

# RHIZOME

## Pathogeographies

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Pathogeographies: Or, Other People's Baggage

How do you carry your pile of political feelings, and how do you want to encourage others to carry theirs?

The term *pathogeography* is modeled on the Situationists' psychogeography but substitutes pathos (feeling) for psyche (the soul), emphasizing the emotional investments, temperatures, traumas, pleasures, and ephemeral experiences circulating throughout the political and cultural landscape. For *Pathogeographies*, we have invited other collectives and individuals—artists and non-artists alike—to create suitcases, real or imagined, that can carry tools around the city of Chicago and elsewhere to incite, create, collect, and record political/emotional scenes and return them to the gallery to be inspected, collated, discussed, distributed, and diverted to new uses. We want to reveal hidden political histories as we map the affective expressions of the body politic, and to create magical linkages and utopian intensities that might extend our political horizons.

What's at stake in such a project? Some might argue that despair is the prevailing emotional current right now in many political communities where the only "belief" is in our collective and accumulated failures—of stopping the war, of building a creative and effective left. The political arena seems either unthinkable or out of reach, eliciting intense cynicism from people whose votes aren't counted, whose needs are ignored, whose grievances have no impact, and for whom "politics" signifies little but abuse of power. An unending sense of emergency is matched only by a corresponding sense of alienation, of not "knowing what to do," and often, of not knowing what to think and how to feel. And yet, like so many, we persist; we are moved, not only by necessity, but also by a relentless search for joy, for a life that can be called good and just. Can hopelessness be transformed? Is there anything useful about guilt? How might we collectivize our despair, and our joys? What's YOUR utopia in need of a rescue? To explore all these pathogeographies, we call on you, your ideas, energy, and participation.