

steirischer herbst 2012
Visual arts programme

Truth is concrete

A 24/7 marathon camp on artistic strategies in politics and political strategies in art

21/09 (2 pm) - 28/09 (4 pm), Camp / festival centre (Operrnring 5-7, 8010 Graz)

00.00 - 24.00

Admission free / in English language

//truthisconcrete.org

With Hans Abbing (NL), Bini Adamczak (D), Milan Adamčíak (SK), Burak Arıkan (TR), Zdenka Badovinac (SLO), Zbyněk Baladrán & Vít Havranek (CZ), Anette Baldauf (A), Stéphane Bérard (F), Ellen Blumenstein / Haben und Brauchen (D), Center for Artistic Activism (USA), Center for Political Beauty (D), Diedrich Diederichsen (D), Enmedio (ES), Etcétera... / Internacional Errorista (ARG), Marcelo Expósito (ARG), *femen* (UA), Noah Fischer (USA), Dirk Fleischmann (ROK/D), Free Slow University Warsaw (PL), Vjekoslav Gašparović / pulska grupa (HR), Adrienne Goehler (D), *The HairCut Before The Party* (GB), Christian Hanussek (D), Paul Harfleet (GB), Nicoline van Harskamp (NL), Adrian Heathfield (GB), Herwig Hoeller (A), Khaled Hourani (PS), Iconoclasistas (AR), Israeli Center for Digital Art in Holon (IL), Janez Janša (SLO), Khaled Jarrar (PS), Anna Jermolaewa (A/RUS), *Jeudi Noir* (F), John Jordan (GB/F), Jisun Kim (ROK), Bettina Knaup (D), *The Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination* (GB), Sri Louise (USA), Matteo Lucchetti (IT), Oliver Marchart (A), Antanas Mockus (CO), Maryam Mohammadi (IR/A), Mao Mollona (GB), Chantal Mouffe (GB/B), Michal Murin (SK), Marina Naprushkina (BY), Nikolay Oleynikov / *Chto Delat* (RUS), *The Piracy Project* (GB), Michelangelo Pistoletto (IT), Srđa Popović / CANVAS (SRB), *Precarious Workers Brigade* (GB), *raumlaborberlin* (D), Gerald Raunig (A), Oliver Ressler (A), Richard Reynolds (GB), Irit Rogoff (GB), Imanuel Schipper (CH), Florian Schneider (D), Gregory Sholette (USA), Jonas Staal (NL), *STEALTH.unlimited* (NL/SRB), *the vacuum cleaner* (GB), Marina Vishmidt (GB), Voina (RUS), W.A.G.E. (USA), Joanna Warsza (PL), *WochenKlausur* (A), Stephen Wright (CAN), Michael Zinganel (A), and many more.

Rapid changes around the world – the revolutions in many Arab countries, the Occupy movements, the upheavals and financial disasters in Europe – are also profoundly questioning the role of art. But what role does art play in this whirlwind of events, that we can hardly even follow, let alone understand? "Truth is concrete" is a marathon camp that will fill up the whole first week of the 2012 steirischer herbst festival: 7 days, 24 hours, more than 150 artists, activists and scientists will lecture, perform, play, produce, debate and collect artistic strategies in politics and political strategies in art. Day and night. It is a platform and a toolbox as much as a performative statement; an extreme effort at a time that seems to call for extreme efforts.

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Exhibition openings

Fri 21/09

from 2 pm **Camp: Exhibition space** Adaptation

Sat 29/09

10 am **Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten** Alois Neuhold. Not from here

11 am **Kunstverein Medienturm** Realness Respect

12 noon < **rotor** > Absolute Democracy

1 pm **Kunsthaus Graz** Cittadellarte. Divide and change

2 pm **Camera Austria** Art is concrete. And so is truth?

3 pm **Grazer Kunstverein** Intolerance / Normality

4 pm **ESC im LABOR** demo graz ya!

