

Berlin Open Studio 15 - Double Exposure (Berlin, 15-25 Oct 15)

Berlin, Oct 15-25, 2015

Astrid Honold, Freie Universität Berlin

Berlin Open Studio (BOS 15) - Double Exposure

From 15 - 25 October BOS 15 presents 33 international artists and theorists in 9 Berlin studios in a discourse on Double Exposure.

Participants: Nicole Cohen, Fendry Ekel, Eleonora Farina, Desrat Fianda, Xenia Fink, Lucie Fontaine, Adib Fricke, Valentina Galossi, Teresa Giarcovich, Helene Hellmich, Eliana Heredia, Mareike Jacobi, Vincent Krempf, Mario Margani, Ludovic Méhauté, Stefania Migliorati, Tomoko Mori, kate-hers RHEE, Astrid Honold, Krisna Murti, Daniel Permanetter, Matthias Reichelt, Konstanty Szydowski, Anja Teske, Katrine Hoffmeyer Tougård, Charlie Tweed, Pavel Vancat, Federico Villarino, Markus Wirthmann, Alexandra Wolframm, Veronica Wüst, Eriko Yamazaki, Jinny Yu

Program:

Friday, 16 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk at Studio Anja Teske

with Anja Teske and kate-hers RHEE, presented by Matthias Reichelt

Saturday, 17 October, 7 pm

Dinner and Salon Talk at Studio Daniel Permanetter (RSVP)

with Daniel Permanetter and Charlie Tweed, presented by Pavel Vancát

Monday, 19 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk at Studio Stefania Migliorati

with Stefania Migliorati and Alexandra Wolframm, presented by Eleonora Farina

Tuesday, 20 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk at Studio Eliana Heredia

with Eliana Heredia, Teresa Giarcovich and Federico Villarino, presented by Valentina Galossi

Wednesday, 21 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk at Studio Markus Wirthmann

with Markus Wirthmann and Nicole Cohen, presented by the artists*

Thursday, 22 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk at Studio Adib Fricke

with Adib Fricke and Fendry Ekel, presented by Astrid Honold

Friday, 23 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk at Studio Hellmich / Wüst

*with Helene Hellmich and Veronica Wüst, presented by Mario Margani

Saturday, 24 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk at Studio Xenia Fink

*with Xenia Fink, presented by Konstanty Szydłowski

Sunday, 25 October, 7 pm

Salon Talk and casual Finissimo at Studio Nikibi

presented by Mario Margani

<http://www.berlinopenstudio.org/program>

Berlin Open Studio (BOS) is an annual contemporary art event initiated by artists in the city of Berlin. Jointly organized by artists, art theorists, and art lovers living and working in Berlin, the event seeks to explore the cities' infrastructure on the level of artistic production: Studios throughout the city function as participating venues in which individual artists present their work, while simultaneously hosting that of other artists. This specific set-up is inspired by Yogyakarta Open Studio (YOS) in Indonesia and allows for a semi-presentational mode, in which artists define the terms of interaction.

»In the studio artists structure and organize their space to fit the way they work and see the world. Upon entering, we immediately begin to develop a picture of the artist as an individual and as a member of a larger community. The size of the space, the scale of objects, the presence and arrangement of personal and reference material, the relative clutter or cleanliness, and the artwork itself all tell a story. The choice of location is also revealing. What attracts an artist to a particular city, urban neighborhood or distant outpost? And perhaps most telling, who spends time with the artists in their studio? With whom do they critique work, share ideas and information, hang out and discuss? Commonly held narratives and assumptions about art history and the art market are tested against the evidence found in artists' studios.« (Christine Cocca, director of Yogyakarta Open Studio)

Although this condition is a universal one, the international character of Berlin adds particular interest and urgency to the format. The city's history of upheaval, its great institutions and universities, generous spatial conditions, and a functional public transportation system, attract people from all over the world. Once symbolic of the problem of partition, today Berlin still represents an island but of a different kind and for different reasons. From here, we hope that the artist studios can function as tunnels, connecting international relations to and from Berlin.

Berlin, as an old city with a new society and a fresh perspective, has little technological productivity compared to other important German cities. Instead, it offers the cultural infrastructure a society needs to create and perceive a vibrant artistic scene and creative industry. Throughout history, Berlin has inspired artists from all over Europe (El Lissitzky, Edvard Munch or David Bowie, just to

name a few) to come, settle, and pursue their artistic endeavors. In the late eighties, soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the city once again drew artists not only from neighboring countries but also from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. Gradually it has outgrown its status of 'cult' developing into one of the cultural centers in Central Europe. The city's character today is not only multicultural but truly international. Like every other metropolis, Berlin is a place where cultures from everywhere are crossing, meeting and perhaps to a certain degree even melting. In a place like this the artist studio turns into an important platform of cultural discourse and negotiation. What exactly does it mean to be a Berliner?

To reflect upon questions like this the first edition of BOS (13-23 November 2014) had been organized around the subject of Hospitality in the broad sense of the word. 21 international artists were shown in 7 individual studios in the Berlin city districts of Schöneberg, Neukölln, Friedrichshain, Friedenau and Kreuzberg. As a tribute to the project's origin, six Indonesian artists – who opened their studios for the first edition of YOS 2013 in Yogyakarta – were presented as guest artists. Rather than a curatorial theme, Hospitality functioned as inspirational term, expressing the spirit of BOS and its mission to live, promote and further encourage the openness of the city and its inhabitants.

This year's second edition Double Exposure (15-25 October 2015) once again establishes the fact that artists not only open their studios to the public, but also simultaneously host the works of other artists. Besides, this year each studio will be accompanied by a theoretician who will guide the preparation process, serve as a reflection partner for the artists and promote the studio to the public.

Like Hospitality earlier, Double Exposure addresses the specific status of the city of Berlin. In its new status as capital of a re-united Germany, the city of Berlin has been left with a double set of institutions in many socio-cultural fields, from Art Academy to TV Tower to Opera House. This peculiar state of intertwined co-existence – in which the formation of a new identity is set – takes on the form of a double exposure and generates the inspiration for an edition of BOS which investigates double exposure as an artistic strategy.

Although the identity and the functioning of a city is a complex cosm, not necessarily to be compared with that of an image, it can serve as a fruitful metaphor through which to study motivation, strategies and procedures leading up to the particular fragile kind of balance which is generated through the procedure of double exposing.

Double exposure as a term is broadly associated with photography. The co-existence of disparate image objects on one image carrier of course is much older than this discipline. Yet the specific kind of projection, where two evident image objects are superimposed, dissolving just enough as to make space for one another, has been developed within the medium of photography and from there was adopted into other media. It is therefore not necessarily the medium-specific or technical aspect that the theme Double Exposure sets out to investigate. With regards to the image-concept, hermeneutic, critically-historic and artistic aspects of intertwining images (and meanings) are evenly if not more important: What does it mean when two equal entities make a new reality but remain differentiated and identifiable as image objects. What does it mean for our thinking in similarities and the idea of representation?

Berlin Open Studio seeks to create a platform for productive dialog and collaboration between artists, theorists, the public, the government and the universities. As organizers of BOS we strongly believe that a society can be considered great and prosperous only if it achieves to stimulate, protect and promote its vibrant grass-route artistic scenes. By creating insight into the dialog among artists within the immediacy of their studios, BOS would like to create a better understanding of the reality of daily artistic practice. We thus hope to add an interesting artistic contribution to Berlin, the city we live in and care for.

Astrid Honold, 2015

Berlin Open Studio

www.berlinopenstudio.org

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