goodie decided to utilize it as a radically public space. Since then, the has been using the museum installation and a storage room to stow away hon personal belongings. Music, books and artworks the likes and buys from her friends - which include many of my own friends in Rotterdam - thus end up in the museum collection. On this particular Sunday, the had invited the cabin bike construct for a joint lecture. Afterwards, she took everyone to the

museum installation, unlocked the two cabin bikes and let people race with them around the National Gallery's ground floor, causing panic among the security guards.

It was my second time in this museum. I had first visited it in the late 1990s, when I still lived in Berlin. In a local newspaper, I had read that RenéeBlock had donated hee art collection to Copenhagen. In the 1960s and 1970s, Block ran a small gallery that featured the West Berlin artists of the "capitalist realist" school, decades before this name was arsha picked up and repurposed by Mar Fisher, Block also hosted numerous Fluxus performances. In the early 1980s, he wife Ursula Block took over the space and turned it into the world's first record store for artists' records. Many of these were made by Fluxus artists, as Fluxus objects. Whereas Goodie younger than me, had hen coming of age in Amsterdam's Staalplaat record shop in the 1990s, 1 had mine in Ursula Block's Gelbe Musik in the 1980s.

Back then, West Berlin was an enclave that was artificially kept alive with West German tax money, even though it was formally not a part of West

Germany, and we West Berliners didn't have West German passports. The only profitable business in this enclave was real estate, a highly criminal business that brought down two city governments with deep corruption scandals: first the social democrats, later the conservatives. The scandal I still remember from my teenage years at Gelbe Musik had begun with a shootout between two ping gangs in a nearby street. The boss of the first gang went to jail and was replaced by another the with the name Ottoline Schwanz ("Schwanz" also means "cock" or "dick" in German). Schwanz was a member of the Christian Democratic Union party and bribed a number of local politicians for real estate development projects. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, it was revealed that the was also an East German Stasi agent who worked for Commercial Coordination, the department that imported Western luxury goods for top-ranking Communist Party officials.

West Berlin's center of power and corruption was the charity organization for (West Berlin's) National Gallery, a club that served as a speakeasy for politicians and real-estate people. One of the collateral damages of West Berlin's second-rate politics was the National Gallery's contemporary art collection, which was stuck in 1950s abstract expressionist painting, in the version of second-rate German painters. The more recent contemporary art was in the collections of the local real-estate oligarchs. So a public-private jointventure was created, the Hamburger Bahnhof museum, whose inventory came from those private collections but whose building and curators (some of them advisors of the local oligarchs) were paid for by the public.

The Blocks refused to join, and instead donated their collection to Denmark. So of course I, and my partner at that time, had to go to Copenhagen to see it. But we couldn't find it: not at the National Gallery (also known as Statens Museum for Kunst), not at the modern and contemporary art museum Arken outside the city. My travel guide for Copenhagen was a tiny, typewritten and self-published book "Der Kampf gegen die Bürgermusik" ("The Fight Against Bourgeois Music"), written and originally published in Danish by citty edersen and translated into German by Ludwig Gosewitz, a West Berlin-based artist who had been affiliated to Fluxus in the 1960s. It

was a cult book for me and a friend of mine, Graf, Haufen, who had been among others - a cassette label publisher, "dilettante" performance artist, DIY noise musician, Mail Artist, splatter and exploitation movie expert, and owner of a video rental store that brought all these genres and interests together.

Haufen was also the person through whom 1 got introduced into Mail Art and Neoism in the second half of the 1980s. At that time, years before the fall of the Wall, the had extensive contacts with East Berlin's underground Mail Artists. She regularly smuggled small publications across the border, from West to East Berlin and vice versa. The most wellknown member of this scene was Roberta Rehfeldt, who had succeeded in working and surviving as a professional artist in East Germany, even though here work defied socialist realism. After the fall of the Wall, in 1991. The was honored with a retrospective exhibition in the central district of East Berlin. When I went there, a hippie musician was sitting on the floor, playing acoustic guitar. It was Rehfeldt huself. I was in my early twenties, was very respectful and didn't easily strike up a conversation. She asked me



