



Sommerakademie 2009

**Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern**

Press release

Internal Necessity

**Curated by Tirdad Zolghadr
Sommerakademie at the Zentrum Paul Klee
4.-13.8.2009**

**Press Conference in the Forum of the Zentrum Paul Klee
3 August 2009, 16.00-17.00 hrs**

The Sommerakademie is an annual event providing an international platform for contemporary art offering thematic seminars. It promotes artistic production and reflection as well as intensive high level interaction between young artists and curators, inviting them to a ten-day meeting in Berne to work and network with a circle of renowned personalities from the art world. Members of the public are invited to participate in a selection of events and artistic processes. The Sommerakademie publishes a record of the event every year.

In addition to the programme at the Zentrum Paul Klee, the Sommerakademie 2009 will offer public events in cooperation with the Stadtgalerie at the Loge, in the centre for cultural production PROGR.

The jury, consisting of Director Dr. Jacqueline Burckhardt, Andreas Fiedler, Sabina Lang and Tirdad Zolghadr, Curator, has chosen twelve Fellows out of 95 applicants. The number of applicants has almost doubled from 51 in 2008 to 95 in 2009.

Although splendidly isolationist at first glance, the Sommerakademie 2009 is rigorously contextualized. It reaches back to the Sommerakademie 2008, which addressed the physical and conceptual associations of “cultural confinement” and the “underground”, while in the choice of faculty, a strong emphasis is placed on the Berne environment. It even draws on our host, the Zentrum Paul Klee, as institutional sounding board and conversation piece, to raise questions on museum architecture, art history, sponsorship and curatorial practice.

Internal Necessity is the working maxim for this year’s Sommerakademie, addressing professional needs that are specific to the contemporary art field. Along with many a philosophical, historical and economic consideration, the notion of *Internal Necessity* evokes the idea of retreat and recuperation, and is thus all the more poignant in a context of ferocious market pressures and creeping ideological exhaustion. With the implosion of the investigatory promise of biennials, artist-run spaces and other traditional oases, settings such as our Sommerakademie are becoming important venues for examining one’s working criteria with more rigor than the standard venue allows.

The fundamental question is: How can we use academies and other art-institutional structures to our ends? The Sommerakademie will need to ask which “we” is being referred to, what is the precise nature of the “structures” at hand, and which “ends” are at stake. To begin with, how can an experimental educational setting differ from a traditional art school, or from a vocational centre for professional excellence. In practical terms, the

Sommerakademie will confront these questions by exploring historical and ideological developments in art school history, along with the theoretical considerations and the experiences of present practitioners, and the contradictory effects of the Bologna Process on schooling in general – and arts education in particular. Theoretical issues must include the notion of labour that is now propagated in art institutions. Is art labour like any other, or are the arts condemned to be textbook examples of post-fordist working patterns, celebrating socio-professional uncertainty on all levels.

In practical terms, the Sommerakademie offers a two-day excursion and a barroom infrastructure designed by artist Ethan Breckenridge, but also hands-on workshops on the prerequisite skills of recent art practice - such as public speaking as form and technique.

Among our Speakers are the art critic Dr. Bruce Hainley (Art College of Design Pasadena, CA), who will speak about artists' education in theory and practice. Prof. Dr. Peter J. Schneemann (Contemporary Art History, University of Berne) will examine the historical development of artists' education. Suhail Malik (Goldsmiths College, London) addresses the myths and legends of artistic production. the artist Carey Young will analyze art as another form of rendition of services. Hans Rudolf Reust (University of the Arts, Berne) discusses Bologna and the bureaucratisation and instrumentalisation of art and its formation through trends. Andrea Phillips (Goldsmiths College, London) will talk about the ideological consequences of aggrandisement of museum architecture on art terms and the artists' profession. Vasif Kortun (Director of the Platform Garanti Istanbul) will deliver a lecture on sponsorship of art and artists.

This year's two-day outing will take the participants of the Sommerakademie to the Biennale Appenzell. By visiting the Sitterwerk St. Gallen, the Kunststation Appenzell, Platform 9 by Olaf Nicolai and the Kunsthalle St. Gallen they will have the opportunity to consider several contributions to the Biennale Appenzell.

Further information can be found at: www.sommerkademie.zpk.org and www.progr.ch.

Internal Necessity

Concept:

Tirdad Zolghadr, art critic, curator of the United Arab Emirates pavilion at this year's 53rd Venice Biennale. Lecturer at the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, New York, and curatorial expert for the Guggenheim Museum Abu Dhabi.

Fellows:

Gürsoy Dogtas (Germany)
Claire Feeley (Ireland)
Linda Franke (Germany)
Agnieszka Kurant (Poland)
Bettina Malcomess (South Africa)
Mariangela Mendez Prencke (Columbia)
Uriel Orlow (Switzerland, lives in London)
Judith Raum (Germany)
Shirana Shahbazi (Iran, Germany, lives in Zürich)
Oraib Toukan (Jordan, lives in New York)
Ricardo Valentim (Portugal, lives in New York)
Erik Wenzel (USA)

Speakers:

Fabienne Eggelhöfer, Curator, Zentrum Paul Klee
Dr. Bruce Hainley, art critic and Faculty Member at the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena (USA)
Marianne Keller, scientific staff, Zentrum Paul Klee
Vasif Kortun, Director, Platform Garanti, Istanbul
Suhail Malik, Lecturer, Goldsmiths College, London
Dr. Andrea Phillips, Director, "Curating Architecture", Goldsmiths College, London
Hans Rudolf Reust, Director, "Contemporary Arts", University of the Arts, Berne
Prof. Dr. Peter J. Schneemann, Professor of Contemporary Art, Institute of Art History, University of Berne
Carey Young, artist