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WATER COOLER TALKS 2020

GESPRÄCHE ÜBER KÜNSTLERISCHE UND KURATORISCHE PRAXIS

zum Rundgang der Städelschule 2020

Anlässlich des Rundgangs an der Städelschule laden die Studierenden des Masterstudiengangs Curatorial Studies zu den Water Cooler Talks ein. Die Veranstaltungsreihe bildet für drei Tage eine Plattform, auf der sich gemeinsam mit Künstler*innen, Kurator*innen, Theoretiker*innen und Aktivist*innen über aktuelle Grenzverschiebungen im Kunstkontext ausgetauscht wird.

Der Themenkomplex Queer Ecologies und das Spannungsverhältnis von künstlerischer und kuratorischer Praxis stehen dieses Jahr im Fokus von Diskussionen, einer Lecture Performance sowie eines Film-Screenings. Unter einer queeren Herangehensweise verstehen wir einen kritischen Umgang mit Setzungen von Identitätspraktiken und -normen. Die Veranstaltungsreihe rückt Möglichkeiten und Herausforderungen offensiver wie subtiler queerer Praktiken in Bezug auf Umwelt ins Blickfeld. Wie werden bestimmte Kategorien festgelegt und produziert? Inwiefern lassen sich dichotome Verhältnisse – Natur/Kultur, Mensch/Umwelt, fremd/eigen, Produktion/Rezeption – verschieben, irritieren und anders denken? Die Water Cooler Talks sind eine thematische Annäherung und Möglichkeit, unsere eigenen kuratorischen Positionen zu reflektieren.

Curatorial Studies – Theorie – Geschichte – Kritik ist ein Kooperationsstudiengang der Hochschule für Bildende Künste – Städelschule und der Goethe-Universität und arbeitet mit folgenden Kunstinstitutionen zusammen: MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST, Städel Museum, Liebieghaus, Historisches Museum, Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt und Portikus. Durch innovative Lehr- und Lernformate können Studierende akademisches Lernen und wissenschaftliche Forschung mit kuratorischen Fragestellungen und berufsbezogenen Erfahrungen verbinden.

(Kontakt: www.kuratierenundkritik.net)

WATER COOLER TALKS 2020

DISCUSSIONS ON ARTISTIC AND CURATORIAL PRACTICE

on the occasion of Städelschule Rundgang 2020

On the occasion of Rundgang at Städelschule, the students of the master's programme Curatorial Studies present the Water Cooler Talks. For three days, this series of events provides an open platform to exchange and discuss ideas together with artists, curators, theoreticians and activists on shifting boundaries in the contemporary art world(s).

This year's discussions, a lecture performance and a film screening will focus on Queer Ecologies and the tension between artistic and curatorial practice. By queering we mean a critical approach towards the constructs of identity practices and norms. The series of events focuses on possibilities and challenges of obvious and subtle queer practices in relation to the environment. How are certain categories produced and defined? How can dichotomous relationships – nature/culture, humans/environment, self/other, production/reception – be shifted, irritated and thought differently? The approach of the Water Cooler Talks is contextual and offers the opportunity to reflect on our own curatorial practices.

Curatorial Studies – Theorie – Geschichte – Kritik is a joint master's programme between the Hochschule für Bildende Künste – Städelschule and the Goethe-Universität. As a cooperation with MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST, Städel Museum and Liebieghaus, Historisches Museum, Weltkulturen Museum and Portikus, the programme's distinctiveness lies in its internationally unique combination of university, art school and museums. Through innovative teaching and learning methods, students are able to combine academic study and research with curatorial approaches and experiences in the occupational field.

(Contact: www.kuratierenundkritik.net)

Lecture Performance

Grey, Green, Gold (and Red)

Freitag, 14. Februar, 11 Uhr, Aula

Uriel Orlow's process oriented and multi-disciplinary practice focuses on specific locations and microhistories. By bringing different image-regimes and narrative modes into correspondence, he links the colonial legacy to contemporary concerns.

The lecture performance *Grey, Green, Gold (and Red)* expands on the themes and concerns of Orlow's project *Theatrum Botanicum* (2015-2018), which looks to the botanical world as a stage for politics. Working from the dual vantage points of South Africa and Europe, the project considers plants as both witnesses or actors in history, and dynamic agents – linking nature and humans, rural and cosmopolitan medicine, tradition and modernity – across different geographies, histories and systems of knowledge. *Grey, Green, Gold (and Red)* explores the relationship between the garden Nelson Mandela and his fellow inmates planted on Robben Island prison during their 18-year incarceration, flower mutations in Cape Town's National Botanical Garden, and the fate of alien species in Europe and South Africa.

Uriel Orlow's work has been presented at the Manifesta 12, Palermo (2018), 13th Sharjah Biennial 13 (2017), 54th Venice Biennale (2011), as well as at Tate, ICA, and Gasworks in London, and at Palais de Tokyo in Paris, amongst others. Until end of February 2020 his solo exhibition *Conversing with Leaves* is on view at Kunsthalle Mainz.

The lecture performance will be followed by a Q&A together with the curator Lina Louisa Krämer.

Moderated by Theresa Dettinger and Leonie Schmiese.

Findet in englischer Sprache statt.

Gespräch

On Teaching Art and Curating

Freitag, 14. Februar, 14 Uhr, Aula

We are pleased to talk with Yasmil Raymond, visual art curator and the new rector of the Städelschule, and Haegue Yang, artist and professor for Fine Arts at Städelschule.