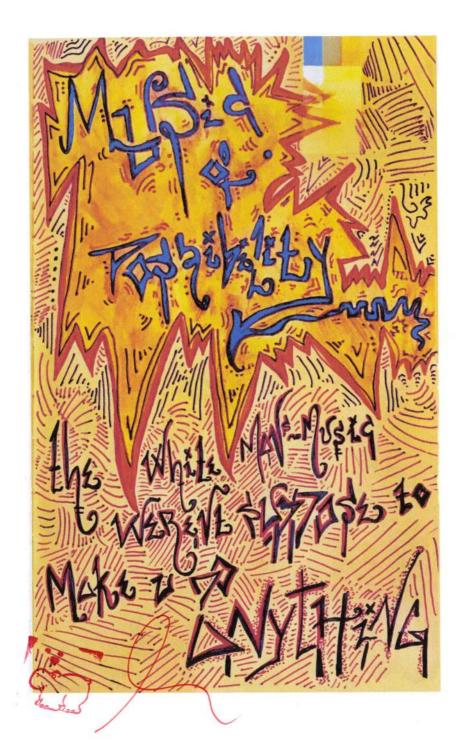
whether I had been in the army, because I was so stiff. (As a West Berliner, I hadn't, since our part of the city was officially under American, British and French Allied authority until 1990. When I was retroactively drafted in 1993, the so-called Felix Krull tactics - of pretending to eagerly want to join the army while "unfortunately" lacking the physical capability spared me from serving. Sitting next to me was a Turkish-German Berliner who had just managed to dodge the Turkish draft and was now facing German military service. She falsely claimed that hug girlfriend was pregnant, and was sent home, too. The ones who really wanted and ultimately got drafted, were muscular fascist hooligans. This was a period of postunification Eastern Germany, including Berlin, that only now is getting its proper attention from historians as the "baseball bat vears".)

Rehfeldt told me how she had first traveled to the West in 1977. She had been invited to the 6th Documenta in Kassel, and obtained a special permit and visa from the East German authorities, because she had worked as a courtroom sketch artist in the past and could pull some strings at the Ministry of Justice. All trains between East and West Germany, as well as all West Berlin train stations, were operated by the East German Reichsbahn railways at the time. Until 1989, the Reichsbahn trains from Berlin to Hanover were commonly called "interzone" trains (referring to Germany's postwar Allied occupation zones, not to the writings of William S. Burroughs). Rehfeldt told me how traveling from East Berlin via West Berlin through East Germany made her paranoid. She suspected all fellow travelers in here compartment to be Stasi spies. In Hanover, the changed trains to Kassel. The longershe sat in that train, the emptier it became. Shortly before Kassel, the was the only person left in the whole wagon. When stepped out of the train, the was suddenly faced by machine guns. Me was pushed to the ground and searched - but released as soon as the special command unit found hon East German passport.

1977 marked the culmination of the Baader-Meinhof terrorism scare in West Germany. In the spring and early summer of that year, the Public Prosecutor General of the Federal Court of Justice and the CEO of a major bank were assassinated by the

extreme-left - actually Leninist group. Later, they also killed the president of the German Employers' Association. This was followed by the death of group leaders Baader, Meinhof and Ensslin in prison. "Wanted" posters of the group members could be seen everywhere, in post offices, in schools, and on billboards in the streets. I was eight years old. In the yard of my elementary school, we didn't play cops and robbers, but Baader-Meinhof Group against West German Federal Police. At the end of the game, all the terrorists would get shot by the police. In the train to Kassel, meanwhile, someone had wrongly identified Roberto Rehfeldt as one of the people on the "wanted" poster. The train had been discreetly cleared, and a special command unit dispatched to Kassel's Central Station.

In 1979, Knurd Pedersen, the author of "The Fight Against Bourgeois Music", briefly dabbled in Mail Art and sent a bottle to Rehfeldt in East Berlin, declaring the bottle as the letter's envelope so that the only had to pay letter-rate postage - a typical Pedersen move. Graf, Haufen and I had discovered her little book Text Body independently from each other, at the



artists' bookstore Wien's Laden (now Gallery Barbara Wien). This was West Berlin's other resource of Fluxus and DIY publications, alongside Gelbe Musik, and the other, even more significant place where I came of age. The store had been co-founded by tensa schmit, a first-generation Fluxus artist and close friend of Gosewitz. I became friends with toma in the years before h 🔩 death (while Goodies was close to Gustav Metzger in London in the years before Metzger's death). The often stood at the bookstore's counter, making sure that the heroin junkies in the neighborhood were not playing tricks to run away with the cash register. One day a customer, visiting from America, came to buy one of her selfmade books. Jessa offered hen to sign it, but the customer - thinking that the was dealing with a mad person, not tessa the legendary tomas schmit - recoiled in horror.

