Meg Cranston, "The Artists' Artists: Thomas Hirschhorn, Crystal of Resistance," *Artforum*, December 2011, 101.

BEST OF 2011

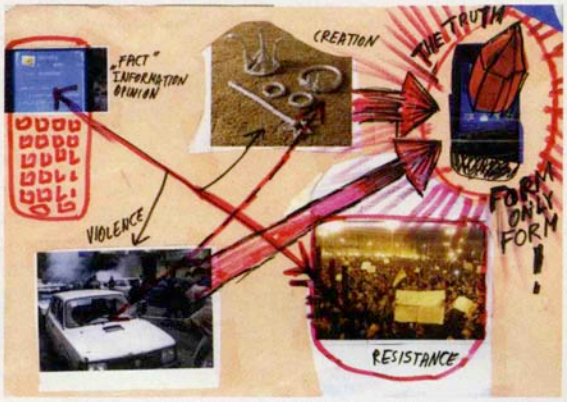
The Artists' Artists

TO TAKE STOCK OF THE PAST YEAR, *ARTFORUM* CONTACTED AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF ARTISTS TO FIND OUT WHICH EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS WERE, IN THEIR EYES, THE VERY BEST OF 2011.

The Artists' Artists BEST OF 2011

MEG CRANSTON

Thomas Hirschhorn, *Crystal of Resistance* (Swiss pavilion, Venice Biennale) Generous, energetic, positive, and strange, *Crystal of Resistance*, 2011, took and gave courage. It was fueled by urgency, imagination, and love. It made invention/resistance seem like something you could do in a hurry. The spirit of the work continued online via crystalofresistance.com—a site jammed with pictures, texts, and numerous drawings not exhibited in Venice. Hirschhorn's writings frankly declared his artistic purpose in a way few artists would be brave enough to attempt. The design of the site was similarly outgoing: Every content link "button" was placed up front on page 1, where they simultaneously screamed for equal and immediate attention. It was a refreshing challenge to the currently fashionable rules of "quality" Web design, reminding the visitor that graphic design can both do and undo.



Thomas Hirschhorn, study for *Crystal of Resistance*, 2011, paper, printed matter, tape, felt-tip pen, 11¾ x 16½".