



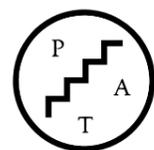
TEMPORARY
ACADEMY
OF ARTS

ACTOPOLIS
ATHENS

**THE
SOFT POWER
LECTURES**



Where will the energy go from here?



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The Temporary Academy of Arts (PAT) for professional and amateur education is a mobile academy of arts and at the same time an art project of experimental education which offers higher art studies in areas where there is an interest for alternative, experimental and self-organized education of applied and fine arts. PAT experiments with a model of amateur and professional education, utilizing the flexibility of the first and the structure of the second. In every project, PAT attempts to work on the different demands and objectives of competing models of artistic education, testing different educational structures and artistic and social models.

For the project Actopolis organized by the Goethe Institut, PAT will organize a series of Performative Lectures, that will attempt to produce a control material around the discourse on regulation, gentrification and branding of cities, located at the center or the peripheries of European restructuring. The lectures will take place in institutional and outer-institutional spaces, with a mixed public, with distinguished and younger guests and will culminate in a pluralistic show on a basketball court.

A given Agenda: Athens is a city in the eye of the storm. It is the capital of a country that is caught at the center of the issue of migration, at the heart of the economic problem of Europe. A city that is a counter-example in relation to the collapse of the institutions that once determined the European-welfare, schools, hospitals, social security funds. It is a paradigm city, as it is a city in transition. Often, referred to as a city with a lot of creative energy.

How, then, do we approach the phenomenon of «energy» that generally describes, as an empty signifier, the city of Athens and especially the actors of the art field and their relation to all the pressing and timely issues mentioned above that have become regular topics on the agenda of many institutions, museums and other cultural organizations?

Is it possible to take advantage of the above mentioned situation, often described as a new driving force, the exoticization of the crisis and to produce a «beneficial branding», to utilize the “germ” of creativity and enjoy the benefits of this so called «applied imagination», for the city and the subjects that are involved in it, artists, architects, anthropologists, social scientists and so on?

How can someone instrumentalize issues of migration, movement, nationalism, the Greek sun, the idea of the South in order to produce labels that will aim to hegemonize the discourse around these notions, playing with and problematizing the specific roles that are predestined for specific places and subjects within the global condition?

How can a country, a city, an academy exercise soft power in order to hegemonize the discourse around itself and everything surrounding it? Lectures, talks, discussions, projects, apparatuses and various other material, attempt to gather and organize the discourse that is produced around the exotic Athens of the crisis and creativity, Athens that is receiving thousands of immigrants and is set to host the next Documenta.

Saturday 27th February, State of Concept

«Athens-Oberhausen.
The energy of two cities».

The Lecture begins with the travel of PAT, in the context of its participation at the Actopolis Program organised by the Goethe Institut, to the ex industrial city of Oberhausen in Germany. PAT attempts to think loudly the conditions under which a program of urban management in six balkan cities takes place. PAT is invited to activate art in relation to matters concerning the city, immigrants, labor. Utilizing lectures as a tool amongst other mediums, PAT attempts to bring forth the contradictions, hidden agendas, its own controversial role as an artistic/educational program on the contemporary methods of gentrification and compliance of cities and its subjects.

Where does the assumption that the crisis produces creative subjects and “creative cities” come from? How are narratives of contemporary urban centers as “energies” constructed, cashed in the symbolic capital market and conform to regulatory urban projects?

Artworks:

The Poem begins with the unloving sun,
Panos Sklavenitis

The project “The poem begins with the unloving sun” is a work in progress consisting of a number of different actions (performances, lectures, workshops etc.). The sun, the sea and the good climate of the country, are the main factors in the construction of the dominant narratives of national pride. Always used with a positive sign, are found everywhere - in government spots for tourism promotion, orange juice commercials, TV serials, conversations in the street etc. These narratives often flirt -if not identified- with a nationalist and racist public frenzy, that even if it was also present ten or fifteen years ago, it was by no means as strong, overt and legitimized as it is now. The project seeks to detect and highlight ways in which all these together shape the physiognomy of Greece and Athens, its capital.

Fire Walker 2,
Constantinos Hadzinikolaou

1. What does the image of that man who carries a mattress on his shoulders mean?
2. Nothing probably.
3. He walks in a meagre part of the city.
4. Ten years have gone by.
5. I watch the film countless times.
6. This man still carries his mattress.
7. What happens then?
8. Probably nothing.

Apparatus: Anastasia Douka, Queen Makita_electric tools 2004 – (semicircular bench) MDF, stickers, fabric, thread.

Detachable group seat over six identical slices with a common sail. Instead of sitting you could run, leave, get up, explain rather than explain yourself.

Cover photo series: Nikos Alexopoulos

ACTOPOLIS – THE ART OF ACTION

A project by the Goethe-Institut and Urbane Künste Ruhr

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