

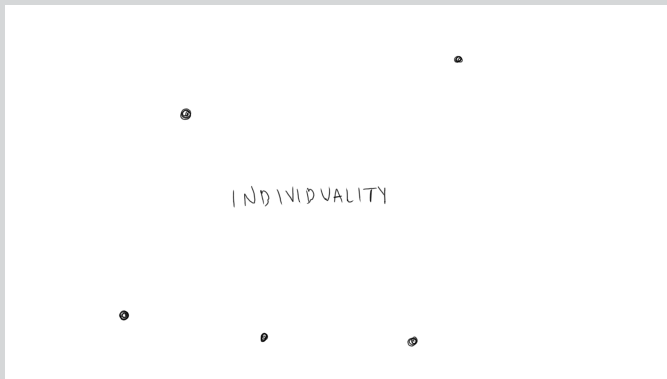
TOWARDS CONNECTION

🕒 a brief explanation 🕒

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This animation is an attempt at simplifying down some of the complicated mechanisms through which people interact with one another and the society in which they live. We will progress from individuality to connection, stopping at a few points along the way.

At each pause, we invert the colors to take a look at a little more complexity. Buzzwords are nice, but the real world is messy - I want to at least give a glimpse of that within these inverted sections.



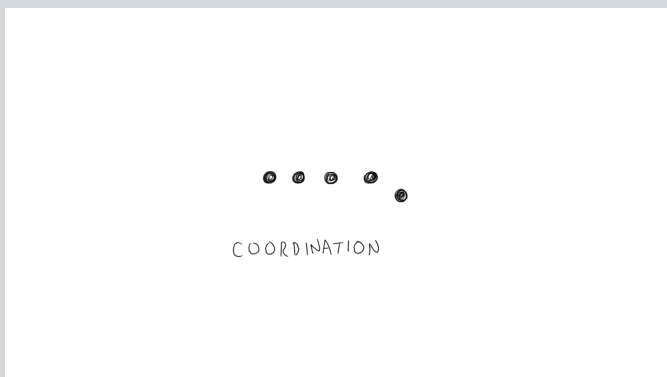
I took a lot of inspiration from the visual descriptions in Vito Acconci's **Public Space, Private Time**. People are just dots, interacting with one another in space and time.

We start with individuality, each dot doing its own thing, it's a functional enough system.

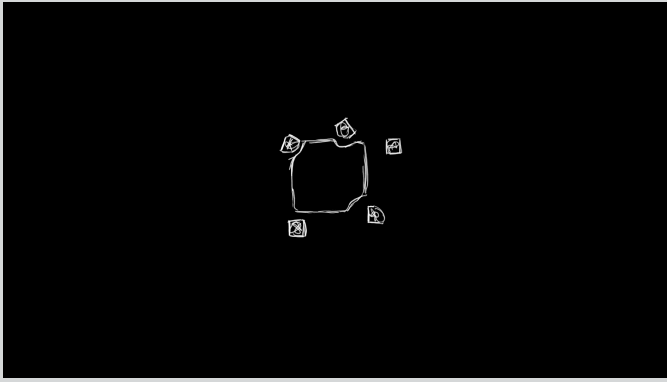


We understand, though, that being an individual, different from others, means that we will interact with the world in unequal ways. The identities we hold, whether that be race, gender, sexuality, income level, ability status, etc. affect how we move through the world.

In some ways it's brutal. In others, beautiful.



And there's a whole different kind of beauty when these individuals come together. They're able to collaborate to accomplish more than they could alone.



Collaboration isn't necessarily a highly structured event. In the spirit of emergent strategies, small actions from many sources come together to form a larger whole.

The little squares interact with the big square, reshaping both parties. Drawing from Octavia Butler, "All that you touch You Change. All that you Change Changes you."

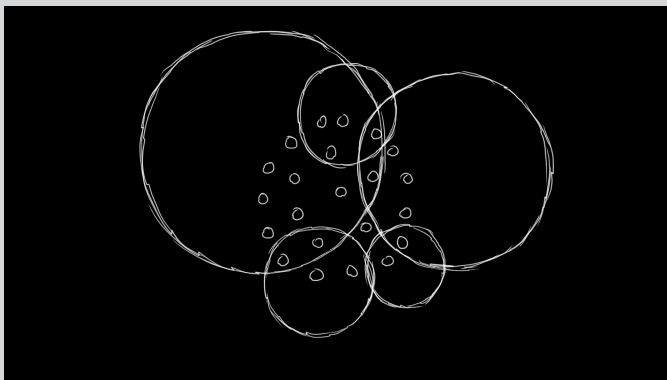


There are more official ways to work together than to rely on small scale interaction to eventually lead to larger change.

Dots cluster, people organize.
By organizing, the individuals grow together.

