

Friday
September 11
6:30 pm

PRIMARY INFORMATION AND COUNTER — PUBLICATIONS Axel J. Wieder

The presentation will discuss the use of publications as a site for artistic production since the 1960s and the current status of artists' publications. Two aspects of publications will be of special interest: the ability to create a specific context and a relation to a history of information-based art, and the use of printed matter for the distribution of ideas, which includes books and magazines as activist counter-media. Examples that will be discussed include Seth Siegelaub's groundbreaking publications-as-exhibitions and Martha Rosler's activist approach towards printed media, as well as artists' magazines like *Art-Rite* and *A.N.Y.P.*

Axel J. Wieder is the artistic director of Künstlerhaus Stuttgart. He studied art history and cultural studies in Cologne and Berlin. In 1999, he co-founded together with Katja Reichard and Jesko Fezer the bookshop Pro qm, which also serves as an experimental platform for events and presentations in art and urbanism. He is frequently writing on architecture and exhibitions for *Texte zur Kunst*, *Springerin*, *032c*, *Frieze*, *Arch+* and other publications.

www.pro-qm.de
www.kuenstlerhaus.de

Saturday/Sunday
September 12/13
2009, 7 — 12 pm

ASTERISK* ISSUE 3 Elisabeth Klement & Laura Pappa

Asterisk* is a platform for young graphic designers, illustrators and printmakers, providing opportunity to distribute and sell their work. Asterisk* functions as a portable book shop and as an event for gathering and exchanging ideas. An essential part of the portable book shop is to introduce new urban localities as possible venues for cultural events. The initiative for the bookshop resulted mainly from the need to find wider audience for the perception of our own work as well as the work of other designers that had caught our attention. Furthermore our wish is to introduce Estonian graphic design to a wider public and to display its various forms. The portable bookshop Asterisk* is organized by Laura Pappa and Elisabeth Klement.

Laura Pappa is a graduate student in the graphic design department of the Estonian Academy of Arts. Aside from her studies she works as an independent graphic designer.

Elisabeth Klement studied graphic design for two years in the Estonian Academy of Arts and is now a graduate student in the graphic design department of the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. Besides studying in Amsterdam, she works as an independent graphic designer in Estonia.

www.graphicdesign.ee/asterisk

Sunday
September 13
6:30 pm

MAKING BOOKS Indrek Sirkel

Indrek Sirkel is a graphic designer and popular teacher based in Tallinn. After graduating from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam in 2007 and a one year residency at the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht, he has mainly worked on publications for several Estonian cultural institutions. From 2007 he is teaching at the Estonian Academy of Arts.

In his talk he will analyse the relationships between content, form and production methods of books through his recent book designs.

www.sirkel.ee

Monday
September 14
6:30 pm

THE DIALECTICS OF ENLIGHTENMENT TODAY Timothy Hall

“Sixty-five years since the first appearance of *Dialektik der Aufklärung* the debates that the work inaugurated are as unresolved as they ever were. How do we stand towards the enlightenment project of autonomy? How, in other words, do we stand towards the attempt to understand our lives, in all its facets, as free and self-directing? Has this project run its course? Have we entered a postmodern time in which enlightenment ideals have been exposed as illusions? Or does the enlightenment project remain unfinished and incomplete? Adorno and Horkheimer offered a unique and ambiguous answer to these questions that continues to delineate the position they stake out as both singular and unique.”

In his lecture Timothy Hall will explore this position through an exposition of some of the works key speculative claims; that enlightenment reverts to myth and myth is already enlightenment; that the history of civilization is the history of the introversion of sacrifice; that high art and popular culture are ‘torn halves of an integral whole’.

Timothy Hall is a Senior Lecturer in International Politics, University of East London. He is the co-author of *The Modern State: theories and ideologies* (Edinburgh University Press, 2007) and co-editor of *The Fundamental Dissonance of Existence: new essays on the social, political and aesthetic theory of Georg Lukacs* (Continuum press, 2010). He is currently working on a book on the political thought of T.W. Adorno.

The lecture will be followed by the panel discussion with philosopher, prof. Māra Rubene (University of Latvia), translator and politologist Ivars Ijabs (University of Latvia) and sociologist Normunds Kozlovs (Riga Stradins University).

