

FORAYS. SYSTEMS OF SELF-INTEREST – MECHANISMS OF LOOTING

Exhibition at Open Space, Open Systems. Centre for Art Projects Vienna

Excursion on 20th March 2012

Meeting Place: Open Space, Open Systems, Vienna

Time: 12am – 4pm

Meeting place

Open Space, Open Systems. Zentrum für Kunstprojekte

Lassingleithnerplatz 2

1020 Vienna

Telephone: (+43) 699 115 286 32

<http://www.openspace-zkp.org>

At Westbahnhof you can take U3 and go to Stephansplatz, change there, take U4 for Schwedenplatz. Cross the Donaukanal, go straight ahead along Taborstraße up to Lassingleithnerplatz on the left.



Schedule

Gülsen Bal (director): Introduction in to the curatorial practice and programmes of Open Space, Open Systems

Sabine Winkler (curator): Presentation of the exhibition concept and guided tour through the exhibition Forays. Systems of Self-Interest – Mechanisms of Looting

Filmscreenings: "The Anarchist Banker" by Jan Peter Hammer and "Red Tours" by Joanne Richardson and David Rych.

Analysis of the films and discussion about different exploitation systems and its consequences.

Presentation of further artworks dealing with exploitation systems. Superflex, Zanny Begg etc.
(if time left)

FORAYS. SYSTEMS OF SELF-INTEREST – MECHANISMS OF LOOTING

Exhibition

Duration: 9 March – 7 April 2012

Location: Open Space, Open Systems, Vienna

Curator: Sabine Winkler

Artists: Lara Baladi (LEB), Candida TV/D Media (I,RO), Jan Peter Hammer (GER), Maryam Jafri (PK/DK), Lina Khatib (LEB/USA), Joanne Richardson & David Rych (RO/USA, A)

FORAYS. SYSTEMS OF SELF-INTEREST – MECHANISMS OF LOOTING

The project is dealing with different systems of exploitation and its consequences. Within the dramatic occurrences of the last years, there was one obvious motif, forming the basis of the financial crises as well as the basis of the riots in the countries of the Arabic-Spring: Exploitation and systems of self-interest are mechanisms of looting, which occurs as neo-liberalism disguised as democracy or naked as dictatorial system. The possibilities of exploitation are unlimited. Loss of reality characterize the stakeholders of both systems. The loot-mechanisms of the financial systems are inscrutable in their abstract complexity and virtuality, the exploitation systems of totalitarian governed countries define the every day life struggle of survival of the population. What is now then the difference between these two exploitation systems? In which way mechanisms of exploitation are legitimized and masked, which pseudo-arguments are appearing again and again in this context and which counter-mechanisms could stop this generation of loot?

Artists' Works

Lara Baladi, (Egypt)

Hope (Amal)

Slide- and sound installation, booklet, 2008/09



Lara Baldi shows in her work "Hope" informal housebuilding in Cairo, the so called "ashwa'iyat" ("random things"). About 40% of the buildings in Cairo consists of the "ashwa'iyat". Informal housebuilding is one of the consequences of informal working conditions or unemployment, which is in turn a product of

enrichment procedures.

Lara Baladi (born 1969 in Beirut, Lebanon) lives and works in Cairo. Recent solo exhibitions include:

For more information: www.universes-in-universe.org/eng/nafas/articles/2011/lara_baladi

Jan Peter Hammer (Germany)

The Anarchist Banker

HD-video-installation, 30 min, 2010



Jan Peter Hammer refers to a short novel of the same name by Fernando Pessoa. In his staging, Jan Peter Hammer adapts the original dialogue for showing neo-liberal practices of the financial markets resulting in the current crisis. The banker repeats a traditional line of argumentation, defending "rational egoism" and audacious individualism. A traditional way of pseudo-argumentation, not only for legitimating and legalising exploitation mechanisms of looting, but also promoting it as a positive way of life.

www.jpammer.de/

Lina Khatib (Lebanon/UK/USA)

Fallin' Dictators

Video installation, 2011



Lina Khatib shows in her video a series of photographs of advertising posters of the fallen long-run dictators of the North-African countries. On these placards the masters of the ruthless loot-generation are staging themselves as patriarchal father-figures, men of the world, problem resolvers and so on, hiding systems of exploitation, oppression and violence behind these

gestures.

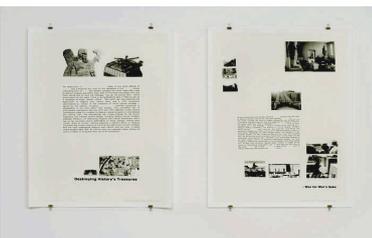
Lina **Khatib** was born in Beirut and is currently based in California

For more information: <http://fsi.stanford.edu/people/linakhatib>

Maryam Jafri (Pakistan/Denmark)

The Siege of Khartoum, 1884

A1 photo-collage posters, 2006



Maryam Jafri combines photos of the fall of Saddam Hussein, people demolishing his statue, his arrest, images that have become icons of the Iraq War, with articles of *The New York Times*, *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. Some of the articles are from the end of the 19th century, the height of the British Empire extended to articles of the year 2006. Maryam

Jafri explores references between current and historical looting-wars, revealing traditional and repetitive methods of looting as well as techniques of reporting about it.

