

# WHAT IS IT WORTH?

Recent events have changed our perception of what things are worth. The strict measures intended to safeguard public health have the effect of overturning many principles we thought were intrinsic to society. The primacy of work, the growth of the economy, being busy all of the time, these things are challenged by the Swiss Federal Government's declaration of a national state of emergency. The demand to self-isolate denies us the possibility to be social. The open ended timescale of these measures has caused an existential shift, one that is difficult but also offers a rare glimpse through a fracture in the edifice of contemporary life.

The work that you presented on the 11th March engages with exactly those qualities that are being constrained by current events, and yet life has to go on. Under these circumscribed conditions it is possible that some essential qualities of our society might reveal themselves. We will continue to use the practices of our nine artists to describe and work with the interregnum we find ourselves living through. You will develop the relationships with the people and places that you encountered in the first project, and encourage emergent themes to bloom. We will continue to engage with and track our five Zurich sites, but now these investigations will be conducted remotely, from the safety of your room, which will become your laboratory, the stage of your theatre, and your political place of action. Communications within the studio will also be constrained with remote teaching and discussions replacing the collective space of the studio. We must find new freedoms in these apparent limitations.

Our means of communicating will be blogs and books, the former being a continuous journal of your work, the latter a fortnightly chronicle of these times. We will stick with the plan to make a full scale site intervention, but the site for this

work will probably be your room, and its material will be what you find between Migros and your flat. The final project will be work that draws on the ideology of the second phase of modernism and suggests what could come next. We will set up a highly structured programme for the remainder of the semester. Desk crits, panels and reading circles will all continue, but at an even quicker and more ambitious pace. Liberated from travel and our social lives we can use our newly freed time to discover new things about what is important to our society and how things could be.

1<sup>st</sup> live session: 24 March 2020, 9:00 am, Zoom

Professor Adam Caruso

Assistants: Emilie Appercé, Martina Bischof, Benjamin Groothuijse, Claudio Schneider, Barbara Thüler

# WHAT IS IT WORTH?



The Man Who Fell to Earth, 1976