

Myvillages invite you to a Celebration and Convention in December 2016
LAUNCHING THE FINAL EPISODE of the International Village Show and
ASKING Where does art go?
2nd and 3rd December 2016
GfZK, Leipzig, Germany

The one day convention is linked to the launch and celebration of 'Myvillages' 'International Village Show' publication. The book brings together the group's collaborative and dispersed art practice over the last years. It features some of the topics and questions that make Myvillages tick, and documents 12 projects from elsewhere which were shown at the GFZK Gartenhaus during a two-year long exhibition which will draw to a close this December.

We are inviting colleagues and collaborators to celebrate this last part of the International Village Show with us, and to use it as an opportunity to share and discuss some of issues and questions we see as relevant for making art today.

Where does art go?

Be it local or abroad, the village or the museum. Why do we leave familiar places and approach new ones? What do we hope to get from going elsewhere and moving on? Are there places where art is needed, what places does art need to stay relevant? Which direction do we want art to go?

Art's departure from formalized exhibition spaces in the 1960s as part of a wider institutional and cultural critique has by now become widespread practice. Art can take place anywhere and take on any format. The context-specific and localized have become well-established criteria for developing and making art. Art has gone everywhere, and we want to ask ourselves and the group where we want to go next.

Fluidizing what we know

Myvillages has a clear focus on the rural as a particular space, quality, practice and history - however interlinked and non-definable it is. This question is about where images in our head come from and who confirms them. It is also about rural production, about agriculture, about resources.

Contemporary art remains predominantly produced, disseminated and discussed within urban settings and contexts, be it the art college, the artist community, the array of exhibition spaces, magazines, conferences, fairs, etc. Myvillages has always criticized the assumption that the rest/the non-urban is a cultural desert. Existing and arising cultural monocultures need to be questioned.

Strange and strangers

The artist in the village, the farmer in the kunsthalle, the black face and the white hands. How much are we aware of who we are where and what tells us how to behave? About doubts, strategies and methods of working while creating cooperatively.

The artist has traditionally been perceived as a stranger and a rather unusual format per se. Blending artistic production and everyday practices in recent years makes this distinction less apparent, and artists' work can seem undistinguishable from the work of a teacher, builder, political activist, planner, gardener, carer, etc.

Does this make artists less strange? What is gained from breaking down distinctions? What role allows others and what role do objects play in these relationships?

PROGRAMME

Friday 2nd December

- 16.00 The International Village Shop opens in the former GfZK Shop-Sales tour with Myvillages.
- 18.30 Beetsterzwaag Product Launch and Film
- 19.30 Book Launch: International Village Show
Conversation between with Franciska Zólyom, Myvillages and Kristina Brusa
- 20.30 Bar and food, Gartenhaus

Saturday 3rd December

- 10.00 Registration and coffee, add your book to the book table
- 10.30 Welcome and introduction round
- 11.00 Maria Lind, What Does An Art Work Do? Thoughts on the Curatorial as Per 2016, talk and short discussion
- 11.45 20 minute presentations and provocations on the three topics
Kuba Szreder – Where does art go
Ronald Van de Sompel – Fluidizing what we know
Franciska Zólyom – Strange and strangers
- 13.15 Lunch
- 14.15 Three breakout sessions, following the morning presentations
- 16.00 Coffee Break
- 16.30 “What are objects for”
Myvillages will use selected objects from the International Village Shop to kick start a discussion on the multiple roles and meanings of objects in process based and multi-authored art practices.
Discussion
- 18.00 Dinner together

Throughout: Booktable – with books and contributions from all guests

Participants and guests:

Maria Lind, director Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm
Kuba Szreder, curator, sociologist, author, Warsaw
Ronald Van de Sompel, curator, Brussels
Franciska Zólyom, Director GfZK, Leipzig
Julia Schäfer, curator, GfZK, Leipzig
Antje Schiffers, artist, Myvillages, Berlin
Wapke Feenstra, artist, Myvillages, Rotterdam
Kathrin Böhm, artist, Myvillages, London
Miranda Pope, researcher and writer, London
Francien van Westerneen, curator, Stroom, Den Hague
Peter Mutschler, artist and curator, PS2, Belfast
Anne Marie Dillon, artist activist, Ballykinlar
Miriam Wiesel, curator, Kreuzberger Salon, Berlin
Axel Schmidt, curator, Kreuzberger Salon, Berlin
Anne Kersten, curator, Berlin
Marjetica Portc, artist, Hamburg
Xin Cheng, artist, Hamburg
Kylie Duncan, artist, Hamburg
Åsa Sonjadotter, artist, Berlin
Christiane Mennicke-Schwarz, curator, Kunsthaus Dresden
Adam Sutherland, director, Grizedale, UK
Lise Skou, artist, Aarhus, DK