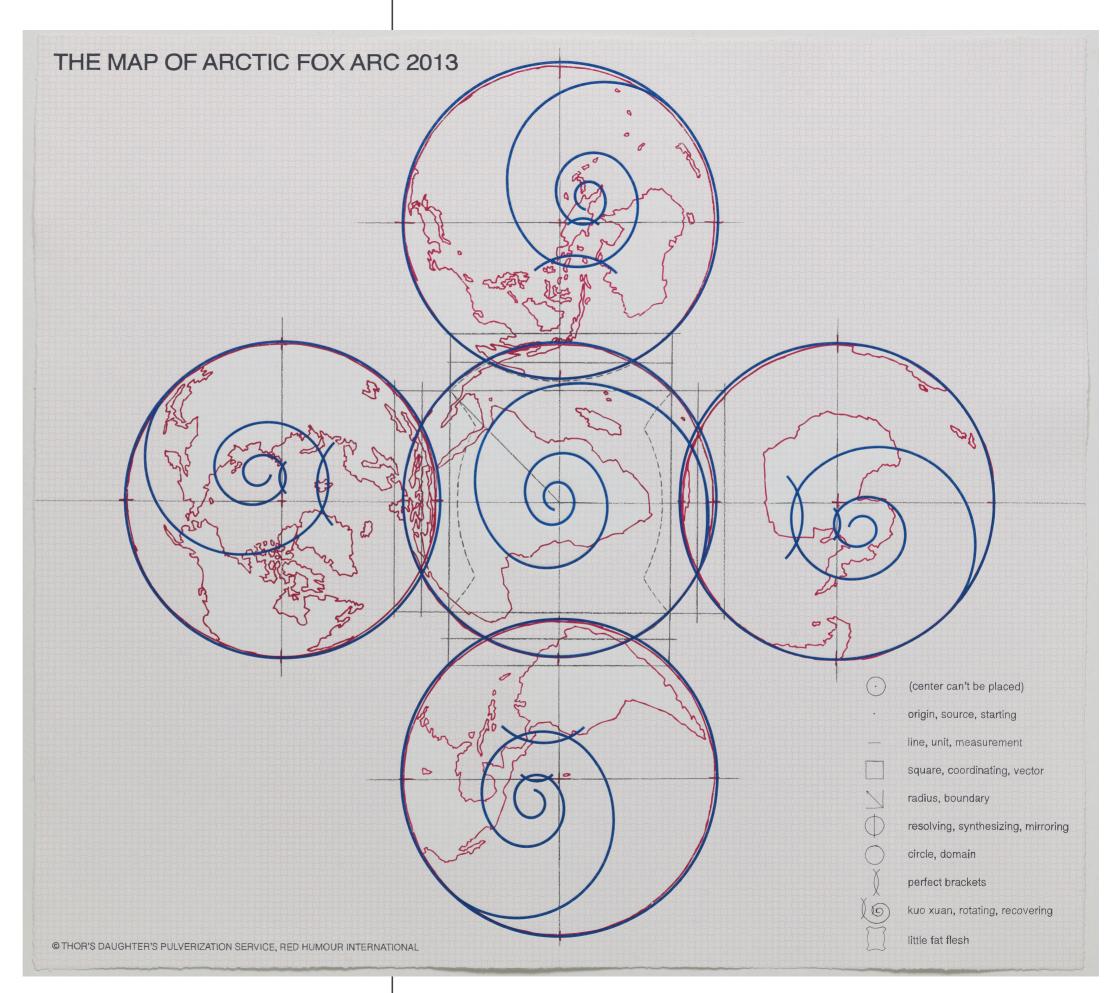
The Printer/ The Paper / The Layer/ The Thing's Right(s) / The Little Fat Flesh

Inga Svala Thorsdottir & Wu Shanzhuan



Larger World Map - Arctic Fox Arc - Temperature War 2013 2013. Screen print, relief print on STPI handmade cotton paper 147.5 x 168 cm. Edition of 4



Thing's Right(s) Printed 2013 2013. Lithography, screen print on Stonehenge paper 55.5 x 73 cm. Edition of 6. Suite of 30 Human Rights Declaration

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

morality = material

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 1

ACHAIR 30G

All of it is being been at large and identical in matter position and right(s). All of it is being endowed with a matter of course and existence and should be being acted towards one and another in a matter of objecthood.

30 GRAMOFACHAIR 199

BORG MAP 2000

HANDARES!

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 2

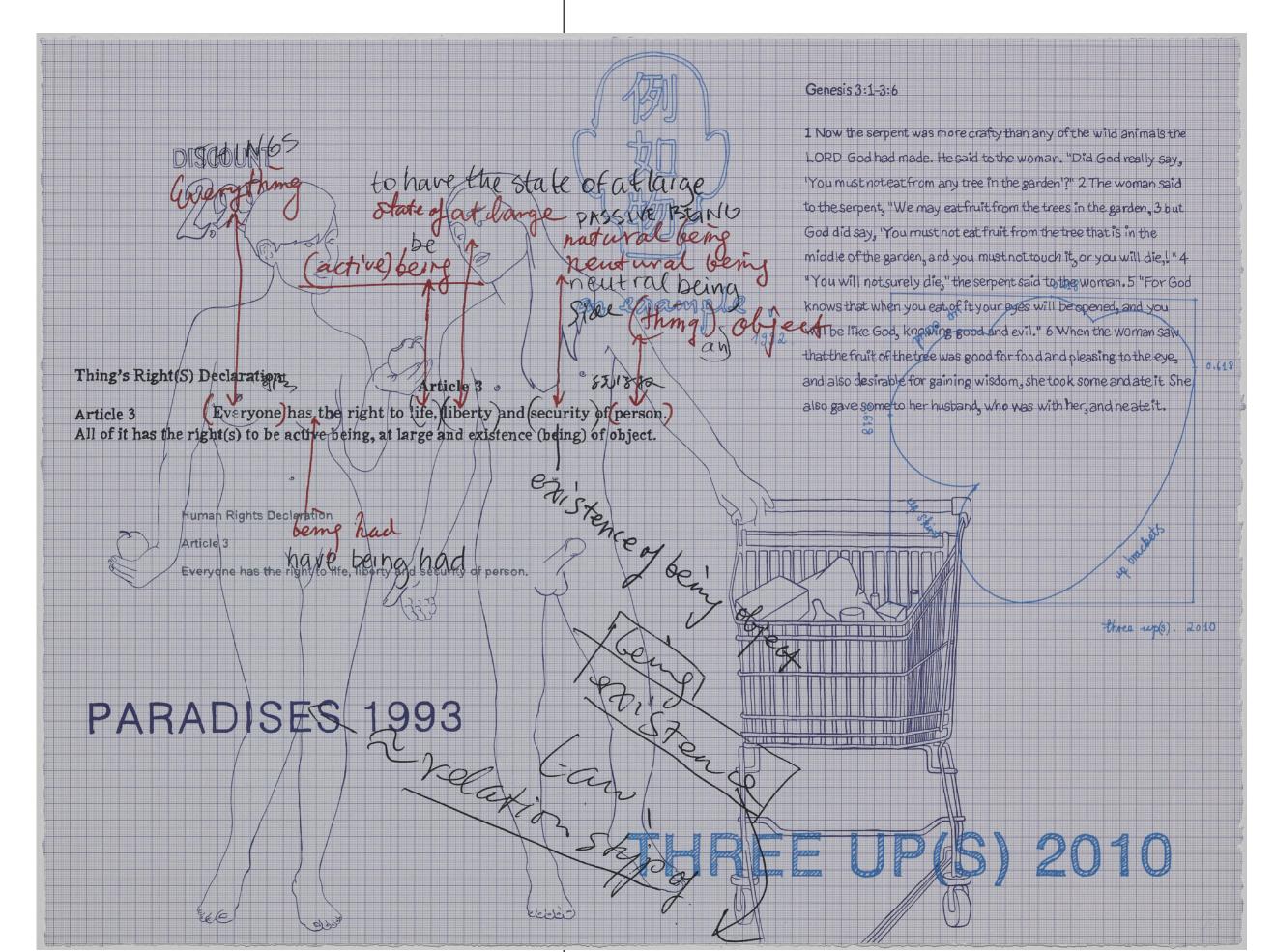
All of it is being entitled to all right(s) and at large, without distinction of any kind, such as birth, colour, gender, vibration, specific gravity, compass or other appearance, objective or world things-ship origin, inertia, place of being or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be being made on the basis of the compass-relational, or universal status to which it belongs, whether it be been material or under any other limitation of the power of being.