5 pm **Akademie Graz** Reclaiming Identity

6 pm **Camp: Exhibition space** Adaptation

Fri 05/10

6.30 pm **Pavelhaus / Pavlova hiša** Fallen imperials / forgotten spaces – reoccupied!

7 pm **Forum Stadtpark** Post (Presentation and reading)

Adaptation

herbst exhibition

21/09 - 13/10, *Camp: Exhibition space*

By and with Babi Badalov (AZ), Zbyněk Baladrán (CZ), Ondrej Buddeus (CZ), Loulou Chérinet (S), Hafiz (ID), Vít Havránek (CZ), Shady El Noshokaty (ET), Lia Perjovschi (RO), Ruti Sela (IL) & Xu Tan (RC)

The question as to the relationship between art and politics is not only directed towards the outside. It also addresses the institution itself and its curatorial practice: therefore, the Prague-based exhibition-makers Zbyněk Baladrán and Vít Havránek see themselves more as inviters in this project: in a communal process, they not only develop the form, but also the main topic of "Adaptation" together with the artists – a laboratory for new paradigms, structures, hierarchies and forms of collaboration rather than an exhibition, a collective process that begins long before the opening and that will continue long after it has ended.

Alternative models of society and collaboration are the thematic bookends, which will also be put to the test. A collection of material put together by everyone will be constantly adapted, with groups arranging and rearranging themselves, a new creating joint and separate output.

"Adaptation" creates an open space within the institutional art system, both for the artists and curators taking part and for visitors, who become co-authors. For the freedom of adaptation is the self-empowering instrument for the unsatisfied reader, recipient and spectator, to generate his or her own usable, useful meanings and connections. Like the famous "Merzbau" housing installations, the exhibition will always remain a suggestion, a snapshot, a changing art space and habitat in which utopian rules are adapted for the specific situation, time and place. And in which the art works remain independent, while at the same time forming part of a joint effort.

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Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten

Alois Neuhold: Not from here

29/09 - 18/11

Curated by Theresa Pasterk & Johannes Rauchenberger

With Alois Neuhold (A)

The work of Styrian painter Alois Neuhold – who was ordained a priest, only to be suspended soon afterwards, before he began studying painting – is a blend of political commitment and artistic expression of a kind that allows the concreteness of truth to surpass its daily requirement. The provocative potential that Neuhold's political actions, with their vision of unhinging an entire institution, unleashed twenty or thirty years ago in the church system, is equally visible in each of his forceful paintings and drawings. The materialisation of the spiritual, a primal theme of art, becomes concrete in Neuhold's monastic existence as a painter, is transferred into the realm of the poetic and at the same time, sacralised in a subversive, profane manner.

Kunstverein Medienturm

Realness Respect

29/09 - 07/12

Curated by Sandro Droschl

With Martin Beck (A), Carola Dertnig (A), Christian Falsnaes (DK), Claire Fontaine (F), Ilja Karilampi (S), Karen Mirza / Brad Butler (GB), Santiago Sierra (ES), Jason Simon (USA), Franz Erhard Walther (D) et al.

The more clearly we delimit ourselves from the consensus of a liberal democratic society, as delivered to us by the media, the stronger seems to be the need for construction of a reality that follows its own conventions and rules. "Realness Respect" shows current performative drafts that react to the tangible difference between reality as it is subjectively perceived and common reality as conveyed by the media. But when political art examines the relationship of aesthetics and reality, the question soon arises as to the autonomy and status of the art work, based on which artists achieve concrete, critical work on social issues. Even without any clear-cut answers, art creates its own concrete truths here.

