

## Liaisons dangereuses

Seeking emancipatory alternatives in trembling times

"Age of disaster" is the term applied by cultural philosopher and activist Lieven de Caeter to our disastrous age marked by dramatic conflicts, growing inequality and the dissolution of final certainty. But where to start rescuing when liaisons dangereuses start getting out of hand in all spheres – in politics, in the economy and in society?

In global finance capitalism, the culture of collective sharing is being marginalised, with egoism and destruction being the dominant driving forces and desperation and melancholy the consequences for the individual. "Melancholia", according to the philosopher Giovanni Leghissa, is the final consequence of the impossibility of articulating needs other than economic ones and indeed of distinguishing between economy and politics at all.

What is wrong with the economy? The *ratio economica* as the sole, generally accepted meaningful principle makes a utopian project of a society which guarantees human rights and allows everyone to share equitably in social profits. Countering such abstract speculations, the sociologist Erik Olin Wright suggests provocative "Real Utopias" that seek to redesign social institutions fundamentally and specifically: education for all, unconditional basic income and truly democratic decision-making processes. The conference "Liaisons dangereuses: Seeking emancipatory alternatives in trembling times", finally sets out to create a space for "community healing", a process of social justice that also allows wishes and hopes (Hector Aristizábal). But on the other hand, phenomena such as colonialism and racism are reappearing with great vehemence, phenomena which Alanna Lockward is reconsidering in order to find alternative strategies of resistance or exit.

Following on from last year's "Truth is concrete" marathon camp, the conference is an attempt by steirischer herbst to set up an international discourse platform for philosophical, artistic and political exchange: To get to the bottom of the disaster and to open up new spaces of liberty and practice.