One could say, with its 10-year anniversary, the Curatorial Studies master's programme at Städelschule and Goethe-Universität has set an example for a curatorial teaching tradition in Germany. Yasmil Raymond comes from an academic curatorial background, having received her MA at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College. That given, we are highly interested in hearing her thoughts on the agenda of Städelschule. In addition to a general conversation on her recent work as a curator, we will discuss questions related to the school and her vision and expectations of her new position. Haegue Yang will bring her experiences working with the students and artist-professors enriching the conversation. On Teaching Art and Curating seeks to open the dialogue between Yasmil Raymond, Haegue Yang, her new students and colleagues.

Moderated by Johanna Weiß and Asta von Mandelsloh.

Findet in englischer Sprache statt.

Screening

***La Conférence des Femmes - Nairobi '85* by Françoise Dasque (1985), 64 min.**

Freitag, 14. Februar, 16.30 Uhr, Aula

The third international women's conference (World Conference on Women or Forum '85), held in Nairobi in 1985, brought together feminist perspectives and various political concerns. Alongside the 'official' conference of the UN, the Forum '85 established a space for NGOs and feminist movements. About 14,000 women attended this conference, they discussed current political conflicts – from the general oppression of women and international ties with the LGBTQIA* community to working conditions for women in different countries, circumcision and abuse of women and girls and colonial exploitation.

Françoise Dasque's film vividly reflects this exchange and solidarity as well as existing conflicts between different feminist positions. It was recently shown in two exhibitions; *Show Me Your Archive and I Will Tell You Who is in Power* (2017, Kiosk, Ghent) and *Defiant Muses* (until March 2020, Reina Sofía, Madrid).

Englisch und Französisch mit englischen Untertiteln.

Accompanied by Maren Feller, Teodora Talhoş, Anna Holms and Asta von Mandelsloh.

The doors will open 15 minutes before screening, additional information and material on the Women's Conference will be available.

WebChat with Mine Kaplangı and Collective Çukurcuma

Freitag, 14. Februar, 17:30 Uhr, Aula

The format of a WebChat enables us to instinctively jump into an exchange with Mine Kaplangı and her Collective Çukurcuma, founded in Istanbul in 2015. The collective focuses on collaborative thinking and writing through reading group meetings, international collaborative exhibitions, curatorial and editorial projects, and public programs. By organizing these projects, they highlight the potential of transdisciplinary collaborations within the frame of contemporary art, focusing on a process-based research, rather than on the outcome. The chat history of our side-conversation will be shown after the screenings. You are invited to join the conversation with us and reach out to Mine and her collective.

Gespräch

Miriam Cahn und Philippe Pirotte

Samstag, 15. Februar, 14 Uhr, Aula

Die Städelschule freut sich sehr über den Besuch der Künstlerin Miriam Cahn. In ihrem malerischen Werk verhandelt Miriam Cahn mögliche Darstellungsweisen eines neuen Körper- und Menschenbildes. Philippe Pirotte und die Künstlerin werden über das Medium der Malerei, geschlechtsspezifisch Rollenverhältnisse, zwischenmenschliche Beziehungen und eine Gesellschaft, die von Flucht, Krieg und Gewalt geprägt ist sprechen.

Findet in deutscher Sprache statt.

Zwei Vorträge & Gespräch

On Thinking, Staging and Performing Plants

Samstag, 15. Februar, 16 Uhr

The heated times we live in (metaphorically and literally speaking) are being reflected not only in artists' works, but also in theoretical and curatorial approaches. Political matters clash with alarming environmental issues, creating a state of urgency and confusion. How can we reconsider the relation between human and

nature and dissolve traditional binaries enabling co-evolution and interconnectivity? Which practices could rewrite conventional understandings of ecology both in art, as well as in theory and activism?

Lenka Kukurová is a Slovak freelance curator, art critic and activist based in Leipzig. Her practice connects curating with activism, revolving around topics such as identity, racism, feminism and ecology in relation to the current rise of nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe. She recently co-curated the exhibition *Petr Zewlakk Vrabec – Climate Revolution* in Prague, which presents the Czech post-communist society's attitude towards environmental issues. In the same post-revolutionary spirit, she curated *The Power of the Powerless* at the Kunsthalle Bratislava in 2019.

Bojana Kunst is professor and director of the Institute for Applied Theater Studies at Justus-Liebig University Gießen, where she leads the international MA in Choreography and Performance. In 2002, she finished her doctoral thesis in Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana and worked as a researcher in Antwerp and Hamburg. She is a member of the editorial board of *Maska Magazine*, *Amfiteater* and *Performance Research*, and published her latest book *Artist at Work. Proximity of Arts and Capitalism* in 2015.

Moderated by Teodora Talhoş and Anneliese Ostertag.

Findet in englischer Sprache statt.

Screening 2.0

***La Conférence des Femmes - Nairobi '85* by Françoise Dasque (1985), 64 min.**

Sonntag, 16. Februar, 18 Uhr, Aula

Englisch und Französisch mit englischen Untertiteln.

The doors will open 15 minutes before screening, additional information and material on the Women's Conference will be available.

Accompanied by Maren Feller, Teodora Talhoş, Anna Holms and Asta von Mandelsloh.

WebChat with Mine Kaplangı and Collective Çukurcuma

Sonntag, 16. Februar, 19 Uhr, Aula