

Inactivity (Berlin, 11–12 Jul 24)

Berlin, ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Jul 11–12, 2024

Natalie Arrowsmith

Inactivity – Between Aesthetic Practice and Socio-Political Challenge.

A Transdisciplinary Workshop of the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (IFZO), University of Greifswald, in Cooperation with the ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry.

Organized by Oliver Aas, Hana Gründler, Antje Kempe and Barbara Kristina Murovec.

The workshop examines artistic, aesthetic, and philosophical practices of inaction throughout history in response to today's age of hyperactivity and 24/7 accessibility. It would fall far too short to perceive inactivity simply as the opposition of activity, as it encompasses various phenomena such as resistance, omission, and boredom. Equally, it might be limiting to interrogate practices related to inactivity merely as a critique of the modern conceptions of the subject and productivity. Therefore, the aim is to determine whether inaction can be considered as an agent of change, as a progressive form of 'doing' at a time when traditional 'actions' may have become obsolete. The lectures explore and question various modes of inactivity in different cultures and political systems, including those usually considered good (reflection), bad (passivity), and questionable (withdrawal). Understood as a moral and political category, we encourage a broad approach to 'inactivity' which is becoming a key aesthetic and epistemological term for the twentieth and twenty-first century.

PROGRAM

11 July 2024

14:00–14:30 Hana Gründler and Antje Kempe

Welcome and Introduction

From Withdrawal to Distraction

Chair: Simon Godart

14:30–15:00 Helen Lewandowski

'Powerful' and 'Interesting': Photojournalism and Aesthetics in Luc Delahaye's Work

15:00–15:30 Jakub Marek

The Right to Be Distracted. On the Problem of Inactivity, Focus, and Distraction

Abandonment and Evasion

Chair: David Ventura

16:00–16:30 Ewa Macura-Nnamdi

Abandoned Lives: On Inaction in Wolfgang Fischer's *Styx*

16:30–17:00 Wing Ki Lee

Tang Ping and Contemporary Sinophone: Subconsciousness, Subtext, and Subdue

Productive Inactivity?

Chair: Emir Yigit

17:30–18:00 Tobias Ertl

Artistic Inactivism: Conceptual Art and Modernity's Productivist Paradigm

18:00–18:30 Anne Gräfe

The Ambiguity of In/Activity in John Knights "The Right to be Lazy"

Evening Lecture

Moderated by Hana Gründler

19:00 D. Graham Burnett

Apophatic Activism. Science, Politics, and Silence in the 1960s

(Livestream available)

Friday, 12 July

Retraction

Chair: Valerio Aparo

9:30–10:00 Michael Krimper

"Le désœuvré, l'oisif": The Unemployed Writer from Benjamin to Bataille

10:00–10:30 Amanda Wasielewski

Never Work Again: Creative Labor, AI and Radical Retreat

Apathy and Resistance

Chair: Oliver Aas

11:00–11:30 Josip Klaić

Gorgona Group: Inactivity as Resistance to the Socialist Regime

11:30–12:00 Renata Salecl

Apathy, Inactivity, and Alienation: The Three Virtues of Neo-Liberalism

On Doing Nothing and Slowing Down

Chair: Michal Zechariah

13:30–14:00 Ellie Power

Aimless Drifting and Slowness in Urban Films

14:00–14.30 J. Igor Fardin and Richard Lee Peragine

(In)activity and Architecture: "doing nothing apart from..."

(Not) Sleeping

Chair: Magdalena Nieslony

15:00–15:30 Angelica Stathopoulos

Bad Sleep as Moral Good

15:30 Anne Glassner, Performance and Lecture

Active Sleep! I'm Going to Rest

No online attendance or livestream available (in-person only). Only for the lecture by D. Graham Burnett a livestream will be available: <https://www.ici-berlin.org/events/d-graham-burnett/>

VENUE

ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry

Christinenstr. 18/19, Haus 8, D

10119 Berlin

At the venue: To attend in person, please register using the form on this page: <https://www.ici-berlin.org/events/inactivity/>

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Reference:

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<<https://arthist.net/archive/42271>>.