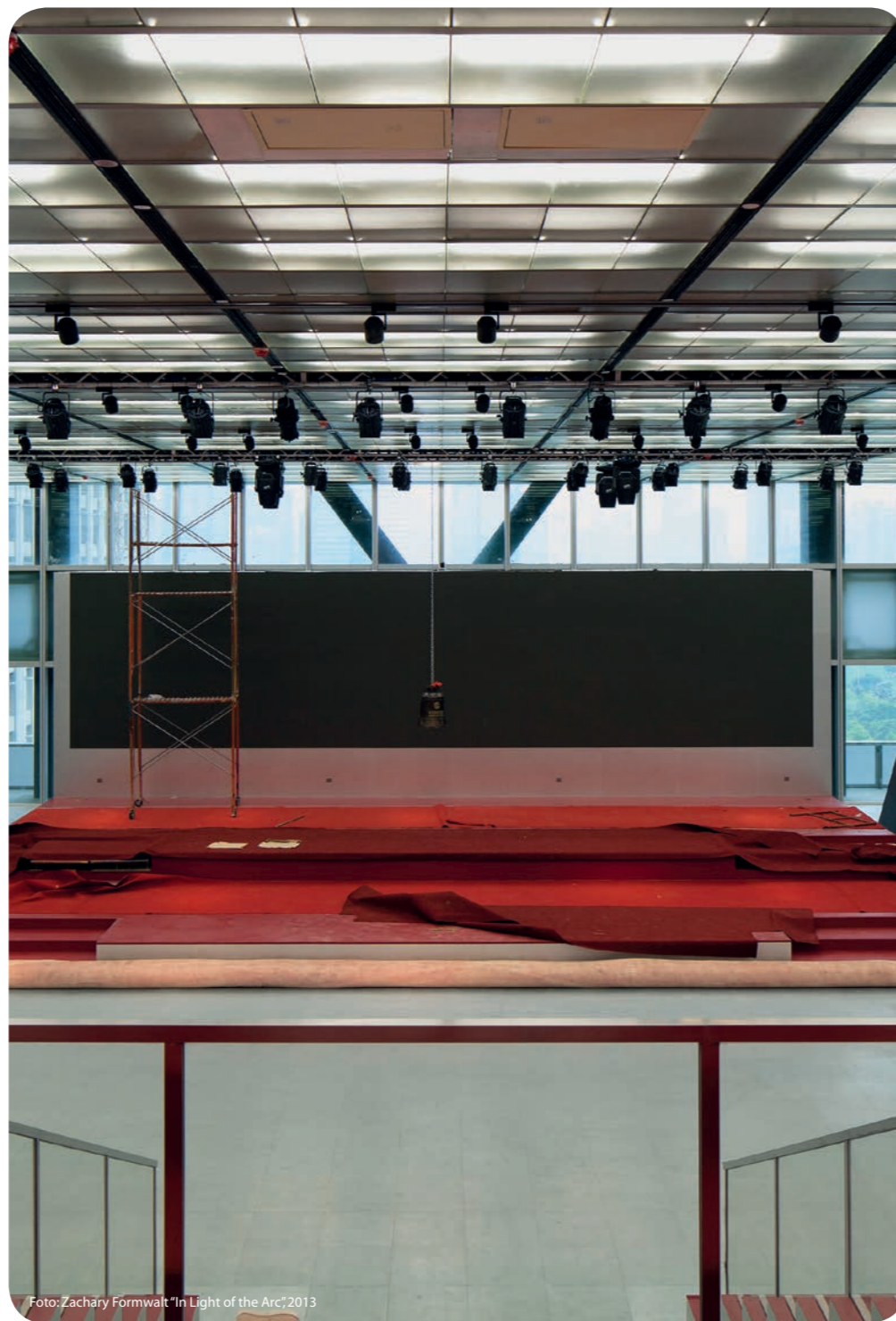


Foto: Zachary Formwalt "In Light of the Arc", 2013

## Liaisons dangereuses

Seeking emancipatory alternatives  
In trembling times

Fri 04/10, 14.30 - 22.45  
Sat 05/10, 11.00 - 20.30  
Sun 06/10, 11.00 - 21.00  
Ex-Zollamt / Halle & Explosiv

Admission free  
English language

With Hector Aristizábal (CO), Zdenka Badovinac (SI), Beirut (Sarah Rifky (EG), Jens Maier-Rothe (DE), Antonia Alampi (IT)), Reinhard Braun (AT), Ellen Blumenstein (DE), Jeannette Ehlers (DK), Luigi Fassi (AT/IT), Marianne Flotron (NL/CH), Zachary Formwalt (NL/US), Sam Gindin (CA), Tue Greenfort (DK), Katerina Gregos (BE/GR), Krist Gruijthuisen (AT/NL), Marina Gržinic (SI), Núria Güell (ES), Jan Peter Hammer (DE), John Jordan (US/FR), Sarah Browne (IR), Giovanni Leghissa (IT), Alanna Lockward (DE/DO), Dimitris Kassimatis (GR), Florian Malzacher (DE), Markus Miessen (DE), Saverio Pesapane (IT), Taniel Raudsepp (Visible Solutions (EE), Oliver Ressler (AT), Aeron Bergman (US/NO), Joshua Simon (ISR), Jonas Staal (NL), Marina Vishmidt (GB), Wooloo (Martin Rosengaard & Sixten Kai Nielsen (DK)

Moderated by Lieven De Caeter (BE) & Erik Olin Wright (US)

Curated by Luigi Fassi (AT/IT) & Anne Faucheret (AT/FR)

Head of Project Management

Dominik Jutz

Project Management Annika Strassmair & Barbara Thaler

Technical Director Karl Masten





## Theses on Art and New Institutional Politics

Fri 04/10

Ex-Zollamt / Explosiv

14.30 - 14.45

Introduction by Luigi Fassi

14.45 - 15.45

Theses on Art and Activism

Lecture by Lieven de Cauter

15.45 - 16.15

Questions & Answers

16.15 - 18.00

Re-thinking Institutions

Roundtable with *Beirut* (Jens Maier-Rothe, Sarah Rifky, Antonia Alampi), Markus Miessen, Ellen Blumenstein, Zdenka Badovinac & Reinhard Braun

18.00 - 18.30

Questions & Answers

Ex-Zollamt / Halle

18.30 - 19.30

Dinner Break

Ex-Zollamt / Explosiv

19.30 - 20.30

Curating the Political

Lecture by Katerina Gregos

20.30 - 20.45

Questions & Answers

20.45 - 22.45

Truth is concrete

Roundtable with Florian Malzacher, Jonas Staal, Núria Güell, John Jordan & Anne Faucheret