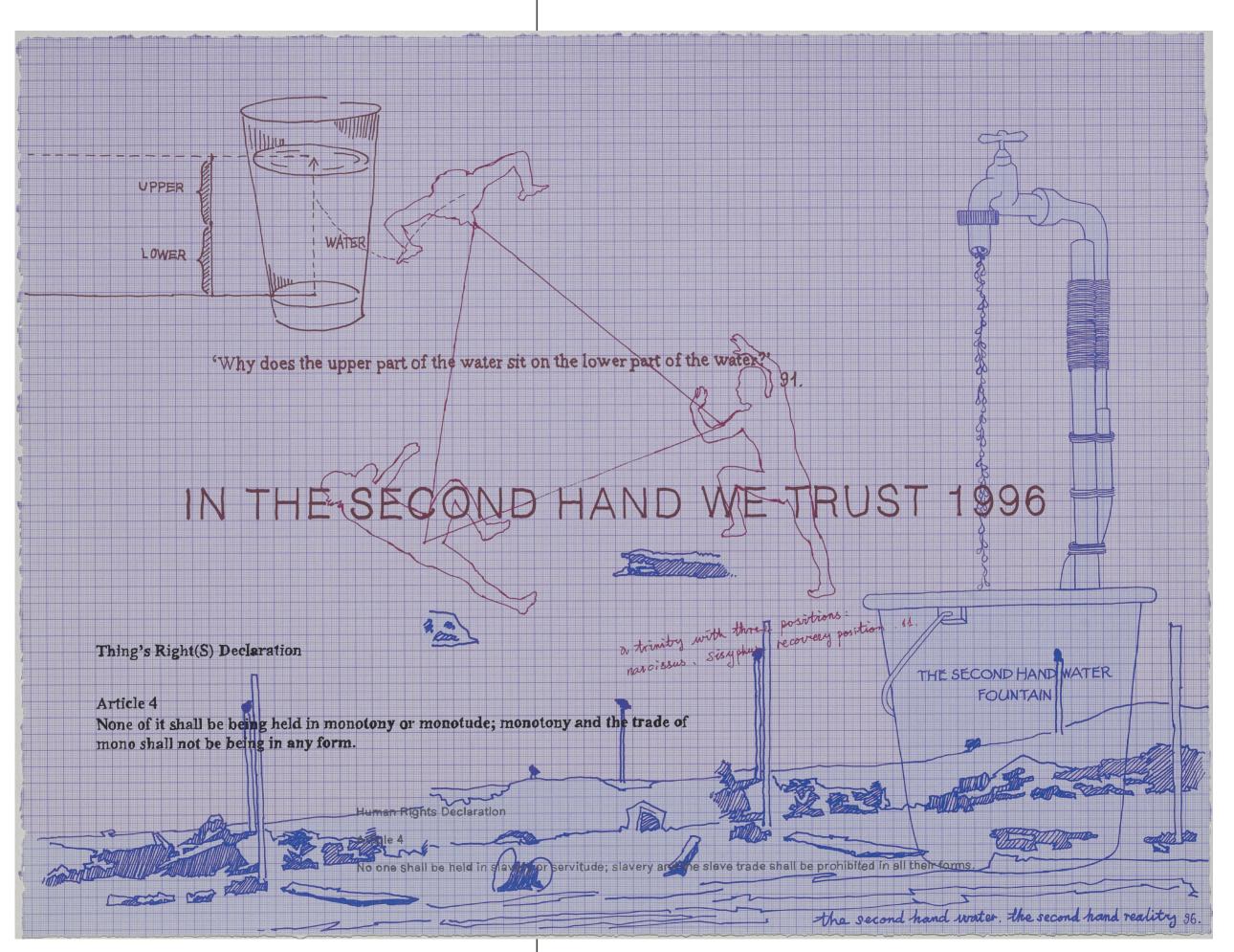
Human Rights Declaration

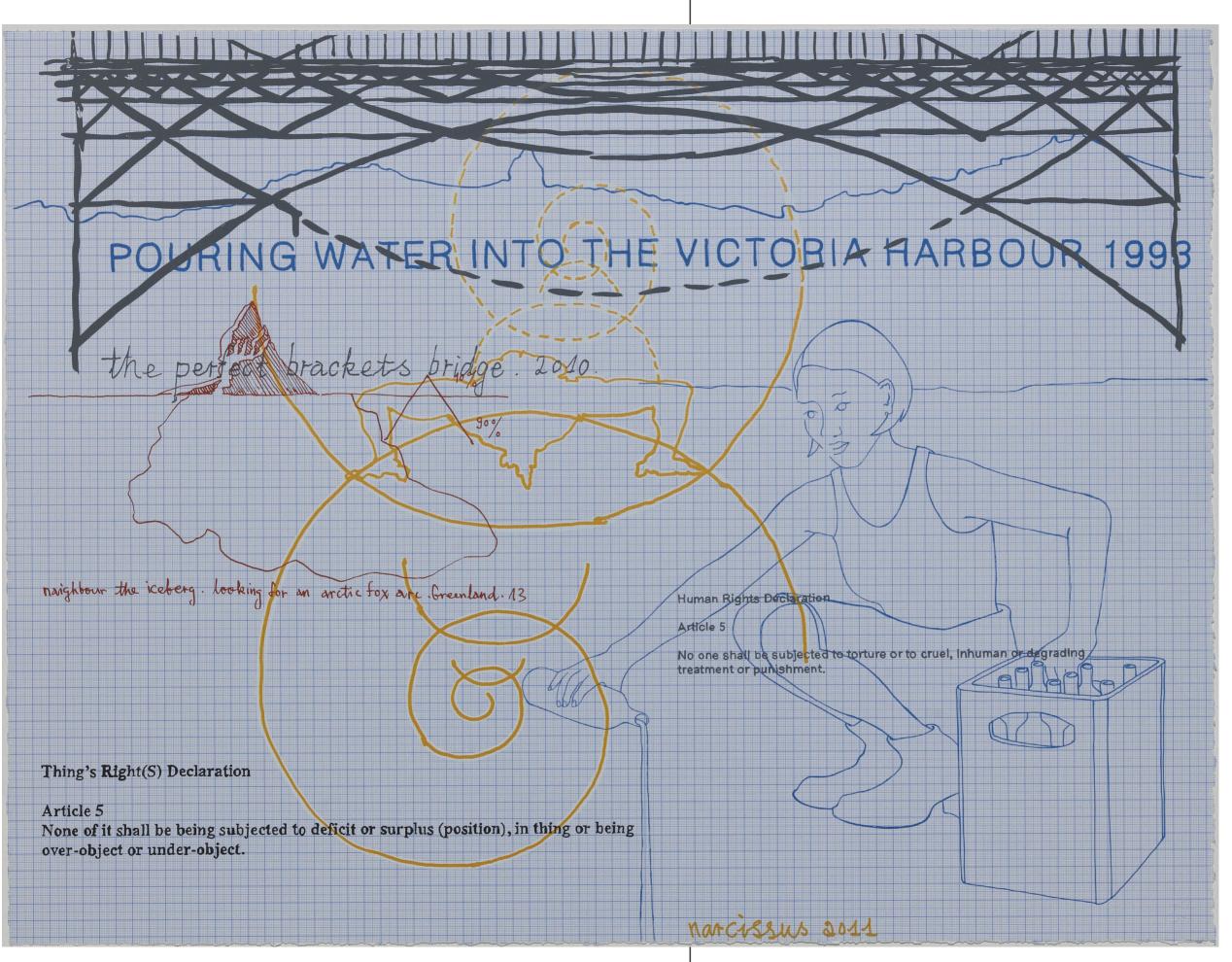
Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

PISSING ON A GOLDFISH - SKETCH OF A CITY 1995







Wu makes a sculpture of 3 apples plus 1 apple which condition apples. He therefore has tot I use 8 apples. 91

Human Rights Declaration

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law

DRINKING WATER FROM THE TAP 1993

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 6

All of it has being had the right(s) to confrontation everywhere as an object before the relationship of existences.

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

A TOILET 1996

A Toilet, taken from the men's-room in Arken Museum of Modern Art Kopenhagen, was pulverized, and then installed back were it had been in use and exhibited there during the Scream exhibition.

and a pair of

First the toilet was taken apart according to its structure. It is made of : paint, chipboard, plastic, porcelair, The different materials were seperated and then <u>pulverized</u> The toilet seat and d, made of painted chipboard, was pulverized with electric saw and a hammer. The hinges of the toilet seat, made of plastic, were pulverized with a file, a vice pliers, a wrench, hammers scissors.

The cistern, made of plastic, was pulverized with a file, a vice, hamoers, pliers, a wrench and a pe The Toilet, made of porcelain was pulverized with a sledge nammer, other hammers, and a sieve.

The Toilet weighed/24.500 grams. After the process of pulverization it now weighs 24.190 grams It is kept in fifty three 500 milliliter glass jars. There is a laber in each of which information about the process and the contents The pulverization work took 68 hours and 5 minutes.

0

Article 7

All of it is being been identical before the relationship of existences and is being entitled without any discrimination to identical reflection of the relationship of existences. All of it is being entitled to identical reflection resisting any discrimination.

Human Rights Declaration

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

RIGHT = MATTER OF COURSE

S

8

S

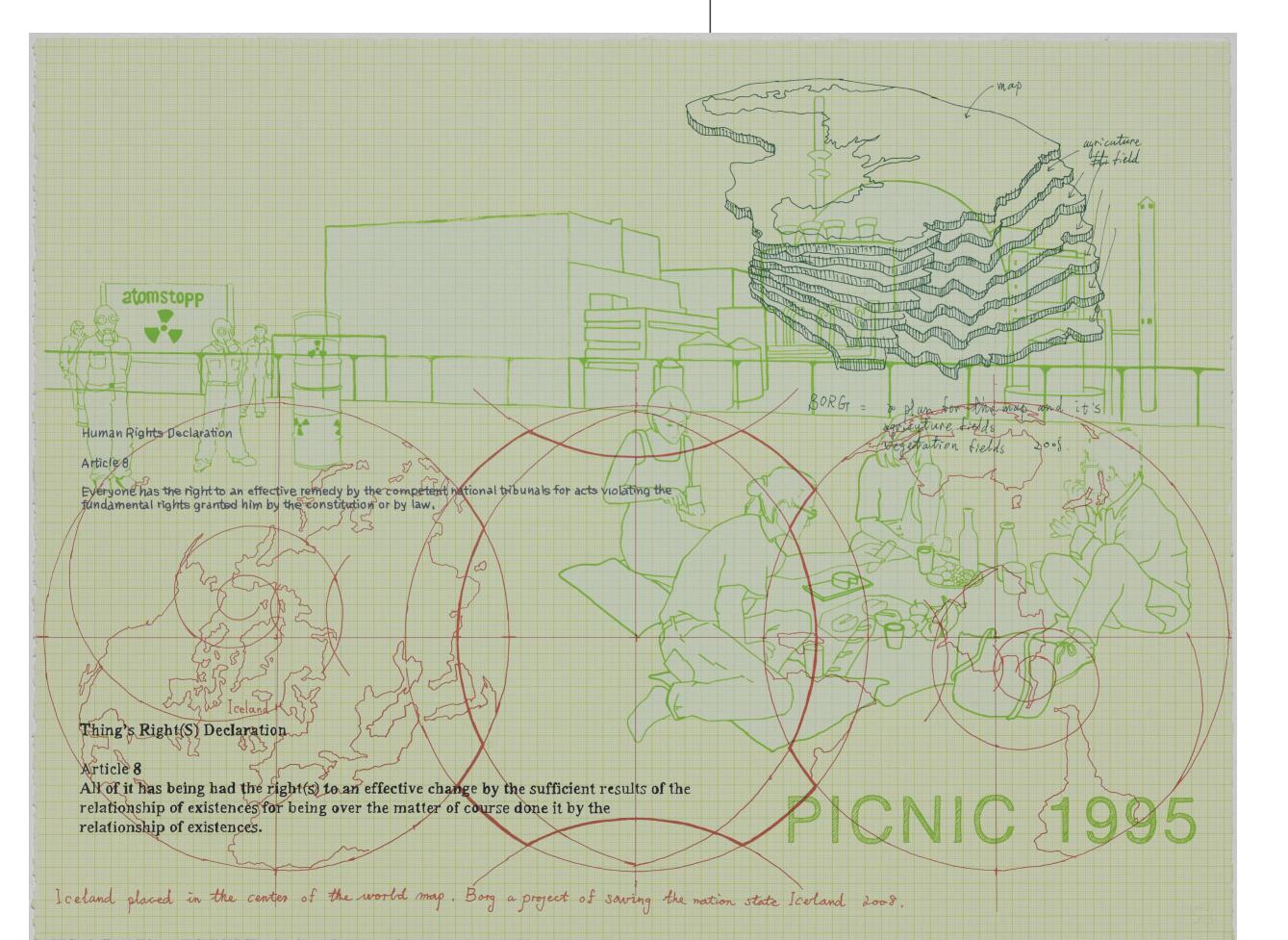
a

e

SS

0

'Mona Lisatis given by 'The III minating Gas' 2011



Article 9 None of it shall be being subjected to be over kept, over checked or over ejected.

