

INSTITUTING/ DETAILED PROGRAM

Thursday June 24th

Live at the GOETHE-INSTITUT ATHEN, terrace, 1st floor

Free entrance, please register for participation at iris.asimakopoulou@goethe.de

7:00 pm

Opening

7:30 pm

lumbung: A Study Case on Relations, conversation with ruangrupa ((Reza Afisina, Iswanto Hartono, Farid Rakun and Andrea Linnenkohl)

Can curatorial practice be like a collection of dashed lines connecting different interdependent nodes? How does an artistic and economic model that is rooted in collectivity, communal resource sharing and equal allocation work in practice? And how can this process-led approach look like for one of the most important exhibitions worldwide?

As a non-membership entity, ruangrupa considers itself as a pool of resources that can be shared with others, rather than a tightly-knitted community. To learn from other contexts, places and times, is crucial. As first artists' collective ever to be appointed for the artistic direction of documenta, ruangrupa considers the opportunity to work on documenta fifteen (Kassel, 2022) as a continuation of its practice's main trajectory in collective sustainability and governance. They did not create a new proposal for documenta fifteen, instead they invited documenta (back) to join this journey they were already embarking on. ruangrupa's curatorial strategy centres upon the notion of lumbung, a rice barn that stores the communally-produced common resource for future use. For documenta fifteen, the collective is extending the invitation to join this practice to lumbung members and artists. At the New Alphabet School, their conversation will evolve around questions like: how to sustain the often overlooked artistic and cultural instituting practices and how an organization like documenta could become part of such an ecosystem rather than exhibiting it.

8.15 pm

Abolition and Exodus, conversation between Fred Moten and Stefano Harney

As with fight and flight, there is neither separation nor interplay between abolition and exodus. That they are intra-active and inter-inanimate is a matter for study and a matter of strategy that is crucial when the distinction between the performative and the constative seems also to have broken down. In their conversation, Fred Moten and Stefano Harney address non-local practices of solidarity and discuss a shift of emphasis from the metaphysical foundations of political ontology to the social enactment of social existence. The rapper KRS-One and soul musician Curtis Mayfield will guide them as their great teachers in this shift, which is all but infinite and more than infinitesimal.

9.00 pm

Discussion with Stefano Harney, Fred Moten and ruangrupa, moderated by Gigi Argyropoulou

Friday, June 25th

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

WORKSHOP 1

Online

Participation free of charge, please register at newalphabet@hkw.de

Feminist Instituting for Ecological Futures

with Berit Fischer

In today's dystopian times of capitalist, extractivist, dichotomous and separationist logics, questions about alternative imaginaries for liveable futures and co-existence with the "more-than-human" world are more urgent than ever. Acknowledging "instituting" as a social ecology, as a collective agreement and cooperation, this affective encounter invites to engender a feminist ontology of "instituting" that exceeds the anthropocentric view towards an inter-connectivity with the natural living world. Moving beyond a critique that occurs on the level of representation, this collective experience draws on legacies of feminist and radical pedagogies, and consciousness raising techniques to radical attentiveness practices. It forwards and experiments with a transformative practice of re-activating the psycho-cognitive apparatus through intent forms of situated listening. Participants will explore a feminist "instituting" that embraces ambiguity, nurtures an embodied and collective thinking and mobilizes philosophical speculation.

The encounter takes place in Berlin. Comfortable clothes, a mat or blanket to lie on and something to drink are recommended.

