

Conference
Thinking Europe – Discourses and Models
28 January 2012

Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst (Museum of Contemporary Art)
Karl-Tauchnitz-Str. 11
D – 04107 Leipzig
Germany

1 p.m.
Welcome by
Sabine Hentzsch, Goethe-Institut London
Michael Thoss, Allianz Kulturstiftung, Berlin

Insert 1: Michaël Aerts: *Permanent-Mobile-Action* (Performance)

2:30 p.m.
Panel: Being-in-Common: What Can a Community Be Nowadays?

The very notion of community has procured various meanings and manifestations over the course of recent centuries. Nowadays society is getting more and more fragmented so what are the conditions from which we can speak about community today? What constitutes a community and what does being part of a community mean?

This panel seeks to address what a community can be today if it is reduced neither to a collection of separate individuals or states nor to a communal substance. How can we still speak of a 'we' or of a plurality, without transforming this 'we' into a substantial and exclusive identity? Rather than being defined by homogeneity and unity, can we understand community through difference, multiplicity and dissolution? Is it possible that community is in fact the shared experience of alterity that defines our very being in common?

Guest: Olga Shparaga (Minsk), Associated-professor at the European Humanities University in Vilnius, Co-editor of the Internet Journal *Novaja Europa* and editor of the book *European Perspective of Belarus: Intellectual Models* (EHU 2007).

Participants: Peio Aguirre (San Sebastian), Kit Hammonds (London), Jarosław Lubiak (Łódź), Filip Luyckx (Brussels), Lena Prents (Minsk)
Moderator: Vanessa Boni (London)

4 p.m.
Insert 2: Slavs & Tatars: *Reverse Joy* (Lecture-Performance)

5:30 p.m.
Panel: Thinking about Europe: Does Art Matter?

Debating on Europe's lack of identity, its financial crisis and its future perspectives, culture has become an increasingly important factor. It is seen to be a provider of values, the social adhesive of a community that is multi-

voiced and fragmented. Talking about the role of art seems to be more complicated. Certainly, it can neither solve the kinds of problems addressed by other disciplines be it politics or economy, nor compensate for social dysfunctions. But does this mean on the contrary that art is dysfunctional itself? Can it have any impact on politics and economy?

The panel seeks to discuss the various possibilities of art within debates about Europe and of an art project about Europe, its critical and utopian potential but also its own limits and limitations.

Guest: Dejan Grba (Belgrade), Artist and assistant professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts Belgrade

Participants: Miško Šuvaković (Novi Sad), Joanna Sokołowska (Łódź), Felix Vogel (Berlin), Jun Yang (Taipei)

Moderator: Barbara Steiner (Leipzig)

The conference *Thinking Europe* takes place within the exhibition *Scenarios about Europe*, which runs between 28 January 2012 und 25 March 2012 in the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst (Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig). *Thinking Europe* continues until April: large size posters and a Scenarios-Book round up the discourses about Europe from the perspective of art.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig is supported by the City of Leipzig, the Ministry of Science and Art of the Free State of Saxony and the Friends Organisation of the Leipzig Museum of Contemporary Art. The exhibition "Scenarios about Europe – Scenario 3" is also supported by the Goethe-Institut, the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony and the Allianz Kulturstiftung.



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