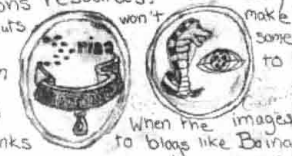


# BADGES BY LIZ LOSH

When I was a kid my sister borrowed my scout uniform for a costume party and I never saw those badges for the dance hustle and the the badges that like a crystal radio braid or fabric I entered a dark punk rock. I and begged for or a sewing machine STORIES or EXPLORE that this is at later, when I Mel and I made that made fun of some other corporate idea of a "respect something for boy made a mock-up for BADGE that had service projects their DRM-habbed how to find creative badge companies for the scouts just anything. They do have limits. So don't try to get them make that patrol badge with George Bush as a clown) started to circulate thanks



again. I had worked hard badge by learning the hora, but mostly I liked you earned by making things or a tunic bordered with gold woven on a shoetax loom. They period between scouting and tried to work on my own projects a sixteen millimeter camera because I wanted to TELL IDENTITIES. The reason all important is that years became an Internet scholar some fake merit badges the fact that the MPA or morons were promoting the copyright patch as to earn. We also a lot of nice community like helping old people with devices or showing little kids resources. (In reality won't make some to



Boing I began to get e-mails from scoutmasters and eagle scouts. Some were offended by the fact that I had praised their organization for the gender-bending work of teaching boys to cook and sew, but others thought a free badge was a good idea and very consistent ethos of scouting. Now my own son is active in scouting. Recently he earned the MATERIALS MERIT BADGE, which is sponsored by the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) for making a clipboard and a Roman helmet out of fiberglass.



It is a beautiful badge that shows resin flowing from a beaker and a hand skillfully smoothing this wonderful man-made goo into sheets.

And this is why I think that the MOZILLA OPEN BADGES project is deeply misguided, because they are privileging online learning and social network sites over the embodied practices that engage with the constraints and affordances of the material world. Sure openness sounds good and copyright sounds bad, but in some ways these Mozilla badges are as useless as the respect copyright patch, in celebrating nonachievements in an imaginary system of value. What if we give up on the idea of PROPERTY to embrace THINGS? Badges should be things that you earn for making things, signifiers of the RES PUBLICA, meaningful objects that can be shared and lost.