

The Clamor of Struggle

Gallery Huuto

Jätkäsaari 2

Tyynenmerenkatu 6

Saturday 30th November, 13-17

Speakers

Sezgin Boynik, researcher

Jon Irigoyen, artist and researcher

Ahmet Ögüt, artist

As capitalism is "putting into work" and making use of our whole lives, our affects, personal capacities and attitudes, sensibility and subjectivity have become central issues in social struggles. It has often been suggested that political action is assuming and should assume *aesthetic* characteristics: it should create new modes of perception, new relationships between people and the environment.

It often appears that artists and dominant art institutions are only trying to appropriate and neutralize political movements. For example Occupy Wall Street has become mainstream in art, but it is often presented as just another glamorous urban event – radical chic. As if the political movements that are trying to make visible certain conflicts that are central in contemporary capitalism would be just participating in the general public sphere: that becoming visible would mean something similar than the exhibitionism of reality TV shows.

How do we create social struggles within the modes of expression and sensibility, instead of reducing existing social movements to mere glamour? Could art – whatever it means – work as a field for experimenting new forms for displaying our experiences that cannot be expressed in dominant forms of the public sphere? Or is the logic of the cultural field irrevocably linked to the logic of the market place?

The event is part of the seminar *Power of the Precariat*, which deals with the struggles and modes of organization of precarious workers. What are central struggles today in the view of the societal change and improvement of human life? What kind of modes of organization are born in these struggles?

Organizers

Autonominen Opisto

Markus Himanen, Jaakko Karhunen,
Aino-Marjatta Mäki and Eetu Viren



Schedule

13.00 - 13.30 Presentation of the *Power of the Precariat* seminar

13.30 - 14.30 *Occupy Form* by Sezgin Boynik

14:30 - 15.00 Break

15.00 - 15.45 *Another World is Possible* by Ahmet Ögüt

16.00 - 17.00 *Without Fear There Will Be Future* by Jon Irigoyen

Occupy Form

Sezgin Boynik

The initial objective of my presentation is to analyze the incorporation of political contingencies as extrinsic material to art systems. I will discuss how contemporary art reacted to 'Occupy!' movement. As an alternative, non-violent form of direct action against global economic inequality, Occupy!, with its political contingencies had a visible influence to political theory in general (Jodi Dean, Slavoj Žižek, Naomi Klein, Barbara Epstein, etc.). My aim is to show how this political contingency transformed the conceptualisation of art.

Sezgin Boynik (born 1977 Kosovo), lives and works in Helsinki. He is Phd candidate in Jyväskylä University Social Science department. He is working on thesis "Cultural Politics of Black Wave in Yugoslavia from 1963 to 1972". He has been publishing on punk, relation between aesthetics and politics, on cultural nationalism, Situationist International and Yugoslavian cinema. Apart from scholarly work he is also active as conceptual artist.

Another World is Possible

Ahmet Ögüt

What has been the relationship between art and the Gezi Park protests in Istanbul? The "Gezi Park experience" can be seen as a unique opportunity to understand the role of arts and cultural practitioners, artworks, and art institutions, during a social movement like that. But the relationship between art institutions and movements is not without contradictions: in a protest staged on March 10th at a Istanbul Biennial-sponsored event, the organizers of the event decided to forcibly remove protestors and then pretend to continue the interrupted event as it was originally meant to be staged by ignoring their existence in the room.

Ahmet Ögüt (born 1981 Turkey) is a conceptual artist living and working in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He works with a broad range of media including video, photography, installation, drawing and printed media. In 2009 he represented Turkey in the Pavilion of Turkey at the 53rd International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennial.

Without Fear There Will Be Future

Jon Irigoyen

The situation of Spanish "anti-crisis" movements like INDIGNADOS or 15M has changed radically from the hectic summer months of the year 2011. The activity and actions of the groups have evolved, focusing in different tactics and new spaces of action. In this talk we will make an in-depth analysis of the current situation and the new tactics and dynamics that these social agents use for confronting these precarious and liquid times in which we irremediably sink.

Jon Irigoyen is an independent curator and artist born in Bilbao. Since 2009, he has been on the Board of Helsinki's Pixelache Festival. His research interests and projects span the intersecting relationships between artist and spectator; the interaction between public and urban space; the perception of reality; as well as concepts such as autonomy, resistance and memory. Nowadays he holds his Phd in Art at Aalto University with the supervision of Finnish philosopher Juba Varto.