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Absolute Democracy

29/09 - 21/12

Curated by Carlos Motta & Oliver Ressler

With Julieta Aranda & Anton Vidokle (MX/USA), Petra Bauer (SE), Lenin Brea (ES/VE) & Nuria Vila (VE), Miklós Erhardt & Claudio Feliziani (HU), Isabelle Fremeaux & John Jordan (F/GB), Mariam Ghani (USA), Carles Guerra (ES), Nicoline van Harskamp (NL), Jim Hubbard (USA), Vladan Jeremic & RenaRädle (RS), Alejandro Landes (AR), Nikolay Oleynikov (RUS), Fernando Solanas (AR), Ultra-red (GB/USA)

Absolute Democracy – the concept originally used by the philosopher Baruch Spinoza, and meanwhile updated by the influential capitalism critics Antonio Negri and Michael Hardt, stands for a vision: for the vision of a republic founded on a broad collaboration of its citizens and on the

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development of common goods. It is an idea that propagates the redistribution of wealth and power and the possibility of new, more equitable systems of rule. It denounces the effects of capitalism and thus challenges a normative understanding of class, race, gender and sexuality. Against this background, "Absolute Democracy" takes a critical look at the concept of democracy, spotlighting the problem of its social, political and economic consequences and offering alternative interpretations of historiography.

Kunsthaus Graz

Cittadellarte: Divide and change

29/09 - 03/02/2013

Curated by Katrin Bucher Trantow, Paolo Naldini & Juan Esteban Sandoval

With Claudia Bosse/theatercombinat (A/D), Leopold Calice (AT), Cittadellarte (I), constructLab (D), chimurenga (ZA), el puente_lab (CO)/PUF (ParaArtFoundation, D), Evento (F), Gudran (ET), Love Difference (I), Visible (I), Vitamin Creative Space (CAN)

Participation is the focal point in all of the artistic works of Michelangelo Pistoletto, the great exponent of Arte Povera, and he has given his ideas a new dimension in the form of the work and research group "Cittadellarte" created by him: an open network that, while dividing work, education, communication, art, food, politics, spirituality and economy, at the same time focuses on production and communal inspiration without rigidly dividing the various spheres. How do artistic interventions in global realities work, and what is the power of the collective? "Divide and change" brings together very different socially active artist groups in an organically connected, urban structure, in which artistic participation becomes the starting point for an examination of democratically lived civil society, extending into real urban space.

Camera Austria

Art is concrete. And so is truth?

29/09 - 17/02/2013

Curated by Reinhard Braun & Maren Lübbke-Tidow

With Anna Jermolaewa (A/RUS), subREAL (RO), Johanna & Helmut Kandl (A), Stefan Panhans (D), G.R.A.M. (A), Stefanie Seibold (D), Christodoulos Panayiotou (CY)

"Art is concrete. And so is truth?" confronts the supposedly real world, with its supposedly real politics, with the reality of artistic representations – in the words of Godard: "Art is not the reflection of reality, it is the reality of this reflection."

In seven successive solo presentations during the course of the exhibition, photographic images will be related to different fields of action, that transcend as much as constitute the image: research, stories, actions, media regimes, the public space, political agitation. The artists are invited to use part of the exhibition rooms for their own works, but also for readings, concerts, performances and lectures. This will create a changing hypothetical space with both concrete and binding interventions in the regime of allocating meaning between art, politics and everyday life.

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Grazer Kunstverein

Intolerance / Normality

29/09 - 24/11

Curated by Daniel Pies

With *Disoteca Flaming Star* (D/GB), *Beate Engl* (D), *Harun Farocki* (D), *Karl Holmqvist* (S), *Ralf Homann* (D), *Scott King* (GB), *Katrin Mayer* (D), & *Heiko Karn* (D)

Extreme right-wing and populist politics are gaining ground, bringing with them new forms of intolerance. Terms such as do-gooder and political correctness are used to defame people concerned with the ideal of an open society, while extreme right-wing parties are becoming acceptable everywhere in Europe. But for most people, this does not seem to be a particular cause for concern – that's just the way it is, it's normal, it's becoming a normality. Is the success of Thilo Sarrazin's book "Deutschland schafft sich ab" normal? Is everyday Islamophobia in Europe normal? Or the fact that the Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik can draw on numerous quotes of renowned politicians, journalists and theorists in his manifesto? So what does it mean when what is considered normal at the same time poses a threat? "Intolerance / Normality" invites artists to carry out case studies on the increasing normalisation of this atmosphere of public intolerance.