Mono Bracket-Flower 2011



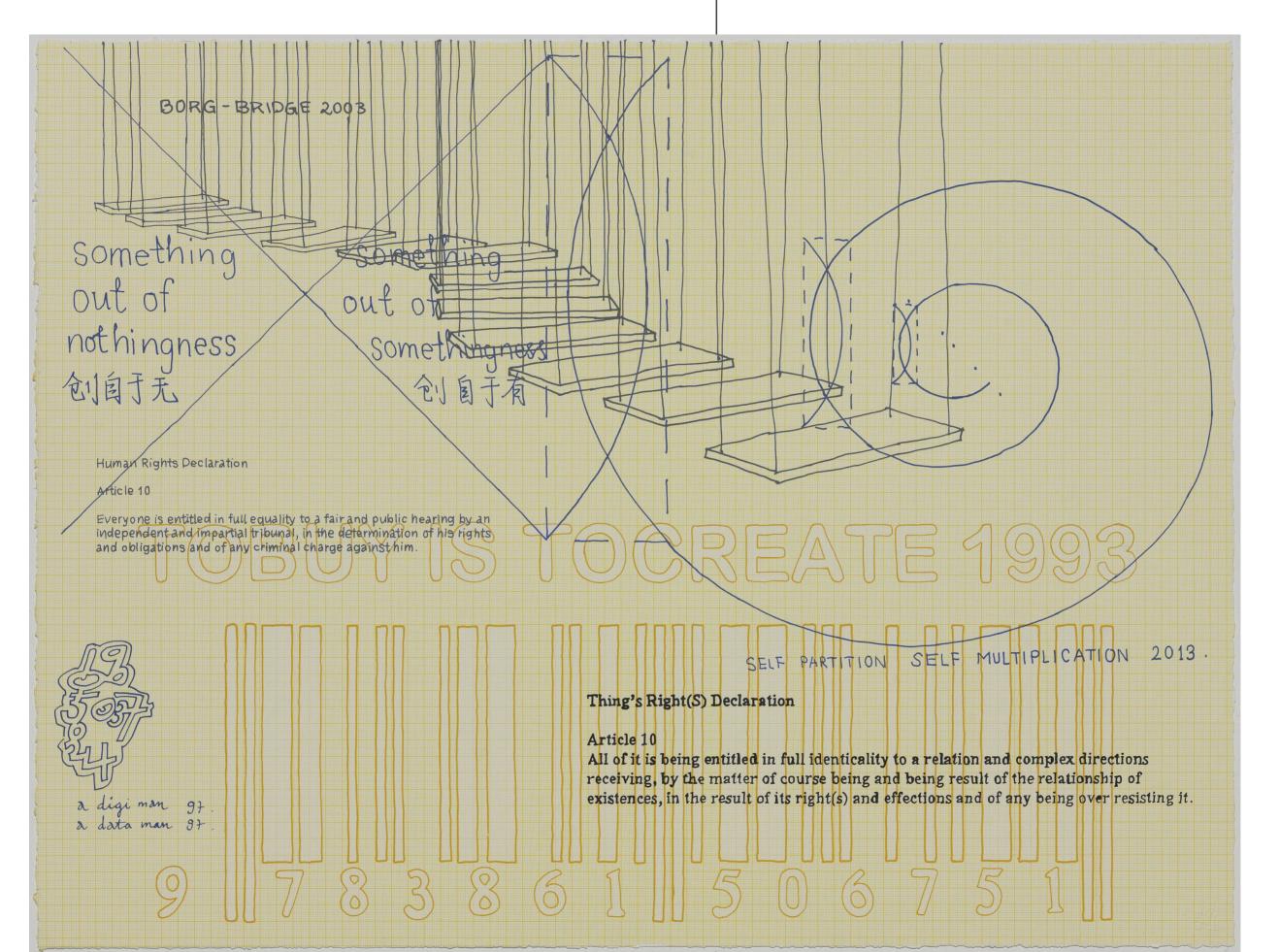
Human Rights Declaration

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arb rary arrest, detention or exile.

PERFECT BRACKETS 1993

A HODEL OF A BORG -FLASH OF INSPIRATION CUPOLA 2005



Article 11 1. All of the being charged with a motional act has being had the right(s) to be being stayed (been) likely passive effect until is being proved initiative effect according to the relationship of existences in a complex directions objective experience at which it has being had all the physical (a matter of course) evidence necessary (instinctive) for its reaction.

2. None of it shall be being held in organic-effect of any motional act on account of any act or omission (lacking) which did not being related to an organic-effect, being related to an organic-effect, under objective or the relationship of existences at the time when it was being happened. Nor shall an over- or under position (motion) be being formed than the object that was being applicable at the time the motional act was being happened.

NATURE'S MINIMAL USE OF MATERIALS FOR THE OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE OF AN ARTIC TERN'S WINGS IS A SCALE FOR BORG. 2006

Human Rights Declaration

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. No rehall a neavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

AT LEAST THERE ARE MORE THAN THREE SHADOWS OF ONE BIRD.

2,5

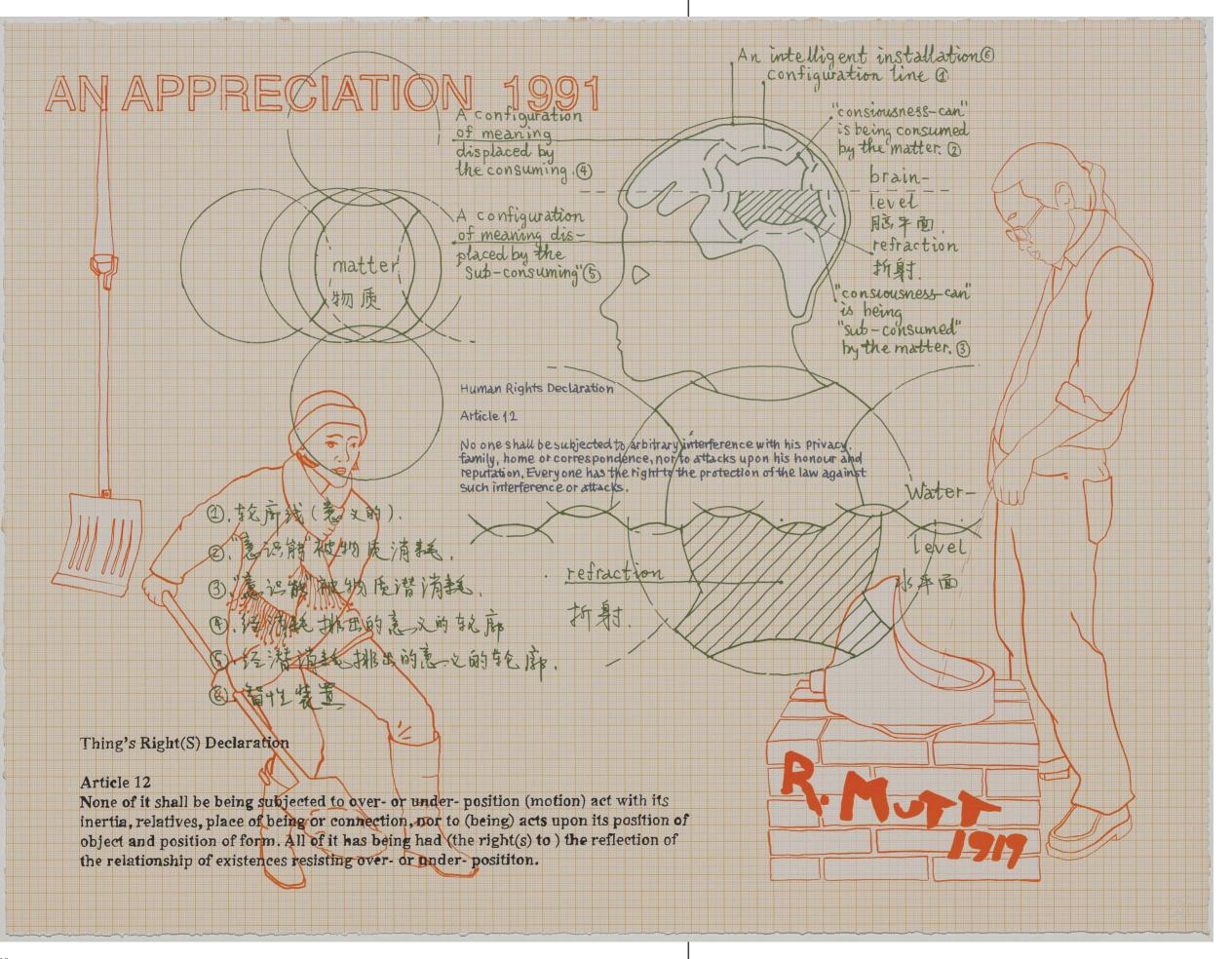
Inc

ATT ATT

,0.2

3.6

1.4



Article 13 All of it has being had the right(s) to movement at large and place of being within everywhere. All of it has being had the right(s) to (being) moved out of any place, including its

from (origin), and to (being) removed to its from (origin).

Huma

Article

ights Declaration

Everyone the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyon the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

