



# global activism SYMPOSIUM

January 24–26, 2014  
Schedule & Speakers



**WALL ST.  
IS  
WAR ST.**

Black Mask,  
Wall St. is  
War St., 1967,  
© Larry Fink

# global aCtIVISM

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Symposium  
January 24–26, 2014  
Schedule & Speakers

# global aCtIVISm

For some years now, a new form of world-wide activism driven by citizens (lat. civis) has occurred, as the word CIVIS highlighted in aCtIVISm emphasizes. Evidently many citizens have concluded that governments are not giving the vital interests of all of humanity sufficient consideration, such as upholding human rights, protecting the environment and animal life, and combatting corruption. This has led to citizens becoming increasingly involved in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and tackling these tasks themselves. It seems that the battle-cry of citizens today is “no taxation without participation.”

On the occasion of the exhibition *global aCtIVISm*, a research symposium and an activist summit with almost fifty participants from all over the world are going to take place at ZKM, January 24–26, 2014. Here researchers, artists, and activists will gather to discuss how the forms and sociopolitical significance of civic engagement have evolved in the twenty-first century influenced by contemporary fine arts and communication media tools.

On the first two days, researchers from the fields of political science, sociology, law, media studies, and art theory will encounter film makers,

artists, and activists to understand the newly emerging role of the citizen in a “performative democracy” (Peter Weibel).

On the third and last day, artists and activists will further discuss the future of the activist citizen or “artist.” This activist summit will be organized by Joulia Strauss, Daniel Mützel, and Noah Fischer, dealing with “the new architecture of the global movements since 2011. This architecture is represented by the diversity of protest forms – intellectually, strategically, practically. The summit mirrors this diversity by bringing together activists from all over the world.”

On the evening of January 25, a film screening will take place on the occasion of the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution. Director Marco Wilms will be presenting his latest documentary *ART WAR* together with Egyptian artists, who have become major actors in the ongoing revolution.

Peter Weibel

# Friday, January 24

(Location: ZKM\_Lecture Hall)

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Registration  |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Guided Tour   |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break   |
| 14:00 – 14:10 | Welcome, Peter Weibel (Karlsruhe)   |
| 14:10 – 14:30 | Opening Speech, Ugo Mattei (Turin), <i>Commons and Cultural Political Agenda for Europe</i>                                     |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | <b>Panel I: Activism and the Citizen</b>  |
| 14:35 – 14:55 | Robin Celikates (Amsterdam, Berlin), <i>Civil Disobedience as a Practice of Contestation</i>                                    |
| 15:00 – 15:20 | Bo Zheng (Hong Kong), <i>Nearby Facts to Trouble the Emperor</i>  |
| 15:25 – 15:45 | Olaf Bertram-Nothnagel (New York), <i>Word on the Street: Aspiring to Democracy in NYC</i>                                      |
| 15:50 – 16:10 | Jackie Sumell (New Orleans), <i>I Wish the Indians Won</i>  |
| 16:15 – 17:00 | Discussion  |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Coffee Break  |
| 17:30 – 20:30 | <b>Panel II: How to Do Activism</b>   |
| 17:40 – 18:00 | Rita Raley (Santa Barbara), <i>Care of the Community</i>  |
| 18:05 – 18:25 | Howard Barrell (Cardiff), <i>Nonviolent Force, Political Space and the Uses of the Arts and Media</i>                           |
| 18:30 – 18:50 | Younes Belghazi (Rabat), <i>Cracks in the Wall of the Palace: A Moroccan Spring</i>   |
| 18:55 – 19:15 | Bani Brusadin (Barcelona), <i>The Political Potential of Fiction: Experiments in Communication Guerrilla at The Influencers</i> |
| 19:20 – 19:40 | Arman & Arash Riahi (Vienna), <i>Everyday Rebellion – The Art of Change</i>   |
| 19:45 – 20:30 | Discussion  |
| 20:30 – 22:00 | Dinner  |

# Saturday, January 25

(Location: ZKM\_Cube)

10:00 – 12:30

## Panel III: Tactical, Social, and Global Media

10:05 – 10:25

Zixue Tai (Lexington), *Finger Power and Smart Mob Politics: Social Activism and Grassroots Collaboration in China*

10:30 – 10:50

Thameur Mekki (Tunis), *Social Media and Music as a Tool for Social and Political Mobilization*

10:55 – 11:15

Martina Steis (Berlin), *Partisan 2.0 – On the Battlefield of Information, Propaganda and Manipulation*

11:20 – 11:40

Birgitta Jónsdóttir (Reykjavík), *Democracy Upgrade: 21st Century Lawmaking*

11:45 – 12:30

Discussion

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 16:30

## Panel IV: Art & Activism

14:05 – 14:25

Olivier Krischer (Sydney), *Lateral Thinking: The Networked Ecology of Creative Activism in East Asia*

