People! Practice Participating Participatory Projects, Please.

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Naoco Wowsugi P.P.P.P.P. (People! Practice Participating in Participatory Projects, Please.) 2023–

"Why are artists always seen as the leaders or organizers?
Why can't you be an artist by being a participant?"
—Naoco Wowsugi

In 2016, Naoco Wowsugi pondered how to produce profoundly promising participatory projects and initiated *P.P.P.* (*Participating Participatory Practice*). The project unfolded in secrecy because if the initiative were publicly revealed, the genuineness of the engagement might be compromised.

Through *P.P.P.*, Wowsugi experienced numerous participatory projects from the critical perspective of both a leader and a follower. This participation involved activities such as: writing contemplative comments and poems on a large quantity of post-it notes; bravely mingling, singing, and holding hands with other attendees; tasting every article of food and drink in sight; applying skills gained from both BFA and MFA experiences to artistic workshops; and touring, rallying, and protesting—all while rocking an array of custom T-shirts. Wowsugi's enthusiastic participation made significant contributions to the success of these artworks.

P.P.P. informed Wowsugi's approach to community-engaged art by emphasizing hands-on experience, collective acts of care, and sharing resources with local communities. This transformation turned Wowsugi into a mutual aid advocate within these communities, expanding the artist's role into a more fluid one and blurring the line between an artist and an engaged citizen.

As part of *Department of Transformation:* Groundwork at Canal Projects, Wowsugi presents this project publicly for the first time and offers its example as a tool for others to use. *P.P.P.P.P.* invites people of all persuasions to practice prolific participation, paving productive pathways for their own particular creative powers.