

Internal Seminar: Slowness
23 – 24 May 2018
Cologne

Academy of the Arts of the World
Temporary Gallery

Language: English

“Internal Seminar” is a new format established to provide a space for deeper reflection on the issues that are important for institutional practice in middle-scale contemporary art initiatives. We hope that it can lead to regular exchanges that foster critical thinking and feedback regarding institutional habits. The seminar consists of two thematically interrelated sessions led by an invited guest lecturer. For each session there will be a reading list with the texts made available online.

The seminar is free of charge, but the number of participants is limited. Accommodation and travel costs must be covered by the participants. However, we offer the option of staying at the Academy’s apartment (3 rooms with a double bed in each). Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in this.

“Internal Seminar” accompanies the symposium “Rethinking Locality,” organized by the Academy of the Arts of the World in Cologne on May 23-24, 2018 (see the program below). All seminar participants will receive free tickets to the symposium.

If you would like to participate or have any further questions, please contact by April 15, 2018
Aneta Rostkowska, rostkowska@academycologne.org
Regina Barunke, rb@temporarygallery.org

Part 1

Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez:

“I cannot work like this”

Wed 23 May, 11 am – 2 pm

Academyspace, Herwarthstraße 3

How can we work within and with institutions today, as cultural workers and artists, at a time of violent radicalization and profound ecological crisis, when heightened surveillance reinforces the organized and transnational governmental abuse of natural resources and the commons? How do we engage various institutional constituencies in countries of the Global North, when precisely their governments cause and contribute to inhuman civil wars, ecological catastrophes and drone strikes in certain regions of the world, force thousands of people into displacement and dispossession, whereby too many of them drown, suffocate, are starved to death, or are exposed daily to violence and mercy by those they encounter on their routes?

This is an invitation for cultural workers operating in distinct geographies but within an intertwined geopolitical reality to slow down their ways of working and being, to imagine new ecologies of care as a continuous practice of support, and to listen with attention to feelings that arise from encounters with objects and subjects. It is an invitation to the institutions to radically open up their borders and show how they work—or don't—in order to render themselves palpable, audible, sentient, soft, porous, and above all, decolonial and anti-patriarchal.

Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez is an independent curator, editor and writer. She was co-director of Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers (2010–12) and co-founder of the network Cluster. She has been appointed as the curator for Contour Biennale 9, Mechelen for 2019. The basis for the discussion will be Petrešin-Bachelez's text “For Slow Institutions,” published in E-flux (<http://www.e-flux.com/journal/85/155520/for-slow-institutions/>).

Part 2

Viola Vahrson:

“Reclaiming Leisure: Historical Perspectives on the Creative Power and Function of Leisure”

Thu 24 May, 11 am – 2 pm

Temporary Gallery, Mauritiuswall 35

The second seminar explores the status and value of leisure from antiquity to the present: Doing nothing often implies a silent refractoriness towards the imposition of ordinary life and economy. There is leisure time with its seduction of passiveness and consumption, and also with the continuance of work on other endeavors. There is also the involuntarily loss of employment or the total exhaustion caused by permanent stress and tension at work. There is a decline from the accustomed regularity of everyday life into languorousness, bitterness and squalidness. But the melancholy can be broken up by another faineance - the leisure of knowledge. Leisure as a combination of ease and devotion expresses itself in activity, the aspiration towards research and art.

Viola Vahrson is professor of art history and visual studies at the University of Applied Science Dusseldorf. Together with philosopher Hannes Böhringer, she published a compendium on laziness (Faulheit, 2008).

After both sessions, there will be a lunch break followed by guided tours through the exhibitions presented at the Academy of the Arts of the World and at the Temporary Gallery.

Parallel event:

Symposium: Rethinking Locality

23 – 24 May 2018

Cologne, Germany

With Boris Groys, Mikołaj Iwański, Alexander Koch, Sarah van Lamsweerde, Maria Lind, Cecylia Malik, Suhail Malik, Oliver Marboeuf, Esther Mugambi, Britta Peters, Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez, Aneta Rostkowska

Organized by the Academy of the Arts of the World, Cologne

Language: English

In cooperation with Alexander Koch ([KOW](#), [New Patrons](#)) and [King Georg](#)

Part 1

Rethinking Locality: Artistic and Curatorial Methodologies

Wed, 23 May, 7 p.m.

King Georg, Sudermanstraße 2, 50670 Cologne

7–7:45 p.m. Talk by Boris Groys

8–8:45 p.m. “Paradise on Earth”, film screening

9–10:30 p.m. Discussion with Alexander Koch, Cecylia Malik, Olivier Marboeuf, and Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez, moderated by Aneta Rostkowska

Part 2

Rethinking Locality: Art and Economy

Thu 24 May, 7 p.m.

Altes Pfandhaus, Kartäuserwall 20, 50678 Cologne

7–7:45 p.m. Talk by Maria Lind

8–8:45 p.m. “Tell/Sell, a Common Story”, a performance and installation by Sarah van Lamsweerde, created and performed in collaboration with Esther Mugambi

9–10:30 p.m. Discussion with Mikołaj Iwański, Suhail Malik, and Britta Peters, moderated by Alexander Koch

More:

https://www.academycologne.org/en/article/1379_rethinking_locality

https://www.academycologne.org/en/article/1375_global_positioning_system_not_working

<http://www.temporarygallery.org/?p=6291&lang=en>