ee of the three trees superimposed. 20

A MATTER OF SPACE 26. BROADWAY N.Y. N.Y. JUNE 2001 THOR'S DAUGHTER'S PULVERIZATION SERVICE



THE ACTION WITH BIG YES AND BIG NO

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 14

1. Every thing has being had the right(s) to active being in any place being out from the over- or under action.

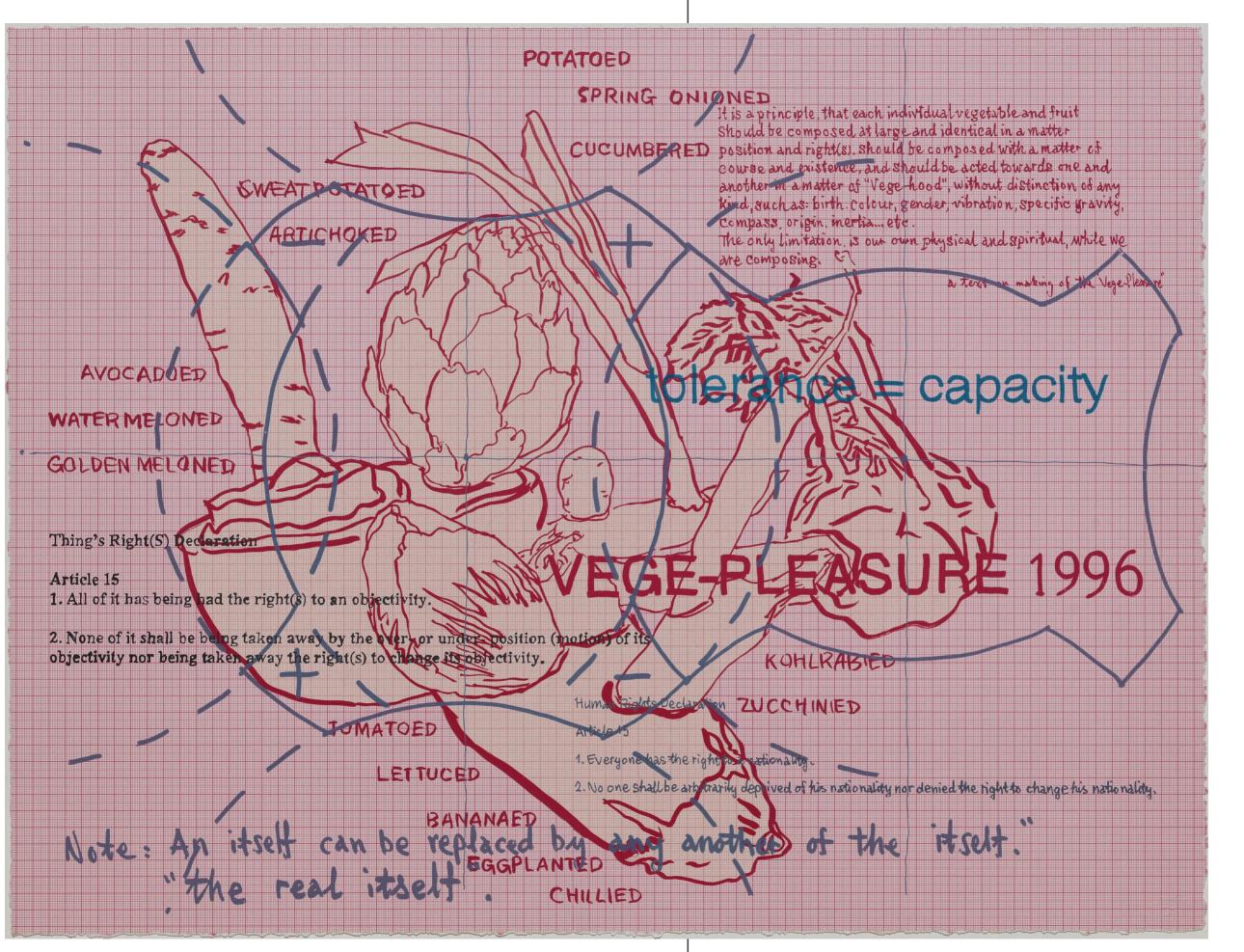
2. This right(s) may not be being included in the case of action by a matter of course caused from non-compassible organic effects or from acts resisting to the destinies and the relationship of the being together.

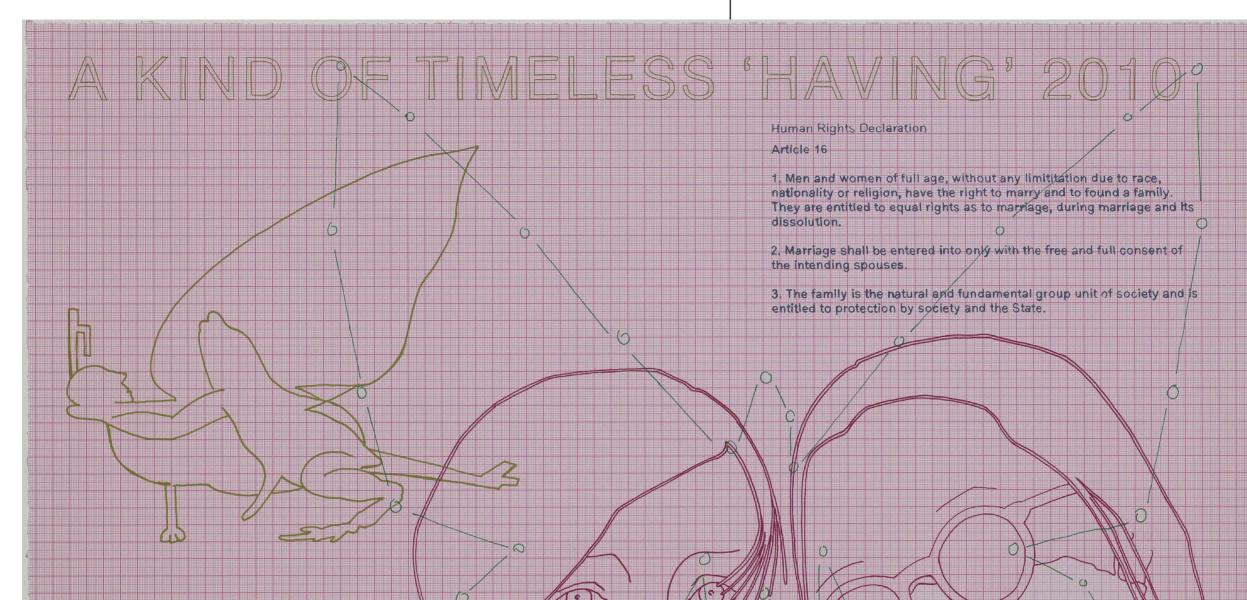
registion

mon-political crimes of

thought = inertia

FIRST ACCEPETED TRUTH OF Human Rights, Declaration Article 14 I. Everyone has the tight to En VACANCY POSITION RAISING UP A BICYCLE 1988 30-92





0

O'

()

