

Welcome to the former West

Mental maps and decolonial perspectives on the here and now

The 2016 herbst Academy is taking place in a “Garden State”. The international Mamaza collective proclaims a temporary greenfield site at Graz’s Orpheum, creating a participatory setting for discursive encounters and critical dialogue.

The “Garden State” is a realm consisting of several hundred house plants. For five days, the Orpheum theatre is being transformed into a public garden which obeys its own laws and invites the local population to reflect, discuss and stay a while. Accompanied by the rhythm of the garden – including sunrise, midday sun, minor afternoon storms, and twilight hour – the result is a shared space that allows us to experience space and time.

The herbst Academy is taking root in this utopian state for five days of discussion with international guests from the realms of art, theory and science, with students and anyone else interested; discussing identities and affiliations, changing geographies and economic spaces. The Academy examines future scenarios for a Europe that is meeting with increasing hostility from all sides, whilst also being needed more than ever before. What needs to be preserved and what ideas and forms of knowledge must we forget? The focus of the workshops and discussions is on decolonial strategies and critical whiteness as well as specific ways of dealing with the post-global realities of walling off borders.

The “Garden State” is a place for participation available to all visitors, a site for various activities from yoga and meditation, to lectures, performances, concerts and film screenings. In addition to the Academy programme, the “Garden State” also invites visitors to engage in a dialogue, to meet, to discover or happen to become a part of a small intervention.





Mamaza (DE/CH/IL/GR) Garden State

Wed 05/10, 17.00 – 00.00,
Thu 06/10, Fri 07/10,
Sat 08/10, 09.00 – 00.00 &
Sun 09/10, 09.00 – 16.00

Orpheum

Admission free

Concept Fabrice Mazliah, Ioannis Mandafounis, May Zarhy

Realisation Mamaza, Roberta Mosca in collaboration with Harry Schulz, Städtelschule Architecture Class SAC

Direction and coordination
Fabrice Mazliah

Light design and technical direction Harry Schulz

Sound design Johannes Helberger

Assistance and collaboration
Roberta Mosca, Claudia Voigt

Assistant Gianna Varbanova

Production Johanna Milz

Production Mamaza, Cie Projet 11

Co-produced by steirischer herbst,

Künstlerhaus Mousonturm

With the support of Fonds Doppelpass of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, International Guest Performance Fund for Dance, which is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag

The 2016 herbst Academy is taking place on a greenfield site. As a situational setting for the theoretical encounters of this year's herbst Academy, the Mamaza artist collective is temporarily proclaiming the "Garden State" at the Orpheum.

The "Garden State" is a realm made up of several hundred house plants. For five days, the Orpheum is being transformed into a public garden which obeys its own laws and invites the local population to reflect, discuss and stay a while. The sun rises at nine and sets at six in the evening. By day and night, come sunshine or storm, the result is a shared site that allows us to experience space and time.



Foto: Martin Baasch

Before the festival begins, the artists from the Mamaza company will be knocking on doors, asking local people for potted loans

from their homes, shops and offices. With the aid of the collected plants, they will build the "Garden State", thus also representing a map of the people from Graz who become part of the installation through their plants. The inspiration is the myth of the anarchist colony Libertalia, said to have been founded by liberated slaves near Madagascar in the 17th century.

The "Garden State" is a public place accessible to all visitors, that can be the venue for various activities from yoga and meditation to concerts, performances and film screenings. In addition to the Academy workshops and two-day conference, the "Garden State" also invites visitors to engage in a dialogue and to discover, to read, to sing a song, to play music or to become part of a little intervention by chance.



Jochen Becker / Daniel Kötter / metroZones (DE) **Chinafrika. Under Construction**

Workshop 1

Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10

German and English language

With Jochen Becker (DE), Daniel Kötter (DE) & international guests

In collaboration with Haus der Architektur
With the support of metroZones e.V.,
Goethe-Institut Lagos, TURN

China and the African continent, it is assumed, are the two world regions where the future of globalisation is being drawn up. The research and art project “Chinafrika. Under Construction” has been analysing the cultural relations between both areas for several years, highlighting a process that has fundamentally changed the role of Europe, among other things. With a wide range of research materials and documentaries from Guangzhou, Lagos, Hong Kong, Lubumbashi and other regions, the workshop illustrates the cultural and economic transformations ensuing from this transnational process. Accompanied by guests from China, Africa and Styria, the participants in the workshop will be exploring theoretical and everyday experiences of the Chinafrika phenomenon.



Marianne Bechhaus-Gerst (DE) **Critical Whiteness and more**

Workshop 2

Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10

English language

With Marianne Bechhaus-Gerst (DE), Institute of African Studies and Egyptology, Cologne University

What does it mean to be white? This seemingly banal question remains rarely asked. Most people who define themselves as white have never thought about being white, implicitly considering it the norm from which all “others” who are not white deviate. Whiteness almost always remains unmarked and unreflected – with the focus usually being on the others. Yet being white is quite obviously connected with privileges and power relations that define relationships and interactions with “other” people. In the workshop held by professor of African Studies Marianne Bechhaus-Gerst, the participants reflect on what it is like to be white or not white, and about their experience. The aim is to make whiteness visible as a constructed category of power. Where can we identify white power in everyday culture? And can white people decide to opt out of whiteness?