## Towards Real Utopias

Sat 05/10

Ex-Zollamt / Halle

11.00 - 11.15

Introduction by Luigi Fassi

11.15 - 12.00

Real Utopias

Lecture by Erik Olin Wright

12.00 - 12.15

Questions & Answers

12.15 - 13.15

Art and Other Ecological Scales

Lecture and screening by Tue Greenfort

13.15 - 13.30

Questions & Answers

13.30 - 15.00

Lunch Break



## Surveying the Neoliberal Project

Sat 05/10

Ex-Zollamt / Explosiv

15.00 - 15.15

Introduction by Luigi Fassi

15.15 - 16.45

The Artist in an Age of Fatalism

Lecture by Sam Gindin

Neoliberal Counter-Revolution

Lecture by Giovanni Leghissa

16.45 - 17.15

Questions & Answers

17.15 - 18.15

Artistic practices

Roundtable and screening with Jan Peter Hammer, Sarah Browne, Katerina Gregos & Krist Gruijthuijsen

18.15 - 18.30

Questions & Answers

Ex-Zollamt / Halle

18.30 - 19.00

Break

Ex-Zollamt / Explosiv

19.00 - 20.00

"Boy Eating the Bird's Food",

Ektoras Lygizos, 2012

Screening

20.00 - 20.30

Questions & Answers

with Dimitris Kassimatis

## Labour's Impasse and Community Healing

Sun 06/10

Ex-Zollamt / Halle

11.00 - 12.00

Theatre of the Oppressed and the

Ethics of Imagination

Lecture and screening by Hector Aristizábal

12.00 - 12.15

Questions & Answers

12.15 - 13.30

Neo-materialism and Immaterial Capitalism

Lecture by Joshua Simon

Lecture by Zachary Formwalt

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch Break

Ex-Zollamt / Explosiv

14.30 - 15.30

"Dubai Citytellers", Francesco Jodice, 2010

Screening

15.30 - 15.45

Questions & Answers

with Luigi Fassi & Saverio Pesapane

Decolonising Knowledge

16.00 - 16.45

Curating Afropean Decoloniality

Lecture by Alanna Lockward

16.45 - 17.00

Questions & Answers

17.00 - 18.30

Vocabulary of Decoloniality

Roundtable with Marina Gržinic, Jeannette Ehlers, Marina Vishmidt & Alanna Lockward

Ex-Zollamt / Halle

18.30 - 19.30

Dinner Break

19.30 - 21.00

Liquid Assets

Artist talk with Aeron Bergman, Martin Rosengaard & Sixten Kai Nielsen (Wooloo), Taniel Raudsepp, Marianne Flotron, Oliver Ressler & Katerina Gregos

## Participants

**Hector Aristizábal** is founder and artistic director of ImaginAction, an institution which helps people to make use of the transformative power of theatre. He lives in Los Angeles.

**Zdenka Badovinac** is curator and art critic. She has been director of the Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana since 1993. Her key areas of work are the processes of redefining history and defining different avant-garde traditions of contemporary art.

**Beirut** (Sarah Rifky, Jens Maier-Rothe, Antonia Alampi) is a new art initiative based in Cairo.

**Aeron Bergman** (born in Detroit in 1971) represents **Salinas & Bergman** together with Alejandra Salinas. Salinas & Bergman are participating in the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Ellen Blumenstein** has been head curator of Kunst-Werke Berlin since early 2013. She participated in the "Truth is concrete" marathon camp at steirischer herbst 2012.

**Reinhard Braun** (born in Linz in 1964) is curator and editor of Camera Austria International and head curator of Camera Austria Graz since 2011. He participated in the "Truth is concrete" marathon camp at steirischer herbst 2012.

**Sarah Browne** is one half of **Kennedy Browne**, a collaborative project she initiated together with Gareth Kennedy in 2005. Both artists live and work in Ireland and participate in the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Lieven De Cauter** is a philosopher, art historian, writer and activist. He teaches cultural philosophy in Leuven, Brussels and Rotterdam. He has published a number of books, most recently "Entropic Empire: On the City of Man in the Age of Disaster".

**Jeannette Ehlers** (born in Denmark in 1973) is a video artist, living in Copenhagen and dealing with the colonial past of Denmark.

