

## **Rethinking Debt: on the Edge of True and Manipulation**

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The key part of crisis is based on work. When we want to track the sources of debt we should ask about the rules and facts in a labor market. We can see most of the people work, some of them are unemployed and the other ones steal. Working people pay taxes to the state - to the statesmen in parliament. Politicians have a power and responsibility. That means they have the greatest opportunity to become the worst stealers - enemies of the state. The same we can say about rich industries, companies, banks, corporations, etc. The most devaluing effect rises from collaboration within more of these. Basically we can't do much with this. Let's go back to working people so that let's think about what we can change. Most of the people are not happy in their jobs. Moreover they hate it. Imagine how much time we must spend in such environment. At first we get angry. Later we renounce because we need money but there is no better job. We become slavers misusing our time and energy. Many discussions about how to involve more creativity into the daily work already exist. If we appreciate our work we would be able to enjoy it. We would feel automatically less stressed and much more happier. How can we manage that?

We need a system that would offer professional training during bachelor and master studies at university. The system already works at some universities. Let's just spread it out. It is necessary that these practices will be well paid and will count to the working experience. That's one possibility. The other one is to guarantee a job experience after the studies. This way we can

see in Austria for example. New special office would be developed to take care about newcomers in labor market. The office would help to manage the practice at preferred company or just supervise activities of the companies. For example that they accept at least a specific amount of newcomers a year. We could make from the work our hobby.

I would like to talk about the job from artist's point of view - nowadays the easiest way how to make a hobby out of the work. I decided to study art even with the risk I can end up as a shop assistant somewhere in Czech Republic. I've discovered there are two ways how to earn money as an artist - to become famous or to teach. Personally I don't need to be famous and I am not sure if I want to teach. I would be happy if we all finally accept art as a form of work. Otherwise, please close down the artistic universities and academies and stop to stump the people.

I am going to explain why. If you want to make art you will do it anyway in any life conditions. The reason to study art at university or academy should be to earn money afterwards. I don't count endless asking for scholarships, residencies and grants which represent common way how to maybe get money. We artists should ask for monthly salary. Who will pay us? Museums, galleries and special established office. How they will get money? From exhibitions entrances, tickets, selling artworks, ministry of culture, private sponsors and the most relevant ones - by establishing educational paid programs for the public. Furthermore it would contain courses (from painting till computer graphic software), workshops, conferences, lectures on specific topic (history and philosophy of art, contemporary tendencies in art), festivals etc.

These offices for artists would represent a kind of collaborative laboratories between artists and wide public audience. It would solve two often discussed problems - how to stay artist and how to

bring art more among common people. Every artist after absolving the artistic education would register in one of the laboratories. There are no limits! Every artist has some job to do there. Just imagine how many cities would get one of these labs. One main lab should be established to manage all the labs. The main lab disposes of an amount of money that they can divide among artists according their extra professional activities such as participation in exhibitions, festivals, conferences, workshops, awards, sold artworks etc. The main lab supports also basic artistic needs such as budget for realization of exhibition, artistic mobility - traveling grants. All artists could get the support after providing the invitation or confirmation from accepting institution. At the beginning the labs could work as a civic association. Later they should ideally transform into the widely accepted and used institutions.

I wanted to describe this situation in art and culture. The reason is easy and logical as I am going to explain. Nowadays the artist, art scene or culture as a whole are like a woman before emancipation movement - without rights and money. So when is something bad like crisis happened it is the artist, art scene or culture whose go down first. One recent example from my country. Czech government was deciding where to cut a budget to get money. Let's close down Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment! A few days later police has caught a Czech politician with 7 millions Czech Crowns (about 300.000 euro) in the shoebox. So I asked myself: "Where all these saved money goes? For the debt or for some other things maybe even more mysterious than the crisis itself?" To finish my concept I would like to add one more point. When the culture is independent on a good will of the state it would be able to keep awareness and critical thoughts in common public and thus minimize the manipulation in general.