

Transient Bodies

A series of Conferences: *Transient Bodies*

Performance by: VestAndPage

Dates: 22 – 24 April 2016

Concept by: Open Dialogue Istanbul, Open Space Istanbul, Burçak Konukman and Francesco Kiais

Project By: Open Dialogue Istanbul & Open Space Istanbul

Curator and Concept writer: Francesco Kiais

Co-Curator: Burçak Konukman

Moderators: Francesco Kiais & Burçak Konukman

Lecturers: VestAndPage (Andrea Pagnes & Verena Stenke), Angeliki Avgitidou

Artists: VestAndPage (Andrea Pagnes & Verena Stenke)

Open Dialogue Istanbul and Open Space Istanbul are excited to be presenting “Transient Bodies: A series of conferences” along with a live performance by VestAndPage in collaboration with Francesco Kiais and Burçak Konukman taking place in Istanbul between the dates 22nd -24th April 2016.

The project will be realised in collaboration with The Art Department & LUX (artists' moving image), Hosted by SALT and with in-kind support of Alt.

The aim of the programme is to focus on performance and Live Art, with a strong educational purpose and a propositive reflection on the reasons of making art today.

CONCEPT In times of radical change such as ours, every discipline of the human knowledge and activity is put in front of the possibility to remain isolated in itself or, conversely, to intervene into reality, becoming actively part of a historical process.

Geographically positioned between Asia and Europe, Istanbul is a swarming city home to some 17 million inhabitants, with migration flowing through it constantly. Istanbul, which was founded around 660 BC as Byzantium, developed to become one of the most significant cities in history, consisting of an amalgamation of cultures and histories. The reason to why Istanbul is the focus of the project is because it is a representative of more than one culture. In a City of historical significance, and which is playing one more time a central role between east and west, north and south, we would like to start involving people who have different roles in the landscape of Performance and Live Art, with the ambition of touching different regions (not only geographical, but also of thought and action) for to compose a mosaic of poetic, philosophical, critical and artistic approaches.

With the movements such as; isolation, contested borders, and multiple diasporas, the meaning of a place, home and belonging have recently become more and more ambiguous.

This lecture series is inspired by the concept of alienation, search of identity for the individual in a system of politics, religion, social of political that is constantly changing.

The performance and live art is now globally a widespread phenomenon, with infinite facets, impossible to define within absolute boundaries, and that is offering infinite possibilities for interpretation.

The concept *Transient Bodies* aims to offer a way of reading this form of art, based on the ephemeral and on overcoming the barriers between disciplines, cultures and people, providing a view of international scope. Through a careful selection of artists, curators and academicians from the global cultural scene, The 'Transient Bodies' project aims to offer a rich variety of events, ranging from aesthetics to the social, from the ethics to the poetics, touching different areas of today's interests.

PROGRAMME

This project event focuses on a screening of a series of memorable performances to give the viewer an idea about the birth and development, in short the history of performance art followed by the curator's talk, the artists' presentation of their art and practice and a panel discussion by academicians specializing in performance art. There will be a series of artist talks and discussions and one performance art by VestAndPage.

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22 April Friday at Salt

17:00-18:30 Screening of video documentation of performances from different periods, to give an idea about how it evolved between the second half of the 20th Century to our days. Following the screening, a presentation by the curator Francesco Kais on Performance Art history will be made.

19:00-20:30 Artist talk with VestAndPage, led by the curators. It will follow a dialogue with the public, on their work as artists and curators, and on their relation to the project concept

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23 April Saturday at Alt

20:30-22:00 Performance by VestAndPage entitled "AEGIS II | Dreaming Matter"

24 April Sunday at Salt

13:30-15:00 Closing lecture of Dr. Angeliki Avgitidou, on Performance Art and public space. The curators will introduce the debate to follow with the present issues.

Note: The conferences will be held in English. There will be no translation.

PURPOSE

To provide a cultural and educational background about what performance art is, how it originated, how it evolved, what it represents.

Through the selection of these artists the curator intends to underline some specific aspects of Performance art which were intimately interwoven with European and Mediterranean cultural aspects.

The try of these artists was to recreate a local cultural identity of international value, destroyed due to the World War I and II, facing at the same time the overwhelming power of the new cultural models coming from over the ocean, namely Consumerism and Pop.

Today, we want to underline the role of the Mediterranean roots of this form of art, but just and only to enrich the debate about Performance art.

Open Space Istanbul & Open Dialogue Istanbul, founded by Huma Kabakçı and Billur Tansel, Open Space Istanbul and Open Dialogue Istanbul are collaborative contemporary art projects that look into promoting cross-cultural dialogue between artists, curators and art practitioners internationally.

While the first exhibition took place in London, the first launch of the two projects was realised in Istanbul. These particular moving projects aim to create recognition, present artists and curators coming from diverse cultural backgrounds, experiences and artistic practices. By calling themselves 'open,' Open Space Istanbul & Open Dialogue Istanbul aim to explore various art media through talks, performances, moving images, screenings and dialogues. One of their key objectives is to further the curatorial and artistic discourse and open up to other exhibitions and symposiums

The Art Department is an organization dedicated to providing resources for the production of inspiring art projects, organizing educational programs in order to reach broad audiences and expand awareness through contemporary art. For information about our current projects, Casa dell'Arte International Art Residency Program, The Büyükkuşoğlu Collection and Turkey's first art hotel Casa dell'Arte where a part of the collection is displayed please visit our website www.cda-art.com.

SALT explores critical and timely issues in visual and material culture, and cultivates innovative programs for research and experimental thinking. Assuming an open attitude and establishing itself as a site of learning and debate SALT aims to challenge, excite and provoke its visitors by encouraging them to offer critique and response. SALT Research sources diverse fields of knowledge and provides outlets for thought within the fissures and crossovers of different disciplines. The institution's research projects expand beyond linear chronologies, medium-based questions, and the traditional separation of fields of study. SALT assembles archives of recent art, architecture, design, urbanism, and social and economic histories to make them available for research and public use. These resources will be interpreted in the form of exhibitions and discussed in all other areas of programming.



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Alt art space presents visual arts, performance and public programs, collaborating across disciplines and cultures. Alt embraces and shares new forms of artistic expression that respond both to global concerns and changing conditions on the ground. Located at the center of Bomontiada, a historic beer factory repurposed as a public social space, Alt aims to allow multiple authors to invest in and shape its future dynamics.

LUX is an international arts agency for the support and promotion of artists' moving image practice and the ideas that surround it. LUX exists to provide access to, and develop audiences for, artists' moving image work; to provide professional development support for artists working with the moving image; and to contribute to and develop discourse around practice. Founded in 2002 as a charity and not-for-profit limited company, it builds on a lineage of predecessor organisations (The London Filmmakers Co-operative, London Video Arts and The Lux Centre), which stretches back to the 1960s. LUX is the only organisation of its kind in the UK, it represents the country's only significant collection of artists' film and video and is the largest distributor of such work in Europe (representing 4500 works by approximately 1500 artists from 1920s to the present day). LUX works with a large number of major institutions including museums, galleries, festivals and educational establishments, as well as directly with the public and artists. LUX receives regular revenue funding from Arts Council England. The particular focus of LUX is visual arts-based moving image work, a definition which includes experimental film, video art, installation art, performance art, personal documentary, essay films and animation and is inclusive both in terms of context and critical discourse.

