
On figments

Quelques Parts

What is needed for contesting austerity plans is a different idea of life, which consists for example in sharing rather than economizing, conversing rather than not saying a word, fighting rather than suffering, celebrating our victories rather than disallowing them, engaging rather than keeping one's distance. [...] A political affirmation. On one hand, it brings out the visible contours of what one is fighting for and what against; on the other, it opens one up to a calm discovery of the thousand other ways the "good life" can be understood.

-The Invisible Committee
To Our Friends

There is no austerity, it's a figment of the imagination -Philippe Couillard [1].

With this denial of the political reality, Philippe Couillard, the leader of Quebec's government, tried to neutralize the spring 2015 student strike's territory of struggle: modes of existence. He attempts to dissolve the frontline—or at least shift it towards the economical field—and denies the properly *ethical* character of the conflict. If by directly attacking austerity, as a way of living and relating to the world, the 2015 struggle was in fact addressing "figments of the imagination," hallucinations, or evanescent sparks, perhaps that is due to the movement's visionary quality. It enacted other ways of perceiving the horizon of potential worlds to come. The glimmering spark we see far away in the night may actually be quite close.

Scattered, this image may be taken as a call, leaving traces here and there on the city's walls.

Notes

[1] Philippe Couillard, Prime Minister of Quebec. Philip Authier. "Quebec politics in 2014: The road to austerity." *The Montreal Gazette*, December 27th, 2014. <http://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec/quebec-politics-in-2014-the-road-to-austerity>

Works Cited

The Invisible Committee. *To Our Friends*. Trans. Robert Hurley. South Pasadena: Semiotext(e), 2015.