Mayam Jafri was born 1972 in Karachi and lives and works in Copenhagen and New York

For more information: <http://www.maryamjafri.net/>

Candida TV/D Media (Italy, Romania)

Made in Italy

Video, 25 min, 2006



Candida TV/D Media oppose in their video 16.000 Italian companies, that have displaced their production facility to the low-wage-country Romania, to two million Romanian migrants living in Italy. Loot is generated twice, by the exploitation of cheap, often migrant workers and by fiscal privileges.

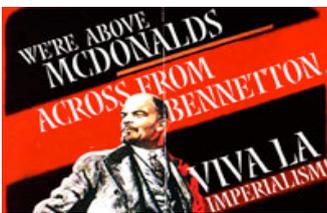
Candida TV and D Media: video activist collectives promoting participatory technologies and the fusion between art and social activism.

For more information: www.arte.tv/de/397686,CmC=397696.html and www.dmedia.ro

Joanne Richardson and David Rych (Romania/USA, Austria)

Red Tours

DV, 48 min, 2010



Joanne Richardson and David Rych deal with transformation processes of communism into capitalism and the often unreflected systemic change of ideologies. *Red Tour* was shot in Budapest, Prague, Vilnius and Berlin, in theme parks, ghost trains, and experience-museums, which are now defining history, interpretation and perception of the Soviet Union. Ideological

occupation occurs after conquest.

Joanne Richardson was born in Bucharest and lives and works in Berlin

David Rych was born 1975 in Innsbruck and lives and works in Berlin.

For more information: http://subsol.c3.hu/subsol_2/contributors0/richardsonbio.html

<http://www.parakanal.com/rych/>

Open Space, Open Systems - Zentrum für Kunstprojekte

Open Space, Open Systems - Zentrum für Kunstprojekte aims to create the most vital facilities for contemporary art in the city of Vienna on non-profit base, concerned with bringing the developments of the enlargement of Europe to the fore through generating interconnected routes. Among its main activities and productions we develop an online publication; contemporary art exhibitions; film and video screening; artist talks and panel discussions. By confronting geographical, political, social and cultural standpoint within a single "cultural specific conditions" the response and/or challenges inevitably involve in bringing forward issues of identification of territory and "imaginary geographies" to reflect cultural specific realities. As a result we look at both the "flows and the spaces of encounters" in order to find what inhabit the possible from which to look at Europe in different ways with the intention of thinking "otherwise" in regard to questions about precarious state of cultural complexity within an inter-disciplinary creative practice.

Director, Head of Development of Projects and Programmes: Gülsen Bal

Short biography: Sabine Winkler

Sabine Winkler is an exhibition and film curator and art-historian, she lives and works in Salzburg and Berlin. Working on sociocultural and sociopolitical questions, at the moment she is researching on the permanent crises and its effects and consequences for democracy, society and the subject. The current crisis is a result of neo-liberal economics and politics which has formed society and individuals for the last twenty years. Which alternative models to capitalistic systems are discussed and performed at the moment? The Occupy-Movement can be seen as a cultural revolution, developing new forms of democracy, society and economy, based on fair systems of distribution and solidarity.

Exhibition and film programmes include

"That, what is not said – Subtexts in Politics and Art", ratskeller – gallery for contemporary art, Berlin; "Again and again and once more – Latitudes", Kunstverein Medienturm Graz; "Barrier(free) – About Resistance and Obstacles", ratskeller – gallery for contemporary art; "Politics of Redistribution", Magazin4 – Bregenzer Kunstverein and Open Space, Zentrum für Kunstprojekte, Vienna; "State of Work – Work in the condition of insecurity", Fotohof, Salzburg; "This Land is My Land", NGBK, Berlin (film programme); "Model missed Opportunities – Symptoms of Strain, Brandenburgischer Kunstverein, Potsdam; "The New (In-)Security? Tactics of Engendering (In-)Security, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe (video programme); "Survival Strategies for the Untrained", Kunst und Medienzentrum Adlershof, Berlin.

Lectureship at kunst universität linz: "Crises effects: examples of artistic practice as analytic comments about the permanent crisis"

Links to exhibitions: www.sabine-winkler.com

www.politik-der-umverteilung.net

www.widerstand-und-hindernisse.de

www.medienturm.at/mt.php?id=2&sid=347&k=full&_pid=885

Recommended links: Democracy Now: www.democracynow.org/

KanalB: <http://kanalb.org/index.php?Vlang=eng>, Occupy-Wallstreet: <http://occupywallst.org>

eipcp - European Institute for Progressive Cultural Policies: <http://eipcp.ne>