

FREE.

NO DO

WHATEVER

WE

Free. To do whatever we

by Vincent van Velsen

What do artists do when they want time off? Going to the museum is part of work. Reading a book most likely sparks some thoughts reflecting on one's own practice. Going to the art fair does too. So as, Jerry Seinfeld said: "Doing nothing is not as easy as it looks. You have to be careful. Because the idea of doing anything, which as you know easily could lead to something, would cut into the nothing; and then forces me to have to drop everything."

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The theoretical and philosophical background of the perception of productivity and artists as lazy both reach back on the Calvinist and Puritan background of Western Europe, the United States and capitalism: the religious strive for the ascetic life defined by peace, purity and regularity. The piety that imposes rational and systemic work, order and focus, while prohibiting abundance and enjoyment. From this line of thought stems the contemporary demand of giving meaning to one's life through work. Efficiency and a sense of sobriety are key; while being lazy, idle, or sluggish are capital sins.

**Artissima, Turin November 2–4, 2018 - Present Future
Priscila Fernandes presented by CINNNAMON,
Rotterdam and Division of Labour, Manchester**

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