**Luigi Fassi** has been curator for visual art with steirischer herbst since late 2012. He is curating the steirischer herbst exhibition "Liquid Assets" together with Katerina Gregos.

**Marianne Flotron** (born in Meiringen in 1970) is a Swiss-Dutch artist, living and working in Amsterdam. She is a participant of the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Zachary Formwalt** (born in Albany, Georgia, USA in 1979) is an artist, living and working in Amsterdam. He is a participant of the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Sam Gindin** teaches political economy at York University, Toronto, Canada. Former research director of the Canadian Auto Workers Union.

**Tue Greenfort** (born in Holbæk, Denmark in 1973) is an artist, dealing with ecological questions and outlining a critique of the destruction of the environment through capitalist processes. He participated in documenta 13, Kassel (2012) and the exhibition "Measures of Saving the World" at <rotor> Graz (2013).

**Katerina Gregos** is an art historian curator, and writer, as well as artistic director of Art Brussels. She is curating the steirischer herbst exhibition "Liquid Assets" together with Luigi Fassi.

**Krist Gruijthuijsen** is curator and current director of Grazer Kunstverein.

**Marina Gržinic** is a theorist and artist from Slovenia. She has been a full professor at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna since 2003.

**Núria Güell** (born in Vidreres, Spain in 1981) is an artist, living and working in Barcelona, Spain. She is a participant of the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Jan Peter Hammer** (born in Kirchheim unter Teck, Germany in 1970) is an artist, living and working in Berlin. He is a participant of the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**John Jordan** is an art activist and co-founder of the Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination (Labofii) where art and life, creativity and resistance merge. He participated in the "Truth is concrete" marathon camp at steirischer herbst 2012.

**Dimitris Kassimatis** is a Greek filmmaker. As a cinematographer, he realised "Boy Eating the Bird's Food" (2012) and "Valse Sentimentale" (2007).

**Giovanni Leghissa** (born in Trieste, Italy in 1964) is an artist and teaches at the University of Turin, Italy. In his work he focuses on the history of neoliberal rationality. His most recent book, titled "Die Verfirmung der Gesellschaft", will be published by Fink in October 2013.

**Alanna Lockward** (born in the Dominican Republic) is a writer and curator. She lives in Berlin and is director of Art Labour Archives, a platform for culture producing situation-specific art events and exhibitions.

**Florian Malzacher** is the director of Impulse Theater Biennale, Germany and was head dramaturge of steirischer herbst from 2006 to 2012 and co-curator of "Truth is concrete" marathon camp at steirischer herbst 2012.

**Markus Miessen** is an architect, consultant and writer. In 2008, he founded the Winter School Middle East; currently he is professor for critical spatial practice at the Städelschule, Frankfurt and visiting professor at HEAD Geneva and USC Los Angeles.

**Saverio Pesapane** is an Italian filmmaker. Among his films are "Aral Citytellers" (2010), shot on the Aral Sea, Kazakhstan, and "Dubai Citytellers" (2009). He teaches photography and urbanism at Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (NABA), Milan.

**Taniel Raudsepp** is a member of the artist collective **Visible Solutions** founded in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2010. He is a participant of the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Oliver Ressler** (born in Knittelfeld, Austria in 1970) is an artist, living and working in Vienna. He participated in the "Truth is concrete" marathon camp at steirischer herbst 2012. He is a participant of the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Joshua Simon** (born in Tel Aviv, Israel) is a curator and writer. He is currently head curator of the Bat Yam Art Museum, Tel Aviv. In 2013 he published "Neomaterialism" (Sternberg Press).

**Jonas Staal** (born in Zwolle, Netherlands in 1981) is a visual artist. In his work, he focuses on the interrelationships between art, politics and ideology. He participated in the "Truth is concrete" marathon camp at steirischer herbst 2012.

**Marina Vishmidt** is a writer and her key areas of work are art, value and politics of work and abstraction. She is a doctoral student at Queen Mary University of London.

**Wooloo – Martin Rosengaard & Sixten Kai Nielsen** is an artist duo from Denmark founded in 2002. They are participants of the exhibition "Liquid Assets".

**Erik Olin Wright** (born in 1947) is an American sociologist and currently distinguished professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, USA. He is president of the American Sociological Association.