ESC im LABOR

demo graz ya!

29/09 - 14/10

Co-ordination *Reni Hofmüller*

With *Iconoclastas* (AR), *IEFS* (*Ursula Kiesling & Maki Stolberg*) (A), *Leo Kühberger* (A), *OpenStreetMap Graz* (A), *Elli Scambor* (A) & *Sandra Ziagos* (A)

Collective cartographies, new interpretations of social and architectural spaces, the intersecting use of urban space, in short: visualising other, unofficial interpretations of cities and other communities is the approach taken by the Argentinian artist-activists *Iconoclastas*. Above all, they make use of the pictorial languages and graphical strategies used at the various locations. The workshops in which they elaborate their maps – like the one that precedes the exhibition in Graz – are communication laboratories. Strolling around the city, they collect objects and experiences, actual and imaginary memories feature alongside real finds and newly created objects. But the aim of *Iconoclastas'* research, their serious game with the tools of art and sociology, is always concrete political understanding and action.

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Akademie Graz

Reclaiming Identity

29/09 - 25/10

Curated by Astrid Kury

With Damian Le Bas (GB), Damian James Le Bas (GB), Delaine Le Bas (GB), Lad'a Gaiová (CZ), Kiba Lumberg (FIN), Tamara Moyzes (CZ/IL), Nihad Nino Pušija (D/BIH), André J. Raatzsch (D/H) & David Tišer (CZ)

In recent years, Roma-artists have increasingly been dealing with discrimination against and the image of their culture and ethnic identity projected by others. Between art and activism, they focus on the exclusion and violence which Roma have faced for centuries. A difficult and brave path, one significant aspect of which is to explore the manifold cultural identities. The exhibition provides an overview of visual techniques and activist practices in Roma art that are used to unmask the mechanisms of violence and discrimination.

Forum Stadtpark

Post

05/10 - 14/10

Curated by Andreas Heller & Max Höfler

With Ann Cotten (A/USA), Veronika Hauer (A), Gruppe p (Ralf B. Korte & Helmut Schranz) (D/A), Manfred Pernice (D), Ulf Stolterfoht (D) et al.

Does art have the potential to change society? What can art in fact offer? Who are the masses and what can art tell them? What is the role of form? Can there be a common denominator? These questions form the starting point of a mailshot – the mass advertising medium – put together by Forum Stadtpark that is being sent to all households in Graz at the start of steirischer herbst: with literary texts, drawings and photographs created as commissioned works for this project, finding an audience that is far larger than that of usual art events, an audience that is incalculable and inestimable. An artistic, activist intervention between newspapers and advertising, for the kitchen table or the waste-paper basket.

Pavelhaus / Pavlova hiša

Fallen imperials / forgotten spaces – reoccupied!

05/10 - 24/11

Curated by Elisabeth Arlt & David Kranzelbinder

With Marina Gržinić & Aina Šmid (SLO/D), Siniša Ilić (SRB), IRWIN (Dušan Mandić, Miran Mohar, Andrej Savski, Roman Uranjek und Borut Vogelnik) (SLO), Wolfgang Thaler (A) & Vstaja Lezbosov / Lesbian rebellion (Petra Hrovatin/Perikleia, Irena Kovačević, Mojca Kozelj, Vesna Vravnik) (SLO), Wolfgang Thaler (A)

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State territory is always historical and contemporary in equal measure; the soil, like the memory, is imagined individually or conventionally. Time has passed it by, but many of the images, the monuments of the state's self-production remain: memorials, buildings, images, product designs, advertising graphics, brand names, etc. The time of their public monopolisation at the centre of power has passed them by, and the question now is: what remains? What effect has this art had in the context of its creation? What use is it, what is it capable of today? Instrumentalised art is usually easy to detect, but what political art survives after the demise of its system? And what about art that instrumentalises politics? What is the significance of art as a means of overcoming the political system, can individual needs create space for themselves and transport personal agendas?

Information and tickets:

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