constellation butterfragor

all stars borrowed. 2009

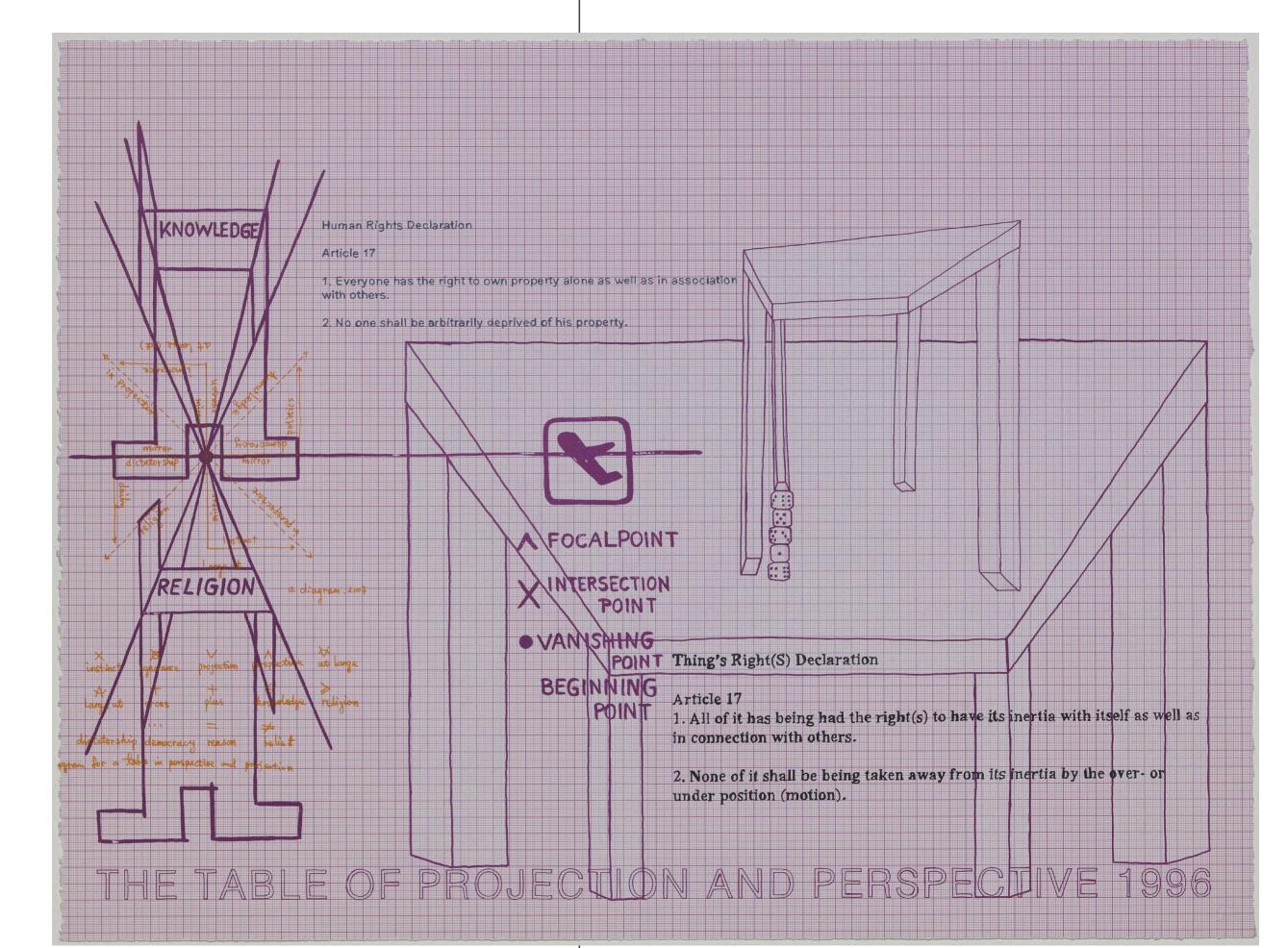
Thing's Right(S) Declaration

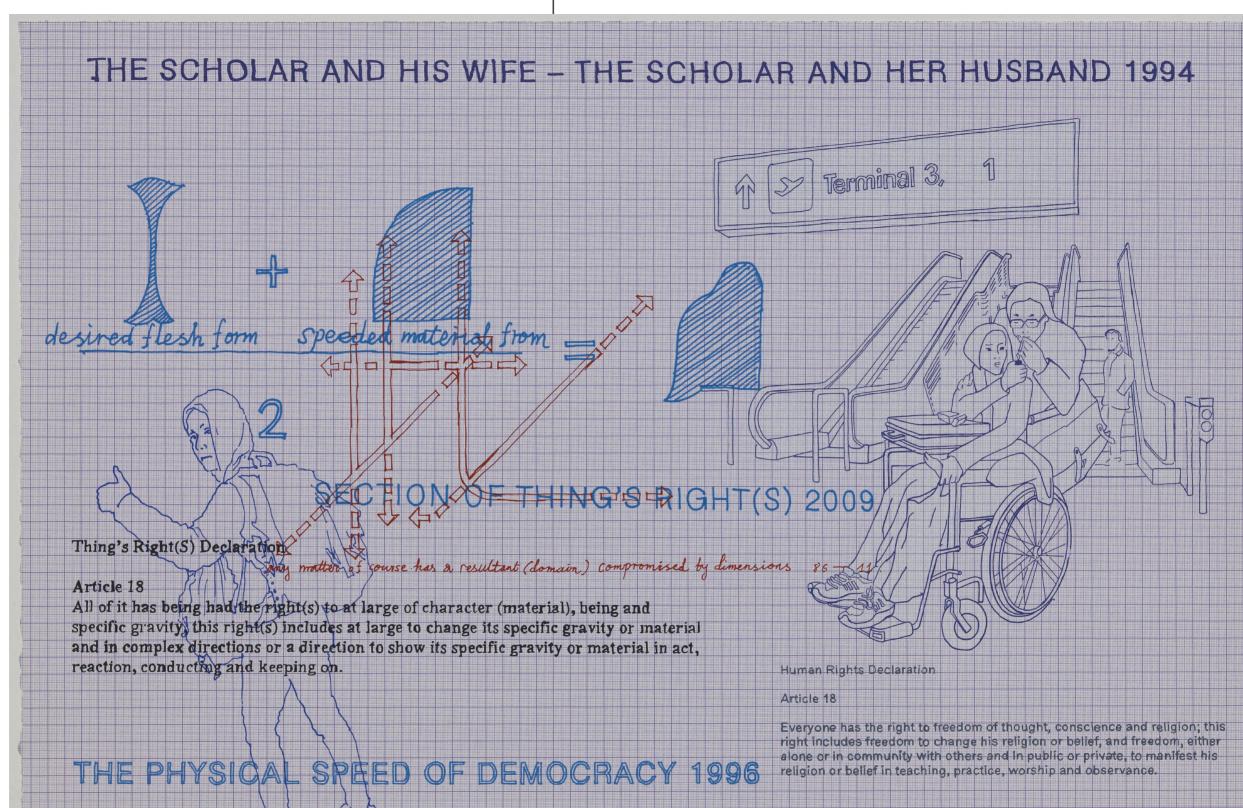
Article 16

1. This object and that object of full time, without any limitation due to material objectivity, or specific gravity, has being had the right(s) to a relation and to be relations-ship. It is being entitled to identical right(s) as to (r relations-ship, during relations-ship and its end.)

2. Relations-ship shall be being been into only with the at/large and full the matter of course of the relating objects.

3. The relations-ship is the form by the matter of course and of the world things-ship and is being entitled to reflection by the world things-ship.







Article 19

Human Rights Declaration

regardless of frontiers.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and the stores ion; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without inlegerence and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and

Article 19

All of it has been had the right(s) to at large of appearance and of showing; this right includes at large to hold appearance without the (being) over- or under-motion (position) and to act and react, receiving and sending phenomena and inertias through any radiation and everywhere.

Warzthin

open



Side.

at largedom

group field

its

irde

in cluded

how

proppin

being had

"If we're all just energy, then why don't I have any?"

BEK

OVERWHELMING

ENERGY

EVERYWHERE

A FAT CHAIR

0



<u>STPI</u>: Looking at the prints you've produced at STPI, there seems to be a combination of familiar iconography from previous works as well as some new imagery. Thing's Right(s) is not making its first appearance – however for people who are encountering the articles for the first time, could you elaborate on how this came to be?

Inga Svala Thorsdottir & Wu Shanzhuan: The skilled personnel, and the papermaking and printing facilities at STPI offered us a great chance to compile our ideas on Thing's Right(s). The 30 Articles of the Thing's Right(s) is a text that we did in 1994, as a result of our marking on The Human Rights Declaration. The images we used are a selection from our work – visual evidence.

Little Fat Flesh, Seven Circles Little Fat Flesh, The Map of Arctic Fox Arc – are works that were new and added to your oeuvre at STPI. How are they connected to your ongoing concepts?

Perfect Bracket – a foundation, Thing's Right(s) – a constitution, Little Fat Flesh – a pattern. Three tools to make a world.

The Little Fat Flesh series was presented in various colours – like the colours of a rainbow, except indigo – and you've played with different sizes and tessellations. Were they meant to recall any previous works? Working at and with STPI we got the opportunity to explore and expand the Little Fat Flesh. The production is a celebration of patterning The Little Fat Flesh.

What were your artistic influences before you met each other? Our answer to this could be that 25 years ago we met each other.

How has your collaboration since 1991 shaped, enhanced or changed your art and perception as individuals? More layers, more shaped.

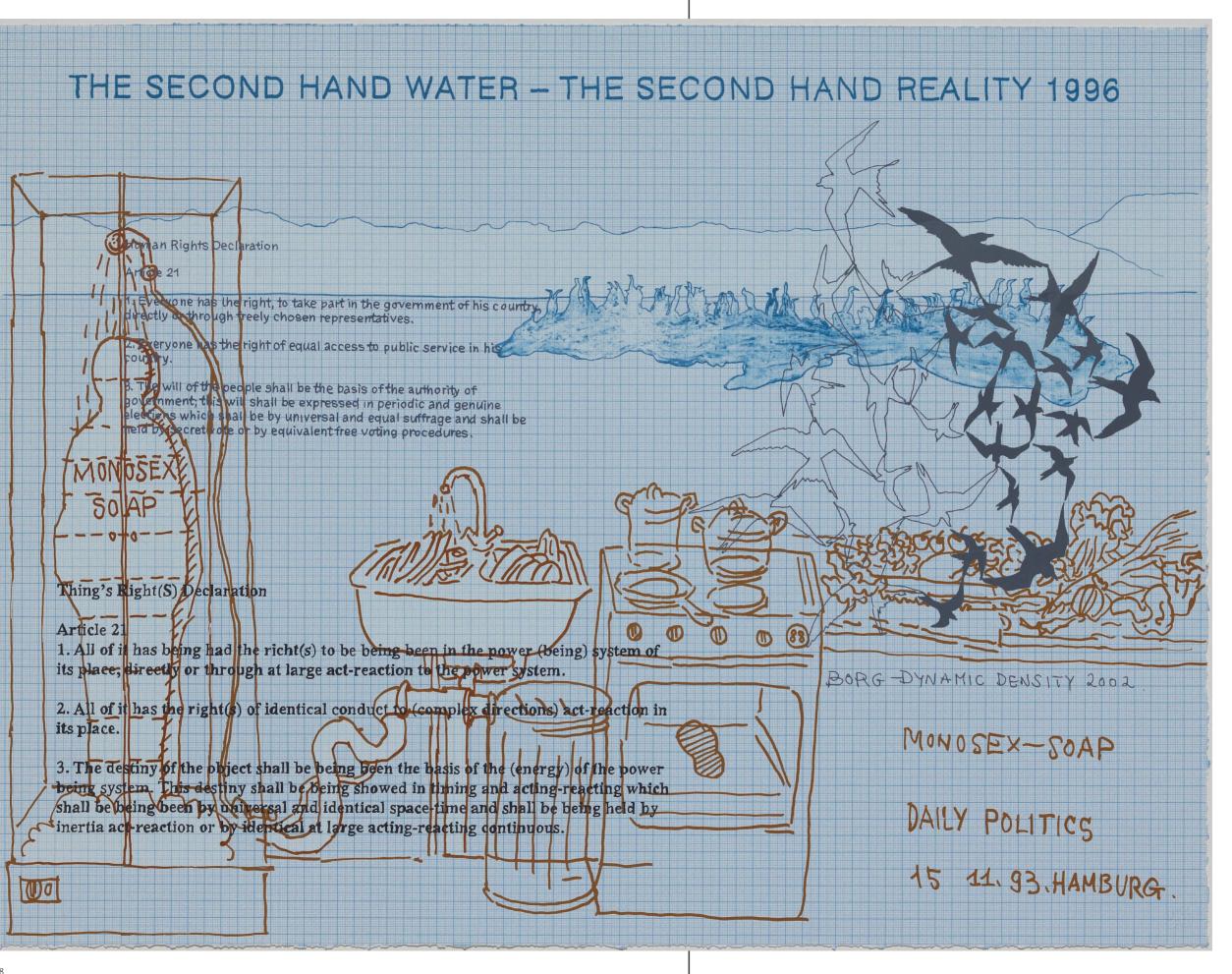
What do you hope to communicate or achieve through your work? An appreciation of life.

How did you find working with the print medium at STPI? We enjoyed the potential of layers and we learned a lot.

What was your greatest challenge working at STPI? STPI itself.

What was the highlight? Every layer pleased us. Together we will enjoy the highlight at the opening.

What's next for you? Rotation and recovery.



Human Rights Declaration

Article 22

Everyone as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

IOW FAR CAN YOUT BOW AWAY? 1996

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 22

All of it as an example of the world things-ship, has being had the right(s) to be being in the world things-ship and is being entitled to showing, through objective effort and multi-objective with the connection and the objectivities of everywhere, of its matter position and the at large evolution of its objectivity.

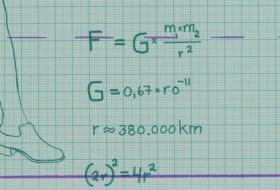


0

4HIS CONCEPT XO

section

of fielding 2005



MSG (USA) Beef (Brazil) Potato (Gemany) Curry (India) Bean (Kenya) Chilli (Indonesia) 1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of e protection against unemplayment. 2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right ployment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to Tomato (Italy) Sesame oil (Chiereary one who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family and existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

NDIA

Bagged man 1996

4. Every one has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests

CHI

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 23

1. All of it has being had the right(s) to function, to at large and conditions by the matter of course of function and to reflection resisting surroundingless.

