

“Experimental arrangement of acting unruly”

Collective forms of exchanging views on emancipatory strategies and alliances of solidarity

Exhibition concept: Elke Smodics

In collaboration with Carla Bobadilla, Vlatka Frketic, Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński

Wall design: Vasilena Gankovska

Infomobil: Carolina Frank

Duration: 24 March through 12 May 2017

GALERIE IG BILDENDE KUNST

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»From what political perspective do we dream, look, create, and take action? [...] It is about transforming the image, creating alternatives.« (bell hooks, 1992)

Questions of collective practices are unthinkable without the participatory process. They increasingly influence artistic, educational and curatorial activities in exhibition projects. In this regard, a key aspect is the diversity of voices. In the context of art projects, exhibitions and educational programmes, what does it mean to be taking and “giving” part?

The artworks by Carla Bobadilla, Vlatka Frketic and Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński provide the starting point for a framework of acting for emancipatory processes. They examine racist, sexist, classist and other discriminatory social constructs and follow up the potential for change. The exhibition does not intend to follow the path of representation, but considers itself as an open space for processes of exchange with respect to anti-discriminatory forms of knowledge, addressing such questions as what spaces of action are created by artistic and mediating collaborations? What can we learn from one another through the exchange of knowledge?

With “Experimental arrangement of acting unruly”, a field for experimentation for questions regarding spaces of practice is put up for discussion. It provides possibilities for different forms of knowledge to meet, unexpected encounters (Irit Rogoff) and active debates to take place. Contrary to a canonised transfer of knowledge, the exhibition project offers – similar to a contact zone – room for exchange and processes of research.

Thinking in terms of collaboration. To challenge hierarchical orders. In this way, questions about participatory methods in relation to negotiations of social practices within the field of art represent a focal issue in the context of “collective acting”, this year’s annual theme of the IG BILDENDE KUNST. From an anti-discriminatory and postcolonial perspective we intend to carefully examine prevalent conditions of inequality and the appropriated specific knowledge of different power relations in the field of art, in political activism and in critical art education. We pursue the interwovenness of normative constants, ask for rebellious strategies and aim to draw conclusions for collective acting guided by solidarity.

Supporting programme

The exhibition project with its processual, growing structure does not consider itself as a status quo. Based on the artists' contributions, the exhibition is expanded through comments and interventions by visitors as part of mediating activities and events.

As such, the supporting programme emerges as a forum of exchange. In workshops, agents from artistic and activist areas of practice will put the annual theme of the IG BILDENDE KUNST "collective acting" up for debate in a collaborative process. The focus will be on a transdisciplinary approach, in which different viewpoints are shared and circumvent the traditional exhibition logic. In consequence, unusual forms of convergence take place, extending an invitation to establish connections independently, reflect, experiment, co-create...

Events

Thursday, 6 April 2017, 7 pm

Lecture performance «Past | Present | Future» with Sira-Zoe Schmid

Past, present and future – an extensive archive on the subject of women as creators of art. 30 artists | 30 questionnaires. How do they position themselves in the present-day art world, what do their conditions of production look like...

Thursday, 20 April 2017, 10 am to 12 pm

Read-in, discussion and screening with Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński

An invitation to everyone interested in teaching and learning to discuss – proceeding from James Baldwin's "A Talk to Teachers" (1963) – the challenges of teaching and learning as well as how to deal with discrimination within university structures.

Thursday, 27 April 2017, 11 am to 2 pm

Workshop: collective action with Vlatka Frketic

Questions of taking/giving part and the involved coexistence of contrasts in the exchange of knowledge will be debated.

Friday, 5 May 2017, 4 to 7 pm

The walk as a collective method of unlearning with Carla Bobadilla

A performative encounter with historical facts takes place during a tour around the first district that will lead to sites of colonialism's cultural heritage.

Meeting point: IG BILDENDE KUNST

English translation: Martin Wimmer

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