Press Release Sommerakademie Paul Klee, 05.07.2018

Second Session of the Sommerakademie Paul Klee 2017-19

As the new Sommerakademie Paul Klee is a two-year program, we are once again welcoming the artists Johanna Bruckner, Crystal Z Campbell, Luiza Crosman, Alexandros Kyriakatos, Alexis Mitchell, Bahar Noorizadeh, Heather M. O’Brien and Jonathan Takahashi. The curatorial theme REALTY, which deals with the role of Contemporary Art in the context of gentrification, also remains in place, as the Fellows’ group project for the Sommerakademie Paul Klee will now take center stage. In addition, three international speakers will be sharing fresh input.

Last summer, the newly reestablished Sommerakademie Paul Klee offered its Fellows an intensive program curated by artistic director Tirdad Zolghadr, and the opportunity to use studios and labs at the Bern University of the Arts HKB. The international public talks program, in cooperation with the Kunsthalle Bern, among others, will be continued during the second session of the Sommerakademie Paul Klee.

Jaya Klara Brekke and Rival Strategy are this year’s Speakers

During last year’s Sommerakademie, Lise Soskolne (W.A.G.E. - Working Artists and the Greater Economy) held a lecture at the Kunsthalle Bern addressing artist contracts and remuneration. Building on that event, the Sommerakademie Paul Klee and the Kunsthalle Bern are inviting theorist and author Jaya Klara Brekke to address strategies for understanding the power, politics, and ethics of blockchain and smart contracts. This event will take place within the frame of Kunsthalle Bern guest curator Eric Golo Stone’s program “Contractual Situations We Live By”.

Meanwhile, Benedict Singleton and Marta Ferreira de Sá, who together form the duo Rival Strategy, will address their work as a consultancy studio dealing with the strategic potential of services, technologies, places and organizations. In addition to a public lecture, Jaya Klara Brekke as well as Rival Strategy will hold workshops with the fellows.

BLOCC (Building Leverage over Creative Capitalism) – the group project of the Sommerakademie’s Fellows

BLOCC is an interdisciplinary collective founded by the eight Fellows to address the ongoing structural entanglement of art and gentrification. As a collective unit, its goal is to work with artists and art students around the world to uncover and learn the ways that the Contemporary Art field intersects with the forces of gentrification. Moreover, BLOCC would like to attempt to reverse this process through an educational platform, and an online database, based on their experiences as mediators, authors, scientists, urban planners, social workers, community organizers and artists. The idea of establishing a collective as the group project for the Sommerakademie Paul Klee 2017-19 is linked to the wish of the Fellows to continue their joint work after the two-year program in Bern is over.
Sommerakademie Paul Klee
30 July – 19 August 2018 in Bern: REALTY

Artistic director and curator 2017-19
Tirdad Zolghadr, writer and associate curator at KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin

Fellows 2017-19
Johanna Bruckner (AUT)  Alexis Mitchell (CAN)
Crystal Z Campbell (USA)  Bahar Noorizadeh (CAN/IRN)
Luiza Crosman (BRA)  Heather M. O’Brien (USA)
Alexandros Kyriakatos (GRC)  Jonathan Takahashi (JPN/USA)

Speakers 2018
Jaya Klara Brekke, theorist & author, London/Durham
Rival Strategy (Benedict Singleton & Marta Ferreira de Sá), London

Public Events
Monday, 30 July 2018, 2 pm, PROGR Zentrum für Kulturproduktion (Speichergasse 4, Bern), room 369
A Cheerful Nature is an Utterly Ruthless Thing.
How Contemporary Art might come to grips with gentrification after all
Lecture by Tirdad Zolghadr

Wednesday, 8 August 2018, 10 am, Bern University of the Arts HKB (Fellerstrasse 11, Bümliz)
Lecture by Rival Strategy (Benedict Singleton and Marta Ferreira de Sá)

Wednesday, 15 August 2018, 7 pm, Kunsthalle Bern
Strategies for understanding the power, politics and ethics of blockchain and smart contracts
Lecture by Jaya Klara Brekke

Saturday, 18 August 2018, 5 pm, PROGR Zentrum für Kulturproduktion (Speichergasse 14, Bern)
Closing event of the Sommerakademie Paul Klee 2018
With the Fellows 2017-19, Tirdad Zolghadr, Andreas Vogel and Nina Zimmer

For more information:
www.sommerakademie-paul-klee.ch

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