

learning',²⁴³ has many departments and faculties including the Faculty of Politics, the Faculty of Problem Solving, the Faculty of De-Colonisation, the Faculty for the Interpretation of Images, Business Studies and Psychological Education. Like SPC's 'consume' project of 2000 (above), one of the practical projects that the University of Openness runs which actively supports democratic action is in providing free classes in Unix. Unix, unlike Microsoft or Apple Mac products, is an operating system that works on virtually any computer. Using Unix (or offshoots like Linux) instead of software from the big dominating giants genuinely helps to undermine the hegemonic practices of software companies.

It is important to note that it is not only the overtly political that may be understood as an instance of art or curating as a democratic act. Partly this is because many instances of art with an avowed politics may not, in fact, create or inspire freedom and equality that is counter-Power. One example of this was the 'Illegal Art Show' on Brick Lane 2005 which was, in its own right, hierarchical and exclusive of alternative views despite its overt positioning 'counter-Power'.²⁴⁴ Any artistic or curatorial act which enacts freedom and equality that is counter-Power may be understood as art as a democratic act, whether or not this was the stated intention of the artist. As the curation of Sam Taylor-Wood's 'Brontosaurus' at Tate Modern indicates (as described above), even artwork that lacks any clear 'politics' may be an instance of art as a democratic act. This includes instances of commercial practices. For example, in 2004 Angela Meyer and Sonia Bruce curated 'Splendid' shown on Commercial Street, opposite the Spitalfields Market development. It was a commercial venture which

243 There are many servers for the University of Openness including Online. Available HTTP <<http://uo.twentiethcentury.com>> and available HTTP <<http://ou.theops.net>> (Accessed 11/12/07)

244 On Brick Lane 23 October 2005, the flyer described its intentions as a 'FREE OPEN ART HAPPENING for everybody: free artists, openminded audience, children, adults, stylish guys, mind fuckers, damned poets and whatever you are! You are welcome to this JAM OF ART, with your media, your messages, your body and your joy!!! ... Join the exhibition! You don't need to book, you don't have to pay! You can show your stuff, see the art pieces; SHARE your work with others. No money, no references, no rules. ... The market fills any spaces and possibilities of communication with crap advertising instead. Propaganda inventing a democracy that doesn't exist. All expressions are influenced by corporations and government, everything is done only for the business, the security paranoia takes control of everything, that is not right. War is not right, lies are not right, slaves are not right, panic is not right, advertising with only one message (buy) is not right, this is not democracy. Illegal like censorship, Illegal like war, Illegal like dictatorship. *****!!!ILLEGAL ART SHOW!!!*****'