14:30 – 14:50

Sruti Bala (Amsterdam) & Veronika Zangl (Vienna, Amsterdam), *Humor, Art & Activism in the Global Moment*

14:55 – 15:15

Sotirios Bahtsetzis (Athens, Berlin), *Image Wars: For a Novel Distribution of Semiopower*

15:20 – 15:40

Tatiana Volkova (Moscow), *The Art Experience of Recent Protest Movements in Russia*

15:45 – 16:05

Ragip Zik (Istanbul), *Intervention through Art in New Social Movements*

16:10 – 16:30

Jonas Staal (Rotterdam), *Art and the Democratic Experiment*

16:30 – 17:30

Coffee Break

17:30 – 19:00

Open Discussion

19:00 – 21:00

Dinner

21:00 – 23:00

Filmscreening *ART WAR* & Artist Talk with Marco Wilms, Ammar Abo Bakr and Ganzeer

# Sunday, January 26

(Location: ZKM\_Cube/ZKM\_Balcony/ZKM\_Foyer)

10:00 – 10:05

10:00 – 10:05

10:05 – 11:15

11:15 – 11:30

11:30 – 12:45

12:45 – 13:30

13:30 – 19:00

13:30 – 14:30

14:30 – 15:00

15:00 – 16:00

16:00 – 17:30

17:30 – 19:00

## Introduction

Noah Fischer (New York), Daniel Mützel (Berlin),  
Joulia Strauss (Berlin) – at ZKM\_Cube

Imani Jaqueline Brown (New Orleans), Antonio Calleja López  
(Madrid), Hadeer Elmahdawy (Cairo), Noah Fischer (New York),  
MTL (Nitasha Dhillon and Amin Husain, New York)  
– at ZKM\_Cube

Break

Daniel Mützel (Berlin), Napuli Paul Langa (Berlin), Lucas Oliveira  
(São Paulo), Joulia Strauss (Berlin), Alexandr Wolodarskij  
(Kiev, Erlangen), Artur Żmijewski (Warsaw) – at ZKM\_Cube

Lunch Break

## Assembly

Set Agenda – at ZKM\_Balcony

Coffee Break

Open Agenda – at ZKM\_Balcony

Break

Concrete Steps – at ZKM\_Foyer

# Speakers



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Nitasha Dhillon  
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Arman & Arash T. Riahi  
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Jonas Staal  
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Martina Steis  
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Joulia Strauss  
page 22 | drawing: V. Lomasko



Jackie Sumell  
page 22 | photo: L. McKellar



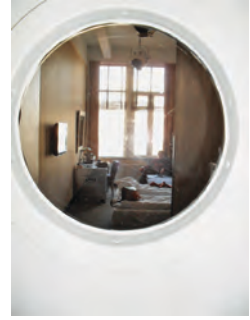
Zixue Tai  
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Tatiana Volkova  
page 23 | photo: T. Sushenkova



Alexandr Wolodarskij  
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Veronika Zangl  
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Bo Zheng  
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Ragip Zik  
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Artur Zmijewski  
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SAT  
14:55  
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15:15

## Sotirios Bahtsetzis

works as an art historian, independent curator, and art critic based in Athens and Berlin. In 2005 he received his PhD from the Technical University Berlin with a thesis on the history of installation art, and he was a Fulbright Fellow at Columbia University New York in 2009. He currently teaches at DEREΕ – The American College of Greece and at the Hellenic Open University. He has curated group exhibitions, including *Roaming Images* at the 3. Thessaloniki Biennial (2011), *Paint-id. Contemporary Painting in Greece* at the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art (2009), *Women Only – Female Greek Artists from the Beltsios Collection* (2008), *Open Plan in Art Athina* (2007), *An Outing* (2006), and *Familistère I* at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2002). He contributes to catalogs and art theory journals. Recent publications include: “Eikonomia: Notes on Economy and the Labor of Art” (*e-flux*, 2012), “The Time That Remains: On Contemporary Nihilism / How to Repeat the Avant-Garde” (*e-flux*, 2011), “Image-Wars: The Athens Riots as Dispositive and Event” (in *Afterimage*, Vol. 38, No. 1, 2010). He was research coordinator at the Museum of Installation. He is member of IKT, AICA-Greece, and the Ulmer Verein.

[sotiriosbahtsetzis.blogspot.de](http://sotiriosbahtsetzis.blogspot.de)

SAT  
14:30  
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14:50

## Sruti Bala

is assistant professor at the Department of Theatre Studies, University of Amsterdam. Her research interests are in the fields of participatