

workshop series

ART MATTERS

contemporary arts practices in post-migrant societies

December 12 - 13, 2017

International Alumni Center (iac), Berlin

curated and organised by

Virág Major

Hannah Marquardt

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About ART MATTERS

For several years now, contemporary art productions, projects, initiatives and programmes tackling the current migration movements have experienced increased attention. Numerous actors in the field of art are addressing migration-related issues and its protagonists. Additionally, various funding structures have evolved that aim to include refugees in artistic production, from grants for artists to large and small-scale project funding, often specifically targeting young people in projects of so-called cultural education combined with artistic practice. While the scope of activities is full of possibilities corresponding to apparent needs with hands-on practice in self-organised, community-based and activist ways, various sociopolitical framework conditions need to be challenged. What is for sure: Art matters and is a driver for social change enhancing societies in all their diversity, wherein migration is an integral part.

During a practice-based workshop series, we wish to take moment to critically reflect on current approaches and various forms of engagement looking deeper into all participants' practices, methods and visions keeping the political and theoretical implementations of concepts such as diversity and inclusion in all their ambivalence in mind. Our programme is designed to serve as a common forum for bottom-up learning and the sharing of knowledge and experience.

On the whole, the workshop series investigates the special role of contemporary arts in questioning power mechanisms within post-colonial societies and the art scene itself. How can general structural inequalities, borders and lines of belonging be challenged by inclusive frameworks in sustainable ways? To what extent do concepts of collaboration across structural and imagined borders contribute to a more permeable, inclusive society? How can we learn to avoid the reproduction of these lines and to intervene in implementing processes of political action?

The workshops series is addressed to people active in the field of contemporary arts, including artists, curators, mediators, cultural practitioners, educators, policy makers, facilitators, researchers and activists. Each workshop will be held by a tandem of expert advisers composed of artists, arts professionals and policy-makers based in Berlin, Germany and Europe as well as from the MENA-region in order to facilitate the transcultural exchange of practices. The moderators will enrich the workshops with their own experiences and expertise. The workshop series is kicked-off with a key note giving an overview of the status quo of diversification of arts and culture sphere - discourse, players, strategies.

A public discussion will open up vistas for implementing strategies in policy-making while inviting decision-makers, advocates, stakeholders and institutional representatives within cultural and social policies structures and activism to learn more about their positions.

As a first outcome, we plan to bring together important points for practical engagement in contemporary arts that will be published in a manifesto-like statement with recommendations for action.

About the workshops

module 1

participation, education and democracy-building

With input from a number of contributors, this workshop explores arts and culture as key drivers for social change and democracy building in relation to migration and new modes of citizenship. We will discuss how artists/cultural workers curate and produce a wide range of participatory methodologies across multiple platforms and mediums. We will question power mechanisms inherent in our knowledge systems and look at examples of how the Western canon can be challenged to imagine a different future. We will ask: if equal access to education is the cornerstone of democracy and social equality, where and what are the new models of creative pedagogy and mediation/brokering that underpin equal participation? What are the blind spots and fault lines of methodologies of participation and curation in a postcolonial public sphere?

Moderated by Áine O'Brien and Elena Agudio

module 2

policy-making, hands-on practice and activism

From Practice to Policy and Back Again: Normally, policy-making suffers from the 'institutional lag' – that is to say, it takes years for innovative practice to be incorporated into a public policy framework, and by that time, it is already out-dated. In this workshop, we will look at how to influence policy-makers, whether private or public, and how to support the good work that is taking place right now, on the ground, in our communities. We will look at how activism, as an important hands-on practice, could be implemented and considered in policy-making processes. We will discuss ideas of how to advocate to funders and supporters and how to use stakeholder groups to prove the relevance of what we do. Using cases such as the movement for artists-at-risk (freedom of artistic expression) and the development of FLAX (Foreign-Local Artists Xchange), we will share tactics for moving from desire to action to policy.

Moderated by Mary Ann DeVlieg and Nasan Tur

module 3

artistic migration, re-localisation and freedom of expression

In this workshop, we will address questions of mobilities and immobilities in the framework of artistic migration and relocation. Historically, artists have always been on the move for many different reasons, which vary according to geopolitical, economic, cultural, as well as personal and psychological circumstances. Artistic migration has now become especially salient in the European space with the arrival of migrants and refugees from the MENA region, South-Eastern Europe and beyond.

By presenting and examining various cases and biographies, we aim to gain a sense of the breadth and multifacetedness of the phenomenon of artists' migration in various social contexts. Specifically, through rethinking and unravelling the presumed boundaries of geopolitical localities and institutional specificities that bind artistic freedom and activity, we hope to create a no man's land (to borrow Agamben's phrase) for artists and cultural practitioners. In this space, they may address their personal challenges, reimagine their practice, and invent radical methods and strategies of existence. Moderated by Persefoni Myrtsou and Khaled Barakeh

module 4

empowerment, self-engagement and community-building

This workshop will address the challenges of community building in arts and culture projects, using an open dialogue format conceived to facilitate the exchange of ideas and approaches. Through examples and case studies from different geographical locations, as well as social and political realities, we will ask the following questions: How should we tackle or include migration experiences when it comes to artistic projects? What are the (dis-)advantages of empowerment in comparison to self-organisation? How can we consider each specific environment to create sustainable impact, enhance benefits for the communities themselves and improve social cohesion in general?

