

# Love And Community

Through the co-operative projects I have done the last 3-4 years I have experienced love and community. To meet people, art and design students in Lisboa, nurses, drug addicts and homeless in Copenhagen and favela residents in Rio has been important in my life.

To work on a commonly defined project, utilising the realm of art and its offered or perceived freedom have made it possible to come together beyond differences. Differences have proved to be a valuable asset in solving commonly identified problems.

There is the problem for me to leave people behind, go on to another project. How is that best done from an ethical point of view? Most often there is a natural point of departure, a place in time or in the process where I leave. I am left with a wish to leave and at the same time come back – to the love and community I fell.

The love is about feeling need for each other, that some of our needs seems to be fulfilled when we are or work together. Community is about the feeling of belonging, that we can achieve things together, that this is a place or “site” for dealing with some of the concerns we have for our society. In these co-operative project I feel that we have both defined and come up with ideas for solution of socio-political problems. That the form – of me coming up with a proposal or platform to start from and then work together on its continuation – has proved valuable as a model for co-operation between art and other professions or groups of people.

I send my warmest regards and love to the beautiful people I worked with in Rio.

Kenneth A. Balfelt