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

WORKSHOP 2

Live at the EIGHT, Athens & online

Participation free of charge, please register at newalphabet@hkw.de

to listen is to preserve, the transmission yet to come

with Savvy Contemporary (Lynhan Balatbat-Helbock, Sagal Farah, Kelly Krugman)

How can we imagine a collective space of conviviality, not determined by structural barriers, but rather shaped by the personal and political urgencies of coalescing bodies? Tracing the etymology of "parainstitution" and the Greek prefix "para", παρά means both beside and beyond. "institution" stems from the act of establishing or founding. The Berlin art space SAVVY Contemporary, embodying this concept, institutes by inciting. Rather than follow rigid and sterile models of institution building, its process is in a constant state of becoming. Offering a springboard of co-learning and collaboration, SAVVY's existence as an art space, interdisciplinary discursive platform, place of hospitality, performativity and plural genealogies is the workshop's point of departure. It will bring together two pillars of the space, SAVVYZAAR radio and its documentation centre SAVVY.doc. By means of somatic and sonic methods, reading exercises and corporeal activations, the group will convene through the potencies of epistemological diversity. The participants will energize the entanglements of solidarity with the sensuous and archival body as a site of discourse: subjective, multiple, split, and joined – all part of a continuum.

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

WORKSHOP 3

Live at the EIGHT, Athens & online

Participation free of charge, please register at newalphabet@hkw.de

Practices of Attunement

With Simon Fleury, Moritz Gansen, Sam Nightingale, Gala Rexer, Chara Stergiou, Asli Uludağ

This workshop is a proposition that takes “instituting” as a nonfinite verb, a call to collective action: a never-ending form of speculation, adopting attentiveness, receptivity and movement as its constituent elements. The workshop conveners seek to extend Fred Moten and Stefano Harney’s notion of “study”: an encounter “where you allow yourself to be possessed by others,” instituting a mode of counter-maintenance, generating and maintaining felicitous conditions for encounters. Over the past nine months, Practices of Attunement (PoA) have been meeting bi-weekly to undertake an ongoing process of study(ing) together. For New Alphabet School #Instituting, PoA invites participants to join in extended sessions that focus on maintaining, triggering or establishing the conditions for study via remote(ly) collective practices of attunement occurring (a)synchronously across multiple sites. In the unfolding space of study – being together and apart – PoA propose to encounter and attempt to attune to different, overlapping, inconsistent, unevenly distributed, (in)tangible and (un)bounded ecospheric entanglements.

The workshop will take place across a two-week period, where participants meet online twice in preliminary sessions prior to the event on June 25. The purpose of part 1 is to think through conditions and practices for attunement. Based on the participants’ experiences, part 2 will discuss possibilities to institute counter-institutional modes of study with an extended group of participants.

Participants need to be able to commit to all three gatherings.

- *Part 1 – Field-Studies*

Friday, June 11 and June 18, 12 noon–2pm EEST (Athens) / 11am–1pm CEST (Berlin) Preliminary online workshops

- *Part 2 – Practices for Deep-Hanging Out*

Friday, June 25

3.30–5pm EEST (Athens) / 2.30pm–4pm CEST Online workshop for people who have attended the preliminary workshops on June 11 and 18.

5.30–7pm EEST (Athens) Participation on site in Athens is possible for new interested persons.

(Eight Collective, Politechneiou 8, Athina 104 33, 5–8pm EST).

7:30 pm

Opening at THE EIGHT

Free entrance, no need to register

Exhibition Systems, Organisms, Symbiosis; Launch of the fanzines “Urban Ecologies”, “Alegal Fields”, “Entangled Resistances”; Performative Interventions

In preparation for the edition of Instituting, Eight/To Οχτώ collective initiated three research gatherings in Athens as moments of collective study. These open-ended workshops concluded in these collective fanzines. This is a public sharing of these research publications and a moment for informal discussions with some of the participants.

Exhibition with contributions by: Arbit City Group, Nikos Arvanitis, Zoe Chatzigiannaki, Forensic Architecture, Eva Giannakopoulou, Andreas Kassapis, Yorgia Karydi, Theodora Malamou, Angela Melitopoulos & Angela Anderson, Foteini Palpana, Leda Papakonstantinou, Kostas Roussakis, Myrto Stampoulou, Katerina Stefanidaki & Zafos Xagoraris, Eleni Tzirtzilaki, VASKOS (Vassilis Noulas & Kostas Tzimoulis), Paky Vlassopoulou, Kostis Velonis, Mary Zygouri.

