

APPLICATION: HERBST ACADEMY 2008

Address

Phone

Email

Date of Birth

Occupation

- Workshop I** **Why we don't do what we really want to do.
But are nevertheless actors.**
(06/10 - 11/10/2008) 120 Euro
- Workshop II** **vocabulaboratories –
How do we articulate spaces for action?**
(13/10 - 18/10/2008) 120 Euro
- Workshop III** **Record of downfall – Writing as political action**
(20/10 - 25/10/2008) 120 Euro

Please enclose:

A substantive C.V. and a short description of your expectations of the workshop as well as any material you consider helpful in regards of the workshop's intention.

The participation fee for workshop is 120 Euro each. It includes the workshop fee and admission to all performances, exhibitions, lectures etc. during the workshop. Accommodation is not included. However, steirischer herbst helps finding reasonable (including private) lodgings. Travel costs have to be covered by the participants.

Each workshop has 5 grants that can be applied for (including lodging & participation fee). Please submit an application for these grants with a brief statement of reasons.

The workshops are limited to approx. 15 persons and the organisers will select the participants. Registrants may participate in more than one of the events.

The spoken language will be English in the workshops I & II and German in workshop III; deadline for applications is 18/07/2008.

Please send your application to:

steirischer herbst
c/o Academy
Sackstraße 17
8010 Graz / Austria

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Herbst Academy
2008

Strategies for avoiding misfortune

Three workshops for students, artists, theorists and others

Where political philosophy, neurology and aesthetic theory astonishingly all insist on dismissing conscious, controlled action and causal action as naive, more and more people are nevertheless demanding the right to the working hypothesis that, by acting, we can, if not find happiness, then at least develop strategies for avoiding misfortune. Our rescue attempt oscillates between pragmatism and utopia, and the modesty of the formulation does not imply making do, but rather the pragmatic will not to be held back by fundamental disputes concerning a far, far distant future. So what new scenarios of social reality can we conceive? How can we change our environment, even if we cannot really know whether it will be for the better? What is the goal, what is the vision?

Strategies for avoiding misfortune, that is a cautious metaphor for the consciously sceptical belief in the possibilities of action. Action between image and deed, post-ironic but not unironic, active but not activist. A Kantian duty without the protestant seriousness, pathos as an everyday reality.

Such strategies focus on a productive attitude that does not abandon the power of a utopia but nevertheless bears aspects of feasibility in mind. There is an action between pragmatism and utopia that shapes our everyday life, that creates public spheres and sometimes saves the world a bit.

The search for and questioning of possible strategies for avoiding misfortune is the connection between the events of herbst academy 2008. In this context three workshops for twenty young, international artists and theorists will form a kind of backbone of the festival and follow in terms of their focus these underlying thoughts.



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Workshop 1

06/10 - 11/10/2008

By Gesa Ziemer (CH/D)
With Tony Chakar (RL),
Geheimagentur / Club der autonomen
Astronauten (Fundus Theater) (D),
Scott Lash (GB) & Claus Pias (D/A)
> In English language

Why we don't do what we really want to do.

But are nevertheless actors.

For some time now, people have been diagnosing a crisis of action. Briefly, this crisis is due to the fact that the sovereign, autonomously acting subject has begun to question itself. At the same time, the effectiveness of its actions is questioned by complex outer processes. How should we act sensibly as individuals in terms of ecology? Can

we influence technological developments or globalisation as individuals? Such questions illustrate how small the individual's scope for action usually is.

In this workshop we will discuss unpredictable but nevertheless productive inherent dynamisms and efficacies of groups. For when we act we are usually not alone. We act in formations and create new ones – even if they are only very small. We are actors in networks, swarms, complicities, we form gatherings or teams. Can a (moving) theory of small groups become a new practice of action?

On 11/10/2008, the workshop will be taking part in the steirischer herbst Walking Conference on the topic of "Strategies for avoiding misfortune" (with Isolde Charim, Scott Lash, Michaela Ott, plan b and many more).

Co-produced by NXTSTP, with the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

vocabularatories

How do we articulate spaces for action?

How can we make what we do (whether in theory or in practice) articulable and effective? How and when does working with concepts – beyond disciplinary boundaries – create new spaces for action? And how can we critically convey these possibilities?

Workshop 2

13/10 - 18/10/2008

By Paz Rojo (E) & Manuela Zechner (GB/A)
With Ludotek (E), Judith Revel (F) & Judith Schwentner (A)
> In English language

vocabularatories is a long-term, collaborative project that focuses on exploring vocabularies, i.e. tool-boxes based on ideas and strategies with the aid of which we position ourselves in the world, try to understand ourselves and explore our possibilities of action.

The focus of this workshop – one stage of "vocabularatories" – is on the spaces of meaning opened up by our vocabularies, through the concepts of 'strategy', 'empowerment', 'survival' and the 'common'. The aim is to examine individual and collective vocabularies, through interventions in public space, in conversation with local socially committed organisations and as a philosophical scrutiny of the concept 'strategy'.

Record of downfall Writing as political action

We live in realities that are fragmented and distorted by the media and that increasingly cause the subject to disappear. Political conditions are becoming increasingly de-politicised and this privatisation of politics does not bring the individual a growth in room for manoeuvre, but rather the very opposite.

Language generates and obfuscates political circumstances. In the field of politics it serves the purpose of agitation and manipulation, to assert lobbyists' interests. How can and should language artists react – is there a different way out to mere deconstruction of language and, associated with this, the absolution of mere rhetoric? What about power – the central category of politics? Do not all language-critical and subject-critical discourses and positions serve to mask power, thus making them nothing more than its servants?

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & uniT Graz

Workshop 3

20/10 - 25/10/2008

By Edith Draxl (A)
With Helgard Haug / Rimini
Protokoll (D), Ulrich Peltzer (D),
René Pollesch (D) & Stefanie
Wenner (D)
> In German language

For more detailed information and biographies
please visit www.steirischerherbst.at