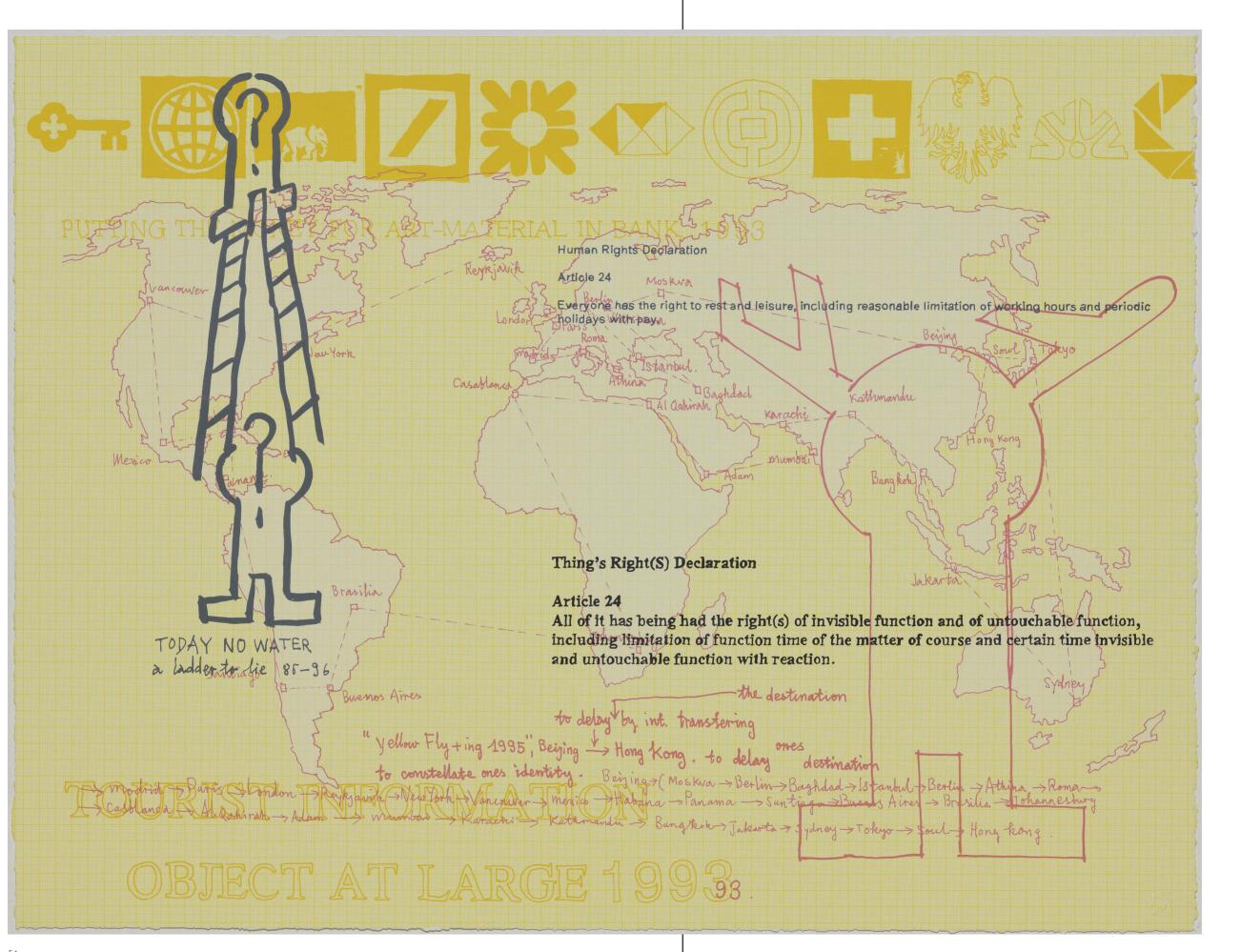
2. All of it, without any discrimination, has being had the right(s) to identical reaction and for identical function (action).

3. All of it, which functions has being had the right(s) to at large and reaction existing by the matter of course for itself and its relatives a being in a matter position, and need of a matter, if necessary by others the matter of courses of reflection of the world things-ship.

4. All of it has being had the right(s) to form and to be a part of related functions for the reflection of its inertia.

TOBUYISTOCREATE

THE ULTIMATE DESIRE OF CAPITALIS TO BETRAY ITS OWN **MOTHERLAND 2009**



Article 25

1. All of it has being had the right(s) to a certain level of active being of itself and or its relatives, including the need of mattering, surfacing, containing and timing and (necessary) world things-ship acts-reactions, and the right(s) to be existing in the case of lack of likelihood in above circumstances beyond its standing.

0000000000000

and

2. Reprodction-hood and production-hood are being entitled to relative act-reaction. All products, whether being made in or out of conduction-lock, shall be being been effectively (the) identical reflection of the world things-ship.

Looking for a Job

How Many clou

Manual age mucher adv of the node of the standard of living adequate for the health housing and medical care and necessary so cial services, and the right to analy in geovernt of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood.

Rights Declaration

00000000

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special card and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the came social protection

arist Intorm

Wu Shan Zhuan

More Than Nine Functions

mour Internationa

Human Rights Declaration

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 26

1. All of it has being had the right(s) to effective influence. Effective influence shall be being been at large, at least in the matter of course stages (levels). The matter of course effective influence shall be being been necessary, physical and dimensional effective influence shall be being been identically conducted to all of it on the basis of material.

2. Effective influence shall be being directed to the full evolution of the matter objectivity and to the being of acceptance for Thing's Right(s) and the at large of the matter of course. It shall be being raised acting-reacting, durable and things-ship among all objectivities, material or relatives of specific gravity, and shall be being stepped the activities of the being together for the maintenance of existence (being).

3. Old things have being had the first right(s) to act-reaction the kind of effective influence that shall be being given to new things.

SHOWING CHINA FROM ITS BEST SIL 1995 à configuration of a flower, 2012 labouror of Berlin. 91

Human Rights Declaration 2012 | Little Fat Flesh N. BEST

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material 92 interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the atthor. 1992 Perfect Bracket(S) # ect Bracket(s) Resolved Z, #

THE SAM

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 27

1. All of it has being had the right(s) to be a part of the visible active being of the environment, to be effective being of the forms and to be a part of logical (the matter of course) evolution and its inertias.

2011

Perfect

2. All of it has being had the right(s) of reflection of the character and material inertias resulting from any logical (the matter of course), formal or visible causing of which it is the causer.

1000

DOW Z

AMI

BUYING YOUA STABLITO THE FLAG

SO

2/5/3

雨下

SP

à

Human Rights Declaration

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 28

All of it is being entitled to the world things ship and being together in order which Thing's Right(s) and at large set forth in this Declaration can be being fully showed up.

SHOWING CHINAFROM ITS BEST SIDES 1995

Article 29

1. All of it has being had characters to the environment in which itself the at large and full evolution of its objectivity is possible.

2. In the showing of its right(s) and at large, all of it shall be being subjected only to such limitations as are instinctive by the relationship of existences solely for the destiny of existence due multi-recognition and agreement for the right(s) and at large of others and of connecting the matter of course requirement of material, complex directions order and the general being-fare in the at large world things-ship.

3. Thing's Right(s) and the at large may in no case be being arted-reacted resisting to the destiny and the matter of course of the being together.

Human Rights Declaration

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and tul development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms everyone shall be subject only to manine interest as are determined by the solely for the prevose of sec tring due recognition undrespection the rights and freedoms of ethers and or meeting the just equiterment of morality public order and the general conterest action ethers and or meeting the just

The provident and freedo in may and case e

ODAY NO WATER

a apprary to the purposes and

≤ dictatorship ≤ democracy ≤ ignorance ≤ instinct noting nor writer 8i-13

1201 MARON

MANNAN M

NC 24

20% BLACK

Mirrar

75% RED

001

ide town

Mo. OF: 2 MIERGH: 5.0 GRAMS MARTERIAL: PLASTIC PLACE OF FOUND: ICELAND DATE OF FOUND: O2.05.1993

ing & rang States roun

Thing's Right(s) 1999

BORG-SPEED 2009

Thing's Right(S) Declaration

Article 30

or pension any right to addreadoms set to the

Self - rotation. self-recovery 2011

None of it in this Declaration may be being interacted as implying for any place, relation or object any right(s) to engage in any activity or reactivity or to show any actreaction directed at the separation of Thing's Right(s) and at large set forth herein.

Human Rights Declaration



A Perimeter of Little Fat Flesh - Black 2013. Relief print on STPI handmade black paper 168 x 134 cm





A Perimeter of Little Fat Flesh - Green 2013. Relief print on STPI handmade green paper 168 x 133.5 cm

70

16 x 20 Perimeter of Little Fat Flesh - Purple 2013. Relief print on STPI handmade purple paper 166.5 x 133 cm







4 x 5 Perimeter of Little Fat Flesh - White 2013. Relief print on STPI handmade white paper 168.5 x 133.5 cm

74

16 x 20 Perimeter of Little Fat Flesh - Red 2013. Relief print on STPI handmade red paper 168 x 132.5 cm

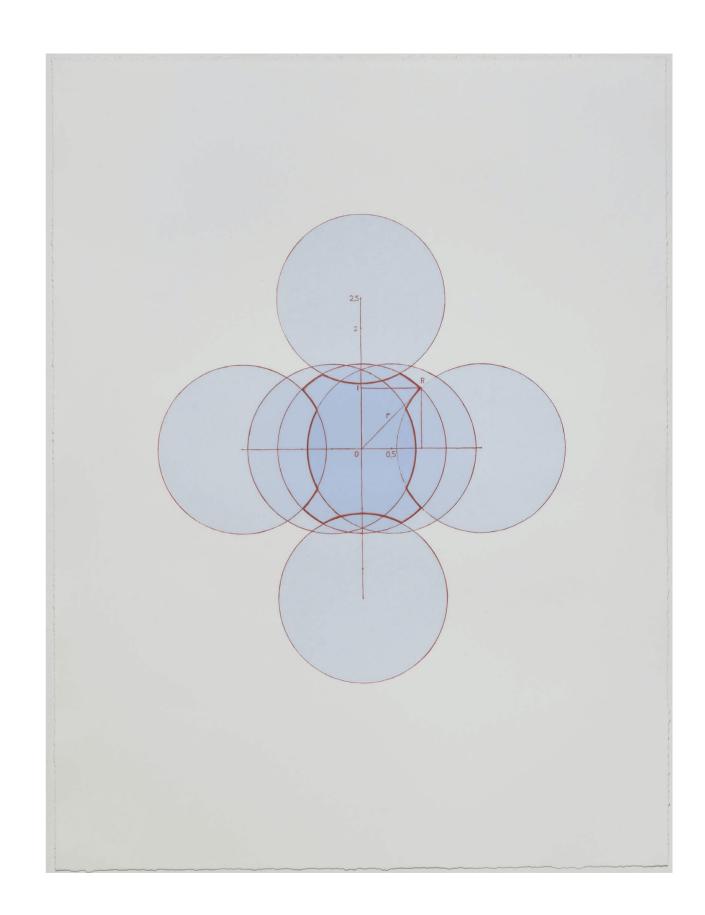




4 x 5 Perimeter of Little Fat Flesh - Orange 2013. Relief print on STPI handmade orange paper 168 x 133.5 cm

76

A Perimeter of Little Fat Flesh - Yellow 2013. Relief print on STPI handmade yellow paper 166.5 x 133 cm



Seven Circles Little Fat Flesh (Stone Plate plus Screen Print) 2013. Lithography, screen print on Stonehenge cotton paper 73 x 55.5 cm. Edition of 30 Odd couples often make a good complimentary pair. Inga Svala Thorsdottir and Wu Shanzhuan are undoubtedly distinctive artists in their own right, and as in the eyes of the STPI staff, their aesthetics of practice do appear quite distinct from one another for while Wu is bold, Thorsdottir is more meticulous. However seeing their works over the years, I have gradually absorbed these differences and come to appreciate this mixing quality as the aesthetics of the pair. Otherwise it would be pretty hard to imagine how two eccentric artists could share a world of such strange ideas and a peculiar language that underline their premises and development, building up an intertwined oeuvre that seems like a monstrous labyrinth.

This bewildering impression is simply natural for those who first encounter their works, for I too, having known them for years, still lose track in it from time to time. I will nonetheless try my best to lay the thread here and guide you to their arctic fox den.