Rolando Vazquez (NL/MX) From Modernity to the Decolonial Workshop 3

Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10

English language

With Rolando Vazquez (NL/MX),
University College Roosevelt,
Utrecht University

The workshop held by Mexican-Dutch sociologist Rolando Vazquez focuses on the decolonial critique of modernity. It will show how coloniality is deeply embedded in our everyday life. In a dialogue with participants, Vazquez questions the common understanding of progress, development and consumption that can not be thought in separation from processes of destitution, extraction, denial and erasure. In the “Garden State” setting the aim is to discuss to what extent the modern notion of the subject contradicts forms of community, responsibility and the possibility of an ethical life. The decolonial option presents questions hitherto excluded from the modern canon. What are the conditions to recover the possibilities of relating, of listening to truly intercultural perspectives?

Marjetica Potrč (DE/SI) Participating in World Building Workshop 4

Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10

English language

With Marjetica Potrč (DE/SI),
Design for the Living World class,
University of Fine Arts, HFBK
Hamburg



For Marjetica Potrč, the appropriation of space by the local community – be it in the rainforest or at the heart of the city – is essential for the construction of a new citizenship. What is the role of artists who do community-based projects? How can they support the needs of local groups without imposing their own ideas? How should they interact with local groups, institutions and government? And crucially, what is the role of residents in shaping their own environment? The Slovenian artist and architect based in Ljubljana and Berlin reports from her practice and invites workshop participants to contribute their own examples and experiences and to discuss them at the “New Graz” exhibition at the center for contemporary art < rotor >.



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G Theory / Discourse / Workshop

V Graz / Arrival Zone

Sat 08/10, 10.00 – 19.00 &

Sun 09/10, 10.00 – 14.00

Orpheum

Admission free

English language

With Jochen Becker (DE), Zasha Colah (DE/IN), Roberto Dainotto (US/IT), Övül Durmuşoğlu (DE/TR), Nezaket Ekici (DE/TR), Kiluanji Kia Henda (PT/AO), Srećko Horvath (HR), Araba Evelyn Johnston-Arthur (AT/US/FIN/GH), Daniel Kötter (DE), Mi You (DE/CN), Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung (DE/CM), Shalini Randeria (AT/IN), Slavs and Tatars, Rolando Vazquez (NL/MX) et al.

The herbst conference investigates Europe's current state from a postcolonial and decolonial perspective. What ways are there to talk about Europe? Who should we listen to and which utopias are still (or perhaps again) conceivable today?



Is Europe obsolete? What remains of the small utopian region which, only 20 years ago, was the focus of hopes for a peaceful and pluralistic 21st century? There is every indication that the “old world”, reinvented as European Union, is a profoundly vulnerable and crumbling structure. Philosopher Giorgio Agamben even sees the “recapitulation of each and every historical possibility of the West” on the line.

The 2016 herbst conference deals with the utopias and realities of a Europe marked by disagreement in the light of recent crises, proliferating nationalism and eroding democracies. Based on specific examples, lectures, discussions, lecture-performances and work groups set out to examine the repercussions caused by colonialist patterns of thought and hegemony along with alternative ways of thinking and formats beyond the Western canon. How can we talk about Europe without falling back on dominant categorisations rooted in Eurocentrism and Western capitalism?

In the “Garden State” created by artist collective Mamaza international guests from the fields of art, theory and science join students and the interested public to discuss identities and belongings, decolonial strategies, post-otherness and critical whiteness, changing geographies and economic areas as well as the everyday practices of a different Europe that deserves our protection.

herbst Academy Workshops

Registration form

First name, surname

Address

Phone

E-mail

Date of Birth

Occupation

- Workshop 1 **Chinafrika. Under Construction**
(Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10 + conference Sat 08/10 & Sun 09/10/2016)
- Workshop 2 **Critical Whiteness and more**
(Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10 + conference Sat 08/10 & Sun 09/10/2016)
- Workshop 3 **From Modernity to the Decolonial**
(Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10 + conference Sat 08/10 & Sun 09/10/2016)
- Workshop 4 **Participating in World Building**
(Thu 06/10 & Fri 07/10 + conference Sat 08/10 & Sun 09/10/2016)

Please enclose a substantial C.V.

The contribution towards expenses for each workshop is € 80. The maximum of participants per workshop is 15. The workshop language is mainly English. Lunch is provided each workshop day as well as the Saturday of the conference. Travel and accommodation costs are extra. Upon receipt of your registration you will receive a list of partner hotels and hostels of the steirischer herbst festival.

For further information please visit www.steirischerherbst.at

Deadline for applications: Wed 31/08/2016

Please send your application to:
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