

Program: Re_thinking Participatory Critique?

29. September – 02. Oktober 2021 (Mi–Sa)

Theater Gessnerallee, Studio 2, Gessnerallee 8, 8001 Zürich

Wednesday, 29. Sept., 18h

Key Note Lecture:

Rachel Mader, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Theater Gessnerallee, Studio 2, Gessnerallee 8, 8001 Zürich

Thursday, 30. September, 11–17h

Lunchbreak: 13-14h, El Lokal

What Comes After Institutional Critique?

In the debate on institution-critical practices and theories, the concepts of relationality, intersectionality, transversality and situatedness are to be elucidated so as to go beyond dichotomous conceptions and traditional boundaries such as those between art and activism. Adhering to a productive understanding of critique, aesthetic practices are grasped as instituting practices. To grasp “participatory / partaking critique” as an instituting practice means acknowledging its infrastructural and material conditions and exploring its aesthetic possibilities to change reality.

Input contributors: text/video/audio

Carte blanche Rachel Mader:

Archana Prasad, JAAGA – Programs and Space for Collaboration, Bangalore

Ruth Sonderegger, Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien

Jaime Vindel, Red Conceptualismos del Sur / CSIC – Instituto de Historia, Madrid

Carte blanche: Pablo Martínez, Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA)

Workshop lecturer

Marcel Bleuler, Zurich University of the Arts/ University Salzburg

Friday, 01. October, 10–17h
Lunchbreak: 13-14h, El Lokal

Aesthetic-activist Practices of Critique

Unfolding critique as a practice allows emancipating oneself from the traditional criteria of a negative / affirmative or judging critique and instead places a stronger focus on its aesthetic, media-related dimension. For this reason, the workshop seeks to draw up a genealogy of critical practices. Of special interest in this respect are the decolonization of knowledge, dissident narratives, archival practices, as well as the interrelations between reparation, care (labor) and emancipation. The debate on the relationship between ethics and aesthetics is to be expanded not least by decidedly queer/feminist and post-/decolonial approaches.

Input contributors: text/video/audio

Ana Longoni, Red Conceptualimos del Sur / Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Buenos Aires
Carte blanche: Fernanda Carvajal, Red Conceptualimos del Sur, Buenos Aires, Santiago (Chile)

Eduardo Molinari, Archivo Caminante / Universidad Nacional de las Artes Buenos Aires
Carte blanche: Adrián Moyano, Espacio Articulación Mapuche y Construcción Política, San Carlos de Bariloche (Argentinien)

Workshop lecturers

Amalia Barboza and Mariel Rodríguez, University of Arts Linz

Critique as a “Negotiating and Acting ‘With’”

The conceptualization of the self as always already characterized by sociality and the ability to be affected in the relationship to others has consequences for the understanding of critique. If the self is grasped in this way, critique is not the result of a sovereign subject capable of acting, but negotiates itself, as it were, in an at all times situated and situational structure. The question arises as to the potentials of such a “partaking critique” articulated together with others.

How does such an unstable, ambivalent and temporally limited critical engagement take up a position? How does it become transforming resistance against what exists / against normality? How does this “partaking critique” prevent following the imagination of the self-determined, individual, free, and critical subject? With the concept of a “negotiating and acting ‘with’,” the focus is shifted to modalities of forging solidary alliances. In this sense, critical engagement is to be grasped as a positioning in the present in order to discuss, not least, alternative imaginations of communality. Especially the relations of critique-conflict-intervention, critique-resistance-transformation, and critique-participation-commons are to be reflected upon and further differentiated in the debate.

Input contributors: text/video/audio

Carte blanche Edna Bonhomme: Nnenna Onuoha, Berlin, Harvard University

Sally Schonfeldt, Zürich

Carte blanche: Paula Baeza Pailamilla, Santiago (Chile) und Jose Cáceres Mardones,
University Zurich / Department of History

Workshop lecturers

Alice Creischer and Andreas Siekmann, Berlin

Saturday, 02. October, 10–13h

Final discussion

With artistic reflection by Pascale Schreibmüller (Zurich).