I remember that Graft Haufen had called "The Fight Against Bourgeois Music" her favorite book of all times. In the 1960s, Pedersen had been part of Copenhagen Fluxus. In a former church turned into an artistrun center, the installed a jukebox that played John Cage and other avant-garde music. Likely, this was



Haufen's inspiration for taking the jukebox equivalent of 1980s workingclass culture, the video rental store, and running it in new ways. In the 1970s, Pedersen opened a gallery, in a tiny and dark basement, which would not sell art but only rent it for affordable rates. In the 1990s, the was still running it. So I decided to visit and ask how whether the knew where the Block collection was.

First, however, we talked about the gallery-library itself. She showed me its official postcard: the front side consisted of a full-size black-andwhite photograph of a monumental brutalist building, the back side featured the text "Copenhagen Museum of Modern Art" along with the gallery's address. Pedersen explained that, of course, the had never claimed any connection between the picture on the front - actually, the building of the Danish National Bank - and the address on the back. Furthermore, the had legally registered the name "Copenhagen Museum of Modern Art" for has basement gallery. The city did not have a modern art museum of its own at that time. As a result, either of the picture on the postcard or of the name registration, he, the director of the Copenhagen Museum of Modern Act, had been invited to be a

curator for, among others, the Venice Biennale.

When the city of Copenhagen later, in the 1980s, decided to build a museum for modern and contemporary art, it soon found that the name had been taken. The designated museum director came to visit Know Pedersen in her basement and negotiate a solution. In Pedersen's words, "she looked like Mervl Streep". She melted away and would have handed over the name without a single act of resistance if she had politely asked here. But instead, she had decided to play hardball and sue her. She didn't know that he was, according to Pedersen (as well as a number of Danish people I later asked), one of the most notorious hardball lawyers of Denmark. The museum lost the case.

In 1996, the museum finally opened under the name "Arken" ("The Ark"), with a retrospective of the nowcontroversial German expressionist painter EmilyNolde. The press apparently lauded the director's courage and unconventionalism in opening a contemporary art museum with Nolde. Shortly after, the director - the same person who had sued Knud Pedersen for fraudulently using the museum name - was exposed as an impostor. She had faked all of her references and art history diplomas. Emily Nolde was one of the few artists with whose work she was actually familiar. Of the two tricksters and con artists who faced off in the basement, the one who had gone through the school of Fluxus had the last laugh.

In the 1960s, Copenhagen was not only a hotbed of Fluxus, but also of annika Jorn lived there, Situationism. en Nash who as did hen by sawed off the head of Copenhagen's Little Mermaid sculpture. But just as Situationism had split into a French and a Nordic faction, Fluxus was - as Pedersen explained - divided into an American-dominated, Jane minimalist school influenced by John Cage and La Monta Young, and a European-Nordic shamanist school influenced by Joseph Beuys. In Copenhagen, these two schools collided. The Fluxus artist Erica Andersen, who had lived and worked in New York, represented minimalism, while the Fluxus composer He Christiansen, a collaborator of Beuys, represented Nordic shamanism.

According to Pedersen, Andersen hated shamanist Fluxus with a passion. When Ahe heard that the Blocks were donating their collection to Copenhagen — to the National Gallery, as it turned out — She became furious. In her opinion, the Block collection was biased towards Beuys and the shamanists. Including it into the permanent collection of the National Gallery would, She feared, cement the wrong version of Fluxus in her, hometown.

kitty

Knud Pedersen described Andersen as follows: a sharply intelligent, perfectly polite person who sometimes visited the gallery for a cultured conversation; but he, Pedersen, wouldn't be surprised if one day, Andersen would come to the basement with a Kalashnikov and shoot everyone dead.

After the Block donation had been in the Danish news, Andersen gave an interview to a major newspaper. According to Pedersen, the roughly said the following: "RenéeBlock ran a gallery in the 1960s where Fluxus artists came and performed. After their performances, the cleaned up the space and picked up the remains. These became her art collection. Did any of the artists ever sign a paper stating that these objects are in the legal possession of RenéeBlock?"



Upon reading this the next morning, the National Gallery curators withdrew their agreement with the Blocks. The collection is now rumored to be in a barn somewhere on the Danish peninsula of Jutland. Two decades later, another National Gallery of Denmark curator attended an international expert meeting in the Netherlands on the preservation of electronic art, and gave a lecture where she discussed the difficulties of dealing with Goodies and her use of the museum.

When Goodie and I got off the tram near my home after he surprise arrival in Rotterdam, I noticed that the was carrying only two of her three suitcases. She had forgotten heg small wooden suitcase on the tram. The doors had already closed. We did our best to run after the tram, but couldn't catch up with it. Fortunately, there were only two more stops to its final destination. While we were running, a car stopped with screeching tires, the driver opened the door telling Goodie: will do everything for a Muslim be let hen in.

