

PRESS RELEASE

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# zero

**the confluence of art, technology, science, and philosophy**

**Announcing the publications of Limited Edition Hard Copy and Infinite Edition Online Copy of:**

***zero* - an art work in book form by ajaykumar and alok b. nandi**

**A Goldsmiths, University of London Research Project.**

***zero* the special limited edition book is available to order, £8.00 from:**  
[zero@fluxtopia.net](mailto:zero@fluxtopia.net)

***zero* the infinite edition virtual book is available to download at:**  
[www.zero.fluxtopia.net](http://www.zero.fluxtopia.net)

The conception of zero is of vital importance for the existence of our current global society. The Information Age, the Digital Age begins essentially at the point of generation of zero in ancient South Asia.

Through these new book publications, as well as through films, performances, installations, workshops and other interventions, artists-researchers ajaykumar and alok b. nandi interrogate zero: from its historical and philosophical origins to its critical importance in our contemporary being.

In the Ancient South Asian language of Sanskrit zero is written as *shunya*. *Shunya* also means 'emptiness'. *Shunyata* from *shunya* is a Buddhist concept which signifies 'void' or 'nothingness' or 'emptiness': an emptiness that has presence. *Shunya* is important also in the religion of Brahmanism.

In ancient South Asia researchers were integrating mathematical, scientific ideas with philosophic ones and with artistic exploration. For example it is said that in certain Indian temples you would find at their centre, their inner sanctum, not ornate religious statues or paintings, but an empty space with a book only: and the book was a book of mathematics. The mathematical attempt to understand the universe, the philosophic attempt to grasp it, and the artistic conception of it, went hand in hand.

Through various exposition exhibition processes ajaykumar and alok b. nandi investigate ways to un-think and re-think technology: re-visiting the way we think about art and technology and 'technological practice' today and in future. For more information about the various zero projects and to take part in our next workshop:  
[www.zero.fluxtopia.net](http://www.zero.fluxtopia.net)

'Technological practice' is approached in a particular sense: referring to an integrated

research that embraces art, philosophy, craft/technique, and science, as well as health and ecology in a profound sense. While there are parallels with German philosopher Martin Heidegger's discussion of the way the Ancient Greeks approached *techne* (root of our current term 'technology'), these researchers' enquiry has its roots in Buddhism and Tantric philosophy, as well as in the re-conceiving of South Asian and Japanese philosophic and aesthetic concepts through trans-national and trans-local processes. ajaykumar discusses this in a number of published articles, including recently in *Leonardo: Journal of the International Society of the Arts, Sciences and Technology* and *South African Journal of Art History*. nandi explores this also through a number of articles and papers.

## **Notes to editors**

ajaykumar works as artist, designer, researcher, writer, curator, academic at Goldsmiths, University of London

[www.ipak.org.uk](http://www.ipak.org.uk)    [www.ajaykumar.com](http://www.ajaykumar.com)    [www.shapes-design.com](http://www.shapes-design.com)

alok b. nandi works as a writer, designer, director and lecturer.

[www.aloknandi.net](http://www.aloknandi.net)    [www.mahanet.com](http://www.mahanet.com)    [www.architempo.net](http://www.architempo.net)

*zero*, conceived, presented and produced by ajaykumar and alok b. nandi is a design collaboration with kiun kim [www.playfairytale.com](http://www.playfairytale.com)

Images are available on request.

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