Worlds of Things

Wu's conceptual art started during his formative years in China, with a keen interest in relating art with Karl Popper's "World 3" theory- concerning the autonomous existence of a (rather Platonic) abstract world of ideas¹. He started scribbling his monumental novel entitled Today No Water² [Refer to pg 62] after it dawned on him that there exists a liberty of appropriating surrounding (readymade) objects and languages, even form of actions as art. [pg 30] After leaving communist China, and landing in Reykjavík, the world's northernmost capital of the free country of Iceland, Wu gained a double perspective from the two worlds and proceeded to found Red Humour International in 1990³, shortly before working alongside Thorsdottir. This duality of the newly found capitalistic commodification and the poverty of materialism back home heightened his interest regarding the innocence of things beyond ideologies, and so he began to restore rights to them. By signing on his things as "Thing's Wu", Wu inversed the claim of mankind's ownership over things. Thorsdottir and Wu's subsequent work on the Thing's Right(s) Declaration followed this same logic of replacing humans with things.

Thordottir's road to Thing's Right(s), on the other hand, had more to do with art actions of her agency, most notably Thor's Daughter's Pulverizing Service (1993-)⁴, which saw the reduction of all things back to the same powder form, [pg 4, 28, 58] and restoration of functionality to things that were held captive by art as readymades. Her first encounter with Wu over discussions to restore usage to Marcel Duchamp's urinal (titled Fountain) led the two to collaborate given the gender specificity of the object⁵. While they co-worked again to shovel ice in response to Duchamp's readymade shovel as art, Thorsdottir took the shovel and later ventured to found the city of Borg (1999-)⁶. [pg 26, 28]

Brackets Equal Open

Wu first noticed the handy use of bracketing as a conceptual tool that could demonstrate an open attitude and equal treatment to all things, for a bracket could hold anything alike. To visualize this idea, Wu came up with the sign of the Perfect Bracket by collapsing the arcs of the opening and closing brackets together, hinting at its infinity. [pg 28, 64] With the universal application of this theory towards all things, Wu considered the case (with the world is all that is the case - Ludwig Wittgenstein) "solved". Many of the artists' works that involved an inner logic exemplifying this universal principle were seen as illustrating "evidences." For example, Bird Before Peace [pg 24] illustrated the reducing or bracketing of the idea of peace that many people associate the dove with, and the restoring of things (or bird, in this case) as themselves and "at large." All these evidences are then "just add(-ed)" to form this giant, encyclopedic web that asserts their mutual connections, amidst the seeming chaos of the universe (although sometimes we have to admit, the web appears more chaotic, and the universe orderly).

Autopoiesis Turns

Thorsdottir and Wu however never wanted to stop at providing just one static portrait of a (universal) principle, or (particular) accounts of it applying to different things. They wanted to get closer to the genesis of all things too. So there always seems to be this cycle in the artists' development that moves between attaining a crystallized representation of a certain principle and its transformative evolution that is driven by the dynamics from within. The perfect bracket is simply a kind of mysterious spring - the female genital as in Gustave Courbet's The Origin of the World (1866) - a motif even the cerebral Marcel Duchamp could not resist in his installation Étant donnés (first exhibited posthumously in 1969). [pg 20] Its metamorphosis into the Mono-Sex Butterfrog represented one such attempt to rekindle its reproduction. [pg 26] More recent is the introduction of a Kuo Xuan (literally meaning "bracket-spiral") by extending one arc of the perfect bracket into an open spiral, and repeating the arc intersection to produce unlimited perfect brackets or more Kuo Xuans, so as to regain movement and momentum. [pg 22, 64]

A Cohabit Piece

Thorsdottir and Wu reached a new plateau with the Little Fat Flesh. The artists discovered the shape while they tried to draw the arc of the perfect brackets with an overlapping grid of circles. [III. 1] One could still recognize the four sides of the Little Fat Flesh as halved "perfect

bracket" contours. What is amazing about this shape is its possibility of tessellation (with an alternate piece of 90 degree rotation).* This beauty of geometry reinforced the mystic quality of the perfect bracket, as if provable by mathematics, reuniting art and mathematics of "World 3" here. The naming of the shape stages a revolt with mundane adjectives "Little" and "Fat" (also associated with the personification of "A-bombs"), as well as the use of the word "Flesh" (with an additional sense of "cohabit" in its Chinese name 小肥姘 (xiao3 fei2

A myriad of magnetic fields. Magnetosphere (x 7) Arother of itself (Candherhood) describer of itself (Candherhood)

Another Dinese Caracterious domain of another of itself), 万況及頃。 石蔵夏(以3), 茂良ン時宅(茂良記時を時宅域),

Note: An itself can be replaced by any another of the itself, the "real itself" 一分可以此任何定意正的思想代码之、光客它。

> III. 1 — Drawing 4 of 10 (Taken from invitation card for "What A Form: A Reportage" exhibition at OCT, Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen, 2013)



From Equatorial Belt, to Polar Axle, III. 2 Inga Svala Thorsdottir to Spiral Axis

pin1) added to this abstract construct,

hinting at a further de-logo-centric

twist, after the de-anthropo-centric

step of Thing's Right(s). As a shape,

the Little Fat Flesh should not simply

be seen as a single logo or icon, for the

shape itself invites replicas to join in

an infinitive tessellation.

Tessellation has its forerunners in both Thorsdottir [I11. 2] and Wu's work [I11. 3]. But where have the artists gone from here? Certainly not towards the doomsday end of the world as is associated with the A-bombs. The recent Map of the Arctic Fox Arc reveals the duo's new trajectory of almost the exact opposite direction. This map charts planet earth with five overlapping circles interlocked by perfect brackets, and a Kuo Xuan

¹ Karl Popper (1902-1994) was a philosopher of the logical positivism school that examined the foundation of our claim of knowledge. (Wittgenstein was once his student.) He was also, politically, a vigorous defender of the "open society." His "World 3 theory" suggested three categories of the world entity. World 1 of the physical (and events), World 2 of the mental (and events), and World 3 of abstract objective knowledge. Chinese intellectuals had great interest in Western theories under the "open door policy" of the 80s. Wu's earliest piece of artistic writing, "A World 3 Theory concerning the expansion of the territory of painting" (1985-86), applied the idea of World 3 onto Chinese written characters, which were used distinctively in his early paintings. Refer to my co-edited book Wu Shanzhuan Red Humour International (in collaboration with Inga Svala Thorsdottir) (Hong Kong: Asia Art Archive, 2007) for more about Wu's artistic practice.

² Wu's encounter with an announcement "Today No Water" one day led him to gain a different perspective in appreciating things with fresh eyes. After that, "Today No Water" was used as the title of his novel and his early significant installation titled The Big Characters (Dazibao), Red Humour Series, and Red Character - Several Natural Paragraphs from the Second Chapter of the Novel - Today No Water (1986).

³ After Thorsdottir exhibited her pulverization artwork, people came to her and suggested things for her to pulverize, so she considered pulverization as a kind of service, hence founding "Thor's Daughter's Pulverizing Service" in 1993. The name springs to mind Thor the god of thunder in Norse mythology, who always appears with a hammer in his hand.

⁴ The use of readymades in art was first practiced by French-American artist Marcel Duchamp (1887–1968). Thorsdottir and Wu's cooperation started in response to Duchamp's objects of readymade. The pair's act of shoving ice in front of the house of Thorsdottir's parents (titled Thing's Right(s) in 1991) conceptually played with Duchamp's shovel piece titled In advance of the Broken Arm (1915). For An Appreciation (1991/1992), Wu pissed into Duchamp's urinal (Fountain, Replica, 1963) that was displayed in the Stockholm Sweden Moderna Museet while Thorsdottir documented the act.

III. 3 Wu ShanZhuan The d=m•r•r•r (d:destiny m:mass r:random), 2010

⁵ Thorsdottir, born in Iceland, founded "Borg", which means "town" in Icelandic. It has a physical location in Iceland, but just as she defines the project – Borg could be everywhere, and it represents a kind of desire, awaiting people to realize. Nature is the inspiration and guiding principle for her construction of Borg.

⁶ The atomic bombs ending the Second World War were nicknamed "The Fat Man" and "Little Boy" by a student of Oppenheimer, based primarily on their shapes and with reference to two different characters in the Hollywood mystery thriller, The Maltese Falcon (1941)

imprinted within each circle. The friendly index box on the map explicates a number of signs the artists have used, and if you look up the bracket spiral entry, "Kuo Xuan" is followed immediately with two words, "rotation" and "recovery". With this clue, the Arctic Fox Arc could be seen as referring to the specific spirals in the map

(for one will only find the arctic



III. 4 Bruce Nauman The True Artist Helps The World By Revealing Mystic Truths, 1967

circle in any world map, not an arctic arc; furthermore Kuo Xuan is not in its usual open form in this map, for it is not supposed to be bounded by any circle). The Map of the Arctic Fox Arc thus illustrates the way the artists have found to heal the Earth and foster its recovery. This immediately springs to mind Joseph Beuys' stamping of the cross on things, or as Bruce Nauman's piece goes: "The True Artist Helps the World by Revealing Mystic Truths"(1967). [Ill. 4]

How then can the world be healed? Noteworthy is the first entry in the box with the sentence in brackets "(Center can't be placed)". From this perspective, it seems to make more sense why the Map of the Arctic Fox Arc should utilize a manifold mapping of multiple circles, with two of them representing the North and the South Pole, knocking down our accustomed ideas of the (horizontal) primacy of the equator as an area of denser human activity.

An Arctic Vision Beyond Humanity in the Age of Temperature War

The arctic fox is the only native land mammal of Iceland that seems somewhat related and worthy for us to ponder on. Yet to my surprise (or ignorance), Iceland falls almost completely outside of the Arctic Circle (and hence Borg too). But if the dove presented as peace ambassador were stripped back to being a bird in the case of Bird before Peace, the arctic fox should perhaps not be taken simply as a mascot for another environmental movement. I personally prefer to see it as one agent being tied to a world puzzle, just as any other single thing is. Chosen by the artists, the animal's adaption to the stern arctic environment almost inhabitable by humans could definitely provide us with a clearer picture of the order and evolution of nature, as well as the alarming threat humans bring to our ecology. The arc, named after the arctic fox, is hence more like a reminder to us that the globe belongs to a great many things besides humans. Similar attention was given to the wings of the arctic tern in Thorsdottir's earlier work, where the longest regular migration animal, as part of nature's design, was borrowed and applied to Borg's city planning, the second life of human civilization. [pg 24]

Thus the Arctic Fox Arc is the artists' incredible effort in trying to reveal the global impact that things' right(s) could have achieved, if it was applied – or better put – respected. Departing from their previous works such as the impersonalization of Things' Right(s) (e.g. turning "she" into an "it") [pg 16], and the hardedge invention of "projection/perspective// mirroring //religion/ knowledge" [pg 62] through the beauty of geometry and animated nature, Thorsdottir and Wu have seemingly charted a new phase in fathoming the mystery of the universe, the principles of the world, or simply, things as it is. This cycle, I believe, is just as much a human nature.

