

>Performative Democracy<

A cycle of projects curated by Joanna Warsza

with Ulf Aminde (Berlin), Pablo Helguera (New York) and Alexandra Pirici (Bucharest)

Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig

October–December 2013



The arts are generally seen as having the capacity to portray things in their complexity, making associations between the views and interests of individuals and general discourse in such a way that conflicts are not avoided, but recognised in their social significance, and channelled to function in a productive way. However, during this process the specific constraints and conflicts underlying the production of art are often left unmentioned.

The series of performative events conceived by Joanna Warsza go back to the idea of 'performative democracy' as formulated by the Polish sociologist Elzbieta Matynia. Here, Matynia describes an authentic dimension of democracy, dependent upon local factors, which illustrates to people the political potential of their modes of behaviour and statements.

But in how far is it possible to live democracy? How can art sharpen our critical perception and the forming of our opinions, and how can it contribute towards implementing social and political power of action whilst incorporating our own involvement? In collaboration with the artists Alexandra Pirici, Ulf Aminde and Pablo Helguera, classic cultural practices such as rhetoric, orchestral music and the art of the memorial are examined for their potential in the sense of performative democracy.

Upcoming:

Alexandra Pirici: Persistent Feebleness

19 October 2013

10–18 Uhr

Monument of the Battle of Nations, Ruhmeshalle, Straße des 18. Oktober 100, 04299 Leipzig

20 October: Pablo Helguera Well-Tempered Exhibition (lecture-performance)

17 December: Ulf Aminde Strike: Opera (in collaboration with Cultures of the Curatorial)

>Performative Democracy< is a part of >Responsive Subjects<, a project in which the Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig (GfZK) collaborates with James Langdon (Birmingham), Joanna Warsza (Warsaw/Berlin) and Kateřina Šedá (Brno). >Responsive Subjects< is funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony, The German-Czech Future Fund, the British Council and the Friends of the Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig.

Image credits:

Strike: Opera. Truth is concrete, Steirischer Herbst 2012. Lecture Performance by Ulf Aminde (D), Ellen Blumenstein/Haben und Brauchen (D), Graz University Orchestra (A), Judith Raum (D), Anders Smebye (N)