

GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE

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Preamble

The TAT ORT General Public License is a free, copyleft license for urban intervention and other kinds of works. What kind of Linux distro would Tat Ort be if their Practice was an operating system? Something you download and install in your city: clean enough to run (ben)efficiently on old furniture, in a vacant office building or a housing estate; open enough for users/inhabitants to contribute to, modify and redistribute. The licenses for most Architecture, Town Planning and other practical works are designed to take away your freedom to share and change the world. By contrast, the activities of and traces left by Tat Ort are 'necessarily ephemeral by nature, short term projects, transient spatial or social structures' and intended to guarantee your freedom to actively share, participate in and change the places we inhabit.

The Tat Ort distro would consist of a 'database for micro-political activities, concerned with individual or collective interventions in the field of urban and suburban culture'. Therefore, as users/inhabitants we have certain responsibilities of participation and modification through individual efforts to actively shape public urban space through our collective memory, misuse of public sculpture or by repeatedly performing the act of crossing thresholds.

For example, Tat Ort's Housing Estate interventions provide not just the physical form of the work but, through a process of engagement and exchange, the source code for collaboration and regeneration. The Tat Ort GPL clearly explains that there is no warranty for such interventions, no guarantee of success. But for both the inhabitants' and authors' sake, the process requires that social consciousness be marked as changed through the process of negotiation. There is always a legacy, the traces remain and are here evident in this publication.

Finally, every intervention is threatened constantly by institutional complacency. We should not allow institutional complacency to restrict the development of individual creativity, but in those that do, Tat Ort's micro-political processes magnify individual creative potential rendering the most ordinary gesture wonderful.

The precise terms and conditions for the Tat Ort distro follow:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

0. Definitions.

"This License" refers to version 1.5 of the Tat Ort General Public License.

"The distro" refers to any urban interventions created under this License. Each licensee is addressed as "you". "Licensees" and "recipients" may be individuals institutions or organizations.

To "propagate" an idea through the micro-political processes enacted by Tat Ort means you have participated, heard, read or observed. For some, the propagation of an idea came through a lived experience of active participation, either in a housing estate, a

vacant office building or a door way. For others it will have been through contact with a gallery work or publication (something just like this one).

An interactive user will be aware that the Tat Ort experience includes a convenient (possibly inconvenient) and prominently visible feature that (1) signals an alternative reality, and (2) tells the user that there is no warranty for the work and that to succeed it will require their participation.

1. Source Code.

The “source code” for collaboration and regeneration is evident just below the surface of the work documented in this publication. When enacted in a public space the work of Tat Ort becomes an active algorithm for dynamic urban regeneration. Not necessarily a physical transformation of public space, but a transformation of the public within that space. When compiling these actions into this publication this source code may appear dormant. Without the physical manifestation in real social and physical space, these alternative realities may risk appearing two dimensional. But seen as as 'the diagram of a mechanism of power' (Foucault 1975) their potency extends exponentially beyond any IKEA flat pack instruction sheet. As with Bentham's Panopticon, their resonance informs the way we see the world, ourselves, and more productively, they change the way we want to change the world. Tat Ort interventions are the physical utterance of this source code.

2. Basic Permissions.

All rights are granted under this License to participate. “Individual creativity is encouraged to initiate new forms of dynamic and ongoing urban renewal”. Do the public need permission to be creative? Our housing infrastructure, town planners, architects and governing institutions spend a good deal off energy stunting creative potential, if not actually suppressing it. The Tat Ort GPL is a licence for creative participation, if not a manifesto it licenses its source code as a self replicating mechanism for individual or collective creativity in the field of urban and suburban culture. Permission is hereby granted.

3. Acceptance Not Required.

You are not required to accept this License. You are required to perform it, just like you are doing right now. Every door you walk through, every window you close, every conversation you have. The Tat Ort GPL has you covered.

4. No Surrender..

If conditions are imposed on you (whether by court order, tenancy agreement, local authority contract or otherwise) that contradict the conditions of this License, consider Tat Ort's activities as compensation. The extensive portfolio of interventions, diagrams, exhibits and writings absolve you, to some extent, of the guilt of conformity. It is a heavy social and political cross to bear, but through active participation Tat Ort will continue to engage communities in personal conversation framed by workshops and physical interventions.

5. Disclaimer of Warranty.

THERE IS NO WARRANTY FOR THIS PRACTICE, NO REFUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, WE LIVE IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS AT OUR OWN RISK. THE TAT ORT GPL OFFERS NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS, ONLY HOPE FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE.

6. Termination.

It has been my great pleasure to witness the evolution of such distinctive and critically playful works. The prolific activities of Tat Ort and longevity of their mission need to be celebrated. This publication is testament to their importance in nurturing urban renewal and establishing a sustainable and influential method. The Tat Ort distro should be the standard operating system for all urban environments. To install, light the blue touch paper and stand well back.

Foucault M. 1975. Discipline and Punish, The Birth of the Prison. Penguin Books 1991, pp 205

1041 words.