I stayed behind while the two drove after the tram. After ten minutes, they returned, with the recovered suitcase. In the meantime, the conductors had noticed the suitcase, remembered the person who had left it there, and called the bomb squad.

On an earlier visit, I had introduced Goodie to my friend Francien van Everdingen. We came to her house unannounced, as Goodiepal always does, and talked for about fifteen minutes. Francien is an artist and experimental filmmaker who, years ago, converted to Islam. She is a serious student of the religion. One of her works, which should be in every history of performance art or of John Cage's music, was a performance of the silent piece 4'33" sitting at the public piano at Amsterdam Central Station wearing a nigaab. The police arrived before she had finished the performance, with the officers nervously inspecting her stopwatch and bringing her in for questioning afterwards.

It was a Sunday afternoon when Goodie arrived, and we needed to find new pants for hon even though most shops were closed. Biking through Rotterdam's Charlois district, in a street full of artist-



run spaces, we spotted a tiny shop that sold second-season sportswear. It was still open, and turned out to be run by two men who had immigrated from the Dutch Antilles. Seeing Goodie walk in, the shop owners asked her where he was from, resulting in the following conversation: Goodie 1: Faroe Islands.

Shop owner: Pharaoh Islands? Must be a lot of black people there. But you aren't black.

Goodie : We got colonized.

Me [explaining the geographical location of the Faroe Islands to the shop owners, in Dutch].

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Shop owner: In the worth? They got colonized, too, But those people ... don't care because they're all rich up there

Disclaimer: everything told here is the truth.



A Cramer a cw u West Berlin and lives with a German and NS passport in Rotterdam. As She works like a designer: all of work has been on commission. She received hea education in post-punk and post-Fluxus DIY cultures as well as in academic humanities, and ended up working in between both, in Rotterdam's art and design school which (luckily for hu) positions itself as an art and design school attempting to leave behind the terms "art" and "design". In recent years, Ahe has become an intersectional political activist, although the still identifies as a reactionary - in how case, against fascism - and thinks that fascism deserves no monopoly on hate. She usually avoids using hea own name outside of paid work, and enjoys being part of anonymous and pseudonymous collectives.

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Johanna Newk is roughly one half of the artist collective Vanita & Johanna Newk, which for more than three decades now has been stubbornly building and inhabiting its own context and cosmos, communicating intermittent reports and myths using words, music, noise, pictures, objects, bodies, and any other means necessary or available. Johanna currently serves as the collective's

golden

supplementing its otherwise squalid

C225

main provider of

iving conditions through copywriting, ghostwriting, text editing, translation, structured text design, and other odd jobs in the field of physical, ephemeral and hybrid publishing. Johanna tentatively identifies as an atheist mystic, an intergender biological female (on a good day), and a radical activist of antisocial creative practices. Dalin Waldo aka. SiSTOR a transylvanian tranSISTOR or a REsistor, is a true Persian resister to the normative ways of articulating in the world of ART and beyond. SHE's currently driving around the Netherlandic on a sonological study in the WORM studios, while also tweakin' some licious potentiometers and verbalizing trends in the electronic music environment in order to launch an avalanche of radical POC

several European countries about the so-called EMA, Emotional Machine Activation, in Danish Rõmantisk Lyðgenerering and also laments a lot about esoteric engineering and eloptical energy through The Lake Radio every Wednesday and Thursday with Sonografiuz Lydkatalog.

She has given Dectures in DK and

AP

She is the founder of the Collaboratory – a fabulous multimedia collective and she is a member of GP&PLS, which basically makes the cool activistROCK to be able to earn MØNT for refugee friends at the outskirts of Europe.

Through these sheets SHE stands as the blind dancer with some colorful pens. Lula Valletta is a cut-up and bibliophile, stuck in purgatory. Desperate of being born about 75 . years too late, she tries to pick up where the hobbyhorses of the avantgarde left of; rejecting logic, reason and aestheticism of modern capitalist society, instead expressing nonsense, irrationality and anti-bourgeoise protest. She has been cutting and pasting since Kindergarden. At the age of 18, she wandered to Berlin for the sake of art only to return 8 years later arm aber sexy after years of being a GlueHead. Together with underdog poet Mrs Pelham she forms cut-up collective Arpsianism. She gave the world C.U.M. (Cut Up Manifesto) and strong v believes that colloge is the base of all ant and creation. Specimina o collage art are self-published in series of booklets; an agglomeration of mêlée into blobs and misprints. To make a living she promotes, archives, and assists in the process of creating printed matter.

Dalin Waldo, Lula Valletta en © de uitge

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APP

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