Moderated by Ariane Jedlitschka and Amado Alfadni

input speech

diversification of arts and culture sphere

The workshop series is kicked-off with a key note giving an overview of the status quo of diversification of arts and culture sphere - discourse, players, strategies.

Given by Timo Köster

About the moderators

Áine O'Brien is co-founder and co-director of Counterpoints Arts, London. She created FOMACS (Forum on Migration and Communications) in 2007, a project developing creative arts and public projects with a focus on migration, including Moving Worlds and Learning Lab. Áine co-founded the Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice (2005), with the aim of aligning migration research with the creative arts. She serves on the advisory board of the Centre for Cultural Studies Research, UEL. Her productions to date (across documentary film, print, exhibition and curation) explore global storylines linking migration with social justice. Áine is the creative producer of *Everyday on Canalside*, a cross-sector participatory arts and design project on everyday integration, and the film and social action programme Out of Place. At Counterpoints Arts, Áine leads the cross-platform, cross-sector participatory arts programme *Who Are We?*, organised in the framework of the Tate Exchange program at Tate Modern, London.

www.counterpointsarts.org.uk

www.fomacsretrospective.org

www.ctmp.ie

Elena Agudio is a Berlin-based art historian, curator and researcher who studied Art History at the University of Venice - Ca'Foscari and holds a PhD in Art and Design from the University of Palermo. Since 2013, she has been the artistic co-director of SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin, known for its contributions to post-colonial discourses deconstructing ideologies and notions related to constructs of the West and non-West. At SAVVY, she curates and co-curates exhibition projects, discursive programmes and series, such as *WIR SIND ALLE BERLINER: 1884-2014* (in collaboration with the ICI - Institute for Cultural Inquiry Berlin), *but the sea kept turning blank pages looking for history - On the State of Refugeeness, How Does The World Breathe Now* and SAVVY Funk for Documenta 14. Elena is the artistic director of AoN, a platform for Neuroscience and Art, run in collaboration with the Medical University of Charité and The School of Mind and Brain of the Humboldt University in Berlin. She is a member of SYNAPSE – The International Curators' Network organised by the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin. She was curator in residence at CRIS (Curatorial Residency in Stockholm) and most recently at Helsinki International Curatorial Programme (HICP).

www.elenaagudio.net

www.savvy-contemporary.com

www.association-of-neuroesthetics.org

Nasan Tur is an artist, born in 1974 in Offenbach, based in Berlin. He studied at the University for Art and Design (HfG) in Offenbach and at the Städelschule Academy of Art in Frankfurt/Main. In his work, he reflects on the social conditions in which art is produced, often exploring political ideologies and symbols of power and dissent that manifest in the public sphere, challenging limits of communication while including moments of participation. His work has been shown at various venues and biennials worldwide, including the Istanbul Biennial, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, the Lentos Kunstmuseum in Linz, the Taipei Biennial, the Städel Museum in Frankfurt/Main, the Palais de

Tokyo in Paris, the Kunst Haus Wien in Vienna, the Kunstmuseum in Stuttgart and most recently the 3. Berliner Herbstsalon of the Gorki Theater in Berlin. In 2012, he was awarded the Will-Grohmann Artprize of Berlin's Akademie der Künste, and in 2014, he received a scholarship from the Villa Massimo. Nasan is a member of several boards and a co-initiator of FLAX – Foreign Local Artistic Xchange, a platform for cultural networking and collaboration that promotes exchange and cooperation between local and newly arrived cultural workers, artists and institutions in Germany.

www.nasantur.com

www.flax-culture.com

Mary Ann DeVlieg is an independent consultant, group facilitator, trainer and speaker. She is a founding member of IARA, International Arts Rights Advisors. She evaluates international cultural collaboration projects, programmes and policies for the European Commission's development and science programmes and private foundations. Since 2010, she has been protecting and defending the human rights of artists-at-risk. Mary Ann founded the EU working group Arts-Rights-Justice, was freeDimensional's Director of Strategic Development (2013 – 2015), and is a co-founder of the Arts-Rights-Justice Academy, University of Hildesheim. She is the Secretary General of IETM (1994-2013), the largest international network for contemporary performing arts. She founded/co-founded www.on-the-move.org and the Roberto Cimetta Fund for Mobility in the Mediterranean. In 2006, she was awarded the EU Individual Prize for services to artists' mobility, and in 2017, the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from France. Currently, she is a Board member of Highlight Arts UK and Ettijahat Independent Culture Lebanon.