Fanzines with contributions by: Nikos Anastassopoulos, Dimitra Andritsou, Balkan Can Kino, Julia Chrissostalis, Eirini Efsthathiou, Sofia Dona, Christos Giannopoulos, Iris Lykourioti, Mariela Nestora, Murto Stampoulou, Constantina Theodorou, Steriani Tsintziloni, Hypatia Vourloumis, Christos

Saturday, June 26th

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

WORKSHOP 4

Live at GOETHE-INSTITUT ATHEN, seminar room, 1st floor

Participation free of charge, please register at newalphabet@hkw.de

Institutional hacks for reclaiming urban space

with Constantina Theodorou in collaboration with Co-Hab Athens

Guest: Dimitra Siatitsa

How could the status quo be altered by reprogramming the existing housing infrastructures? How to exploit its inherent capabilities to create legal innovations and prototypes in relation to housing that could be shared massively? Collectively unpacking notions of legality, illegality and a legality in relation to urban space, the workshop invites participants to rethink instituting as hacking, to explore creative hacks of existing legal and urban infrastructure as a form of urban resistance. It begins with a walk around Exarchia and Victoria square, a highly contested urban environment in the centre of crisis-ridden Athens. The area serves as a paradigm, informal in feeling, yet produced entirely in accordance with the law through a popular consensus on the interpretation of planning regulation and bringing into discussion other paradigms of reclaiming urban spaces through the adoption of corporate methods, such as cooperative housing experiments for the decommodification of property. In the second part, participants will relocate at Goethe-Institute. Utilizing CoHab Athens participatory research methods they will aim to share and imagine prototypes of institutional hacking towards processes of commoning.

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

WORKSHOP 5

Live at GOETHE-INSTITUT ATHEN, seminar room, 1st floor & Online

Participation free of charge, please register at newalphabet@hkw.de

Sex Workers Creating Institutions to End Institutionalized Violence

with Associação das Prostitutas de Minas Gerais (APROSMIG) and melke

8:00 – 10:00 pm

Live at LAIS OPEN AIR CINEMA, Athens

Free entrance, no need to register

Instituting Otherwise

Discussion with Gigi Argyropoulou, Filipa César, Bernd Scherer, Adania Shibli, Savvy Contemporary (Sagal Farah, Kelly Krugman, Lynhan Balatbat-Helbock)

How might instituting otherwise look like today and in relation to specific socio-political landscapes? Can such processes exist (and persist) within existing institutions? How fundamental is the spatial element in processes of instituting? Can such forms challenge existing imaginaries and operate ephemerally as modes of organizing that intervene in sedimented social modus operandi? A discussion about instituting, institutions, monsters and emergent forms of doing things otherwise.

Film Screening

Scola Di Tarafe

D: Filipa César and Sónia Vaz Borges, Guinea Bissau 2020, 30 min, Kreol with English subtitles

With an introduction by Jonas Tinius

The filmmakers and artists Filipa César and Sónia Vaz Borges recently went to Guinea Bissau to research the conditions of the students in the guerrilla schools in the mangroves. Instead, they themselves soon became the learners and the first lesson was how to walk. If you walk straight, placing your heels on the ground first, you promptly slip and fall in the dams of the flooded mangrove rice field

or you get stuck in the mangrove mud. You need to lower your body, flex your knees and stick your toes vertically into the mud, extend your arms forward in a conscious and present movement. The film shows how in the mangrove school the learning happens with the whole body..

Venues:

GOETHE-INSTITUT ATHEN

Omirou 14-16, Athens 100 33, Greece

THE EIGHT

Politechneiou 8, Athens 104 33, Greece

LAIS OPEN AIR CINEMA (Greek Film Archive)

Megalou Alexandrou 136, Athens 104 35, Greece