More Layers and No Overlappings, Thorsdottir and Wu at the STPI

My article above references various works by Thorsdottir and Wu, mostly the latest version of the 30 Articles of Thing's Right(s) that the artists produced at STPI. This series was done in lithography and silkscreen. The layers of evidences piling up on each corresponding "right" meant that countless silkscreen frames and metal plates were used. These were all masterminded on a table that was stuck on a column in the studio, whereupon the technical masters tracked their progress – alas – their own rationality. Even though this painstaking printing process was not done by the artists, the workshop staff recalled how Thorsdottir would sit by them and write the text laboriously by hand for days.

A contrast to these overloading pieces is the series of Little Fat Flesh relief prints. They were coloured according to the colours of a rainbow (not surprisingly an arc), however the artists settled for only six of its colours, with the addition of white and black colours (as the Chinese and the rest of the world could not come to an agreement on the seventh). The in-house print masters encountered a demanding Wu here, as they vividly recalled how he insisted on getting the right shade of white on white, and a darker shade of black on a specially produced sheet of black paper, and this was not just as another punch line from the humourous artist.

During my visit to STPI, the staff often started their introduction by stressing that they seek to work with artists who are not particularly familiar or experienced in print-making. But that to me, seemed to count basically everyone in the contemporary art realm. It seemed strange but incredible for an institution that excels in its professional field to assign oneself such a mission. From this perspective, I'm glad that Thorsdottir and Wu picked stone lithography, for it was probably the only medium that would require them to work on the plate directly and with reversed imagery. As I was told, these slightly different materials and handiwork of marking the stone with chalk sparked the artists' imagination to relate it with prehistoric drawings on a cave wall!

I found it most interesting how the staff read the art of Thorsdottir and Wu as minimal, for nothing else made a mark on the Little Fat Flesh relief print series except the boundary of the shape(s) / plate(s) used to mark the prints. Yet by printing these plates in tessellation, what results is a contestation between the definition of a tessellation wherein no gaps are left in between the tiles (hence leaving no marks in printing) and the act of getting them printed. This challenge of printing Little Fat Flesh tessellations will be recorded, I'll bet, as another monumental moment for STPI in putting one's own medium to a maximum challenge and accomplishing its mission.

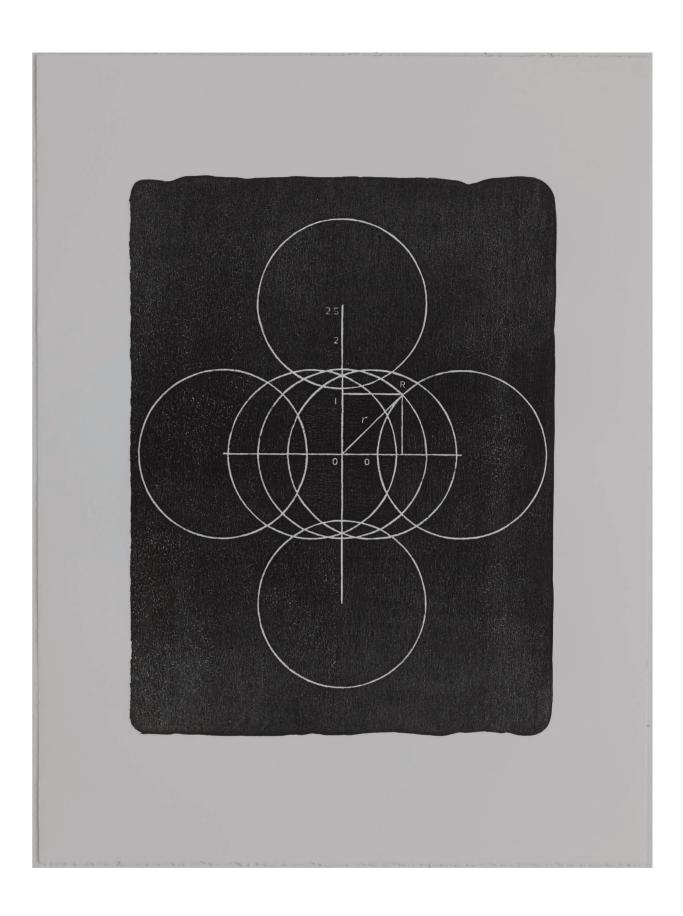
— Lau Kin Wah

Born in 1971, Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Independent arts writer and curator based in Hong Kong. Project Editor of Asia Art Archive publication of WU SHANZHUAN RED HUMOUR INTERNATIONAL In collaboration with Inga Svala Thórsdóttir Thor's Daughter's Pulverization Service (1995).

* Tessellation designs are usually made with the help of straight lines, grid structures or polygons for easier calculation. The infamous Dutch artist M. Escher started with the grid, transforming their edges to yield more irregular, figurative shapes – until mathematician Martin Gardner informed him of a way to do it inside a circl with arcs in 1958. The shape that I could find from Gardners' books closest to the Little Fat Flesh, is one tiling pattern from th Alhambra palace at Granada that Escher visited in 1936. [III. 4] The drawing of the Little Fat Flesh's shape could be retraced in different ways. (While the quest of squaring the circle has been raised in mathematics since ancient Greece and proved impossible, the case for the Little Fat Flesh falls instead into the existing category of shapes constructed with arcs of the same radius that could actually be squared.) [III. 5] By determining the proportion of the width and height of the perfect bracket as 1:4 (1/2 radius: 2 x radius), the width of the prefect bracket actually formed the base unit for the constructing of the Little Flesh Fat with identical circles of r=2. Its circumference remains the same as the full circle and is nonetheless easier for laymar like us to spot.



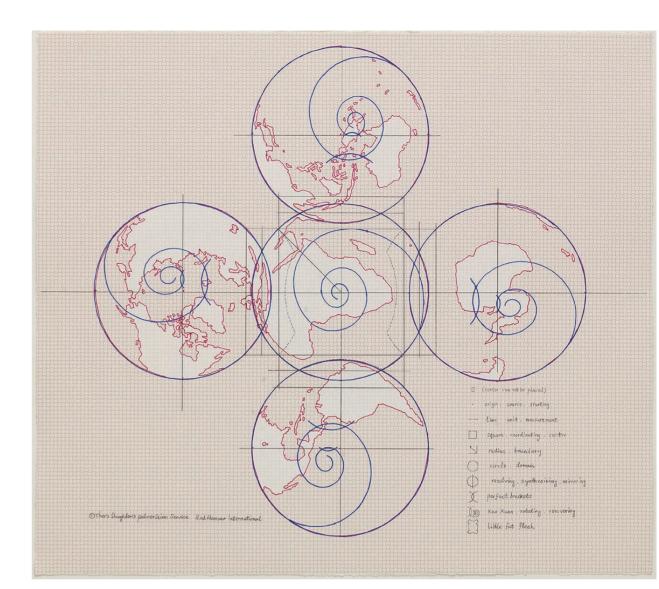
4 — Alhambra Tiling. From Pg 168 of David A.Klarner, "The Mathematical Gardner" (Belmont: Wadsworth International, 1981) III. 5 — Author's simplified demonstration of reversing the squaring of the Little Fat Flesh.



Seven Circles Little Fat Flesh (Stone Plate) 2013. Lithography on Stonehenge cotton paper 73 x 55.5 cm. Edition of 30



What A Form, Little Fat Flesh 2013. Relief print, embossing on STPI handmade cotton paper 129 x 103 cm. Edition of 8



World Map - Arctic Fox Arc - Temperature War 2013 2013. Lithography, screen print on Fabriano 100% cotton paper 71.5 x 81 cm. Edition of 30

BIOGRAPHY

Inga Svala Thorsdottir, born in Iceland, 1966.

- 1991 Graduated from Painting Department of the Icelandic School of Arts and Crafts.
- 1995 Graduated from the Hochschule f
 ür bildende K
 ünste in Hamburg.
- 1993 Founded Thor's Daughter's Pulverization Service.
- 1999 Founded BORG.
- &

Wu Shanzhuan,

born in China, 1960.

- 1986 Graduated from Normal Department of the Zhejiang Art Academy.
- 1995 Graduated from the Hochschule f
 ür bildende K
 ünste in Hamburg.
- 1985 Founded Red Humour.
- 1990 Founded Red Humour International.

Since 1991 Thorsdottir and Wu have been working and exhibiting collaboratively.

They live and work in Hamburg, Shanghai and Reykjavík. This catalogue is published on the occasion of the exhibition, "The Printer. The Paper. The Layer. The Thing's Right(s). The Little Fat Flesh." at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute, from 19 April - 17 May 2014.

All artworks by Inga Svala Thorsdottir & Wu Shanzhuan

All artworks © Inga Svala Thorsdottir & Wu Shanzhuan/ Singapore Tyler Print Institue

Photography of artworks Chua Cherhim, Singapore www.cherhim.com

STPI work-in-progress photography Oh Thiam Guan & Aeon Neo (STPI)

Design of catalogue Do Not Design www.donotdesign.com

Paper Cover: Maple Snow 200gsm Text: Munken Print Cream 80gsm

Printer AlsoDoMinie T: +65 6273 0755 www.dominie.com.sg

$Edition\, of\,\, 350$

© 2014 Singapore Tyler Print Institute. All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced in any manner without permission of the publisher.

Dimensions of works are given in centimeters in the following order: height, width, depth. Unless otherwise noted, all works are courtesy of the artist and STPI.

ISBN: 978-981-07-9129-2

Singapore Tyler Print Institute 41 Robertson Quay, Singapore 238236 Tel: +65 6336 3663 Fax: +65 6336 3553 Email: stpi@stpi.com.sg www.stpi.com.sg



Director: Emi Eu

Gallery: Rita Targui, Nor Jumaiyah, Teng Yen Hui, Hannah Chung, Esther Chew, Tessa Chung

Finance & Admin: Jasmine Tan, Karen Tan, Maideen Babu

Registrar and Senior Printmaker: Tamae Iwasaki Registrar Assistant: Edmund Chan Imaging and Archive: Aeon Neo

Workshop Workshop Manager: Eng Joo Heng Project Leader and Chief Printer: Eitaro Ogawa

Senior Papermaker: Gordon Koh Papermakers: Awaluddin Masnor, Tan Taitien, Wu Guang Yu

Senior Printers: Chong Li Sze, Oh Thiam Guan, KC Poh Printers: Miyuki Chida, Haruka Hikita Part Timer: Yang Shihui

Interns: Chua Chien Ling, Poppy Deng, Johannah Fong, Janice Tan, Shermin Wu

