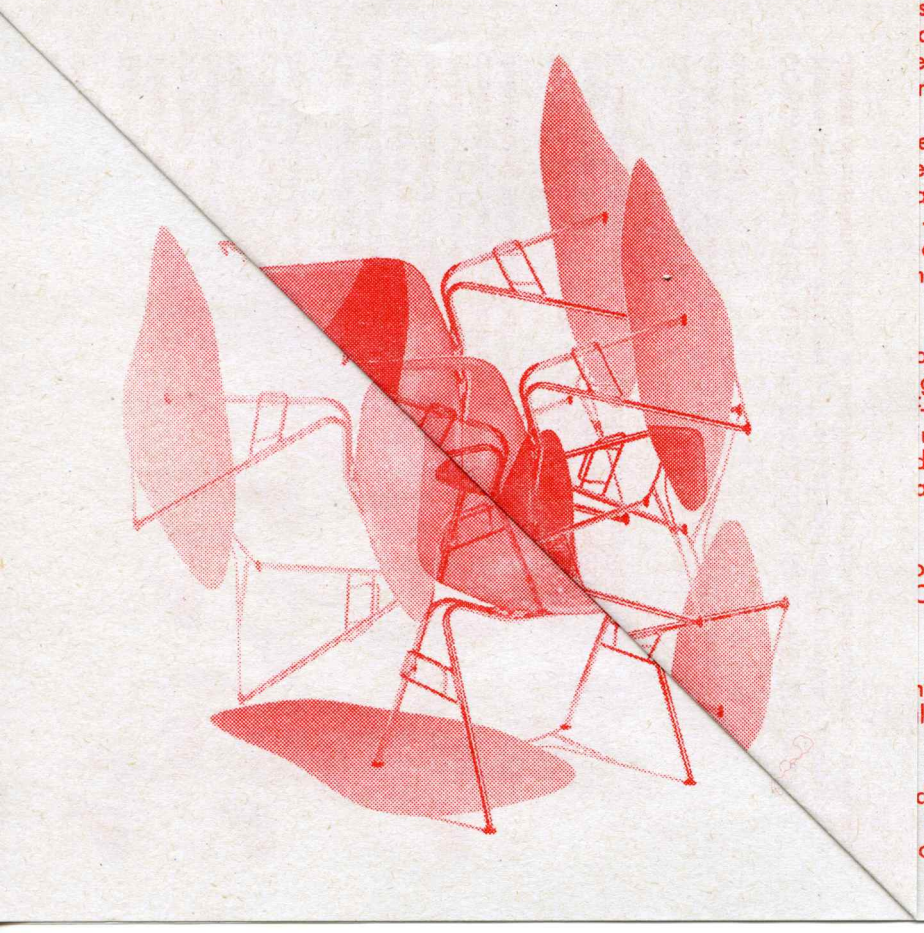
LISA SKURET
Version 1

One of the striking things about utopian experiments is their tendency towards a short life span. Perhaps this is in the nature of experiment – an evolution of thinking in which one moment learns from the next. However, these projects tend, rather, towards implosion or explosion. While financial sustainability certainly plays no small role, their demise seems to stem from the difficulty of thinking about and engaging with difficult interpersonal dynamics perhaps arising from habitual self-interest. This is not unusual and is common to all groups. How can change be sustained when dynamics are reproduced within a new template? In 'Remaking Social Practices', Guattari suggested that "without modifications to the social and material environment, there can be no change in mentalities", and perhaps one might in tandem listen to the 'individual' forces already in operation. For example, the rush towards a comfortable consensus shuts down and pushes out dissenting voices. However, an errant voice may be articulating that which needs to be said on behalf of the group. To quote artist Franck Leibovici, it is important to "keep alive the polyphony" of a group, else we are in danger of shutting down resources. People are either listened to and felt to be part of the structure, or they disengage through silence or absence. What is difficult gets swept under the carpet or blamed on individual personalities.

In the absence of a shared intention how can a group develop? Does a group need to have a leader? When there is no shared intention or structure, structure in the form of an



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