Tuesday
September 15
6:30 pm

A TALK with fictional author K. D. about her forthcoming novel LOOKING FOR HEADLESS. Presented by Goldin + Senneby

K.D. has an unusual pedigree for a novelist. Her background is in offshore finance, having worked for many years as a client service manager for a major international trust-management company. This work has taken her to various parts of the world, some of them gloriously sun-kissed, fiscal paradises. This, again, is somewhat unusual for a novelist, but who better to write a murder-mystery set in the heady yet dark world of international finance? Apart from a sun tan, then, one of K.D.'s great virtues is the ability to tell the truth and to tell it dispassionately. She possesses an uncluttered mindset, unburdened by a writer's self-fascination and that author-centricity from which so many of us suffer. She's a true storyteller, and as with the best of them, she is in some ways little more than a conduit for that story. Given the insider info that years in the industry have given her, one could hardly imagine a better author of *Looking for Headless*. — John Barlow

Goldin + Senneby (since 2004) is a framework for collaboration set up by artists Simon Goldin and Jakob Senneby; exploring juridical, financial and spatial constructs through notions of the performative and the virtual. In their more recent body of work, known as *Headless* (2007—), they approach the sphere of offshore finance, and its production of virtual space through legal code. Looking at strategies of withdrawal and secrecy, they trace an offshore company on the Bahamas called *Headless Ltd.* A ghostwritten detective novel continuously narrates their investigations.

www.goldinsenneby.com

Wednesday
September 16
6:30 pm

Thursday
September 17
6:30 pm

Friday
September 18
6:30 pm

Saturday
September 19
6:30 pm

PUBLISHING IN TRANSIT Alexis Zavialoff

Alexis Zavialoff will talk about his activities with and around Motto Distribution. He has been engaged in the publishing world since 1994, working as a photographer in the first place. After travelling and living in different European countries, he finally settled in Switzerland, where he started Motto, a distribution company for magazines, books and artists' publications. In 2009 he opened Motto Berlin: a bookstore concentrating on magazines, art books, self published printed matter — thus following a natural evolution of all his earlier activities.

www.mottodistribution.com

THE GIANTS' BATTLE Latvian Annual Art Award — necessary? And what could it be?

Discussion participants: The Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, New Media Center RIXC, Culture and Arts Project NOASS, Interdisciplinary arts group SERDE, The Centre for Arts Management and Information, Culture Department of Riga Municipality, Riga Art space

GETTING INTO SITUATIONS Mirjam Wirz / Flash Institut

The Flash Institut is a centre for cultural production, research and exchange, considers social encounters and interaction as main practice and material element. The Flash Institut Newspaper is a communication structure set up to research and connect ongoing cultural processes. The newspaper is meant to contain the developments from certain time periods into Collected Dossiers. The Flash Bar is an event which constantly changes its place in the city and never happens at the same place twice. It invites the public to experience these places for a couple of hours. A bar is built from material found on the spot. The most recent works are two Flash Institut Newspapers produced in Veracruz / Mexico and in Minsk / Belarus. They are available in the exhibition IS A SHOW, IS A SHOP, IS A BOOK.

Mirjam Wirz was born in Switzerland. She graduated from Zurich University of the Arts in Photography / Visual Communication in 2001 and has lived and worked in Vilnius from 2001 to 2008. She is a lecturer of photography at EHU / Belarussian European Humanities University in exile in Vilnius. She is also the founder and main organizer of The Flash Institut.

www.flashinstitut.com

PUBLISHING FOR A SMALL AUDIENCE — RULES, MARKET, POTENTIAL

Discussion participants: Virginija Januskeviciute (LT), Valentinas Klimašauskas (LT), Ieva Astahovska (LV), Maja Wismer (CH), Reinis Tukišs (LV), Ieva Zibārte (LV)

11.9 — 19.9 2009

IS A SHOW, IS A SHOP, IS A BOOK

16 / 18 Blaumaņa Street

The listed lectures, talks and performances are part of the exhibition IS A SHOW, IS A SHOP, IS A BOOK curated by Egija Inzule and Maja Wismer as contribution to the event framework "Survival Kit" organised by The Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art in Riga, 12 — 19 of September 2009.

The exhibition with and about books focusses on the double role of books within the field of art both as self-contained aesthetic entity and as a medium of information and discourse. Conceived as a bookstore the exhibition presents a selection of artists' books, catalogues and art theory publications.

"The Most Beautiful Swiss Books 2008" are hosted by IS A SHOW, IS A SHOP, IS A BOOK. If not sold during the exhibition, the publications will be available in the bookshop of art space Supernova.

In collaboration with and parallel to the exhibition Zurich based graphic designers Urs Lehni and Lex Trüb are setting up a workshop with students of the art school in Riga.

We would like to thank: Vita Banga, Mārīte Inzule, Gatis Inzulis, LCCA, Claudia & Julia Müller, Zane Onckule, Lars Müller Publishers

And the participants of the exhibition, lectures, talks and workshop as well as the artists, publishers and institutions for the printed matter.

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prohelvetia



Dolce Vita