www.cultureactioneurope.org/milestone/arj-arts-rights-justice

www.ietm.org

www.on-the-move.org

www.cimettafund.org

Persefoni Myrtsou is a practicing visual artist and cultural anthropologist. She was born in Thessaloniki in 1986. She graduated from the Fine Art Department of the Glasgow School of Art, and received her master's degree from the Institute for Art in Context at the University of the Arts Berlin. Persefoni has exhibited and performed at multiple artistic and non-artistic venues, such as the XIV Biennale of Young Artists for Europe and the Mediterranean in Skopje, the Dali International Photography Exhibition 2012 in China, a hair salon at the 48 Stunden Neukölln Festival in Berlin, the abandoned military camp Pavlos Melas in Thessaloniki, the Podium Gallery in Oslo, the Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin, the Contemporary Arts Center Thessaloniki, the Athens Biennale, the Benaki Museum in Athens and the Jewish Museum in Berlin. She is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of European Ethnology (Humboldt University, Berlin). In her thesis, she examines the phenomenon of artists' migration with a focus on the way migrating artists relate to space and the notion of home. She has been a DAAD scholar, and her current doctoral research is funded by the Alexander S. Onassis Foundation. She lives and works in Berlin and Istanbul. She became a mother in May 2017.

www.persefonimyrtsou.com

Khaled Barakeh was born in 1976 in a suburb of Damascus and is currently based in Berlin. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus, Syria in 2005, completed his MFA at Funen Art Academy in Odense, Denmark in 2010 and finished his Meisterschüler at the Städelschule Academy of Art in Frankfurt/Main, Germany in 2013. During his stay in Europe, Khaled, originally trained as a painter, has developed a stronger concentration on conceptual art practices. Today, he works in a variety of media, focusing on current and pertinent issues, often revolving around politics and power structures in the context of identity, culture and history. He has exhibited at the Künstlerhaus Stuttgart, the Shanghai Biennale, the Salt in Istanbul, the Kunsthalle Brandts, the Ovegarden Denmark; the Frankfurter Kunstverein, the Artspace New Zealand and many other institutions and venues around the world. Khaled, together with Wasim Ghrioui, is a teacher for the Refugee Class at the Berlin's University of Arts, helping the integration of refugee artists into Berlin's fine art scene. He has recently started a new initiative called Syria Cultural Index, dedicated to mapping and connecting the Syrian artistic community around the globe and showcasing their work to a wider audience.

www.khaledbarakeh.com

www.syriaculturalindex.com

Ariane Jedlitschka is Co-funder and Director of the NGO *Helden wider Willen* in Leipzig, promoting social skills in artistic, educational and cultural projects. Ariane has expertise in European projects, particularly artistic and curatorial practice, management, research and training. In 2006, she co-founded the media art space EEG (Essential Existence Gallery) in Westwerk Leipzig. This project was heavily influenced by her experience as an arts educator at the Contemporary Art Foundation HALLE 14 in the Alte Baumwollspinnerei Leipzig, as well as the open educational movement. Due to the gentrification of her living and working area, the processes of co-creation and cross-sector collaboration in neighbourhood communities have become the main focus of her activities. In order to establish an international network that would foster community building, she founded the HONORARY HOTEL - a mobile toolkit to welcome newcomers. Once a year, the *help* festival* takes place in Leipzig to exchange tools and connect people's activities.

www.eexistence.de

www.honoraryhotel.net

Amado Alfadni is co-founder and outreach director of Nabta Art & Culture Center. He has curated and managed workshops and art shows to encourage and promote East African contemporary art in Cairo. Between 2010 and 2012, he directed and managed the Reason&Rhymes center. The program focused on constructive self-expression through demand-led arts programming for refugee youth between the ages of 15 and 25. Since 1999, Amado has worked as a visual artist and art teacher in art therapy programmes for young refugees with Sudia (Sudanese Development Initiative) Cairo. Through his visual art practice and his work at the townhouse as a facilitator with resident artists, he has gained relevant experience in dealing with different forms of visual art media and interacting with and understanding the local community.

www.amadoalfadni.com

Timo Köster studied Culture and Media in Leipzig and Sofia and works as a project manager and freelance consultant. He has a strong interest in the diversification of the cultural sector and administration. He has worked as head of the arts and culture department at the International Elias Canetti Society based in Ruse, Bulgaria. This role was part of the cultural manager program for Eastern Europe (founded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung). Later he led the office for interculture and peace at the Municipality of Augsburg, where he established the themed *peace festival* (Rahmenprogramm zum Augsburger Hohen Friedensfest) as well as networking and forming strong relationships with local partners. His work led him to start the process for the diversification of the cultural sector and public administration in Augsburg.

He then led the newly founded Zukunftsakademie NRW, whose main purpose is to diversify the cultural sector including cultural education. He continued this theme in his work at the Diversity.Arts.Culture - Berliner Projektbüro für Diversitätsentwicklung which he co-founded. Recently he organised the conference *Interventionen - diversity in arts and education*.

www.eliascanetti.org

www.augsburgwiki.de/index.php/AugsburgWiki/Friedensfest

www.zaknrw.de

www.interventionen-berlin.de

www.kulturprojekte.berlin/projekt/diversityartsculture

Apply

and fill in the short form that can be found here:

<https://chrrahn.typeform.com/to/KoNcCp>

Deadline: Sunday, December 3, 2017

The project is funded in framework of the activities of the Robert Bosch Cultural Managers Network

