

## Artpool 40 – Active Archives and Art Networks (Budapest, 20–21 Feb 20)

Artpool Art Research Center, Central European Research Institute of Art History –  
Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Feb 20–21, 2020

Deadline: Sep 30, 2019

Zsuzsa Laszlo - Artpool Art Research Center

The international conference and symposium celebrates the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Artpool and its concurrent relocation to the Central European Research Institute of Art History at the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest.

It aims to map the cultural-political-historical contexts of Artpool's activity by bringing together scholars and practitioners interested in transnational research on artist archives, progressive curatorial and museological practices, and the historiography of Cold War art scenes and networks.

The conference takes Artpool's 1979 concept of an 'Active Archive' as a starting point to explore its contemporary interpretations and applications, and its similarities with and differences from other artist archives. As Artpool's founder György Galántai puts it, an active archive "generates the very material to be archived" through calls for participation, co-operation, exchange, and building of non-hierarchical networks, as well as through combining art historical and artistic methodologies of research. An active archive is future-oriented and employs a dynamic approach to history "as an open artwork and as activist artistic practice". The main activity of Artpool to this day is conducting non-medium specific research into the role of art in ever changing social and political contexts.

In this spirit, we invite scholars and practitioners to propose new museological, curatorial, academic, or artistic perspectives and methodologies that allow the consideration of archival practice as a creative and active form of researching art and artistic visions of the future.

Confirmed speakers include: Zdenka Badovinac (Moderna galerija, Ljubljana), Judit Bodor (Glasgow School of Art), David Crowley (National College of Art and Design, Dublin), Cristina Freire (University of São Paulo), Péter György (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest), Emese Kürti (Artpool Art Research Center), Sven Spieker (University of California), Kristine Stiles (Duke University)

Key questions:

Artist Archives as Institutions of 'Parallel Culture'

- The motivations behind establishing artist archives as alternative (parallel) to existing cultural institutions
- The relationship of artist archives to established institutional systems and power structures
- The tactics and function of artist archives as institutions of parallel culture
- Creative strategies of artist archives in response to the political changes and technological trans-

## formations of the information age

### Correspondence Art and Artist Networks

- The effect of personal, linguistic, and political factors on the formation of artist networks and their geographical reach
- Network-based art practices before the Internet (Fluxus, conceptual art, mail art, address lists, artist stamps, assembling, artist's book, performance, installation, etc.)
- Correspondence art today and tomorrow

### Historicization and Self-Historicization

- Alternative usage of archiving tools (archival arrangement, databases, chronologies, diaries, publications, exhibitions)
- Innovative theoretical concepts and curatorial/archival practices
- Artist archives as memory institutions

### Archives as Artistic Medium

- The interaction of archiving and artistic activities in contemporary art practice
- Approaches to preserving the 'spirit' of an artist archive as part of a museum collection
- What can museums learn from artist archives and vice versa

## SUBMISSIONS

To propose a 20-minute paper, please send an approx. 500-word abstract and your CV with a list of your recent publications  
by September 30, 2019  
to: zsuzsa.laszlo@szepmuveszeti.hu

The conference and symposium is organized by Júlia Klaniczay, Dr. Emese Kürti, and Zsuzsa László from Artpool Art Research Center – Museum of Fine Arts in collaboration with Dr. Judit Bodor (Glasgow School of Art) and Dr. Beáta Hock (Universität Leipzig).

#### Reference:

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