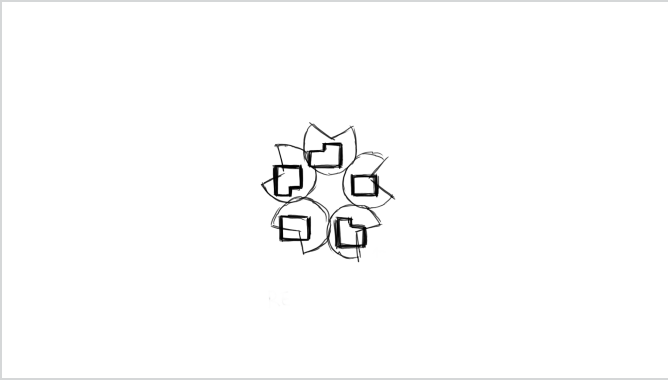


Organized groups have different abilities, capable of larger outreach and coordinated support.



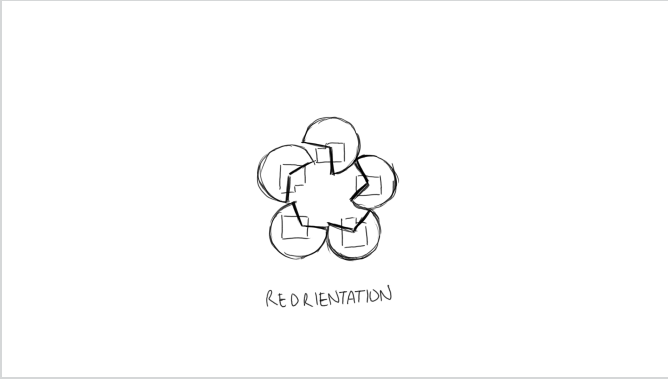
But we shouldn't forget that every organization is made of individuals holding intersecting identities. While people tend to organize around a single concept, every one person is a part of multiple communities.

Organizing is powerful, but there are also other considerations in approaching collective action.

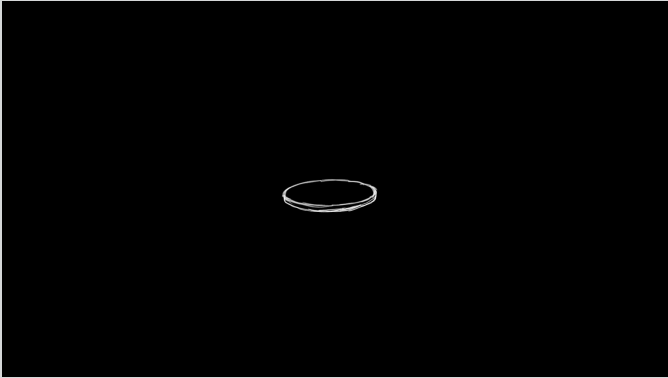


We can reimagine our systems and structures.

These boxes are meant to emulate the layouts in Dolores Hayden's **What Would a Non-Sexist City Be Like?** where she pitched the idea that suburban blocks could be turned inward toward one another and shared space rather than divided outward into the streets.



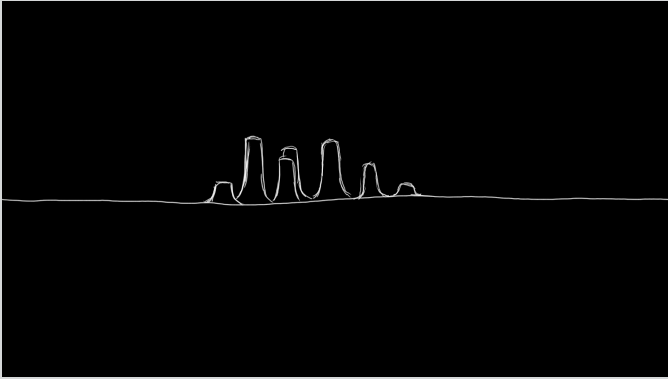
The reorientation can be physical as Hayden describes, but is also a way of approaching problems in ways outside of the systems we're accustomed to.



Sometimes, there are dimensions we didn't see from our original point of view.

Sometimes, it's a matter of flipping the problem over and trying again from a different angle.

Sometimes, you just have to rely on luck from a flip of a coin.



The transition out of the skyline here is a nod to the distinct towers of June Jordan's **Skyrise for Harlem**. A project which reimagined city planning, but was never realized.

Reorienting ourselves and our problems shows new solutions, but isn't always easy or even feasible.



Regardless of difficulty, with a new mindset people form connections.



CONNECTION

And these connections fundamentally change how individuals move and interact. There's an interplay between them, and each individual must be considered also as a part of a larger network.



These connections may vary, stretch thin, break, reform, transform, strengthen, or all of the above.

END



People are stronger with connections. On the small scale, able to better provide and receive support and generosity, and on the large scale to reimagine what the world could look like.

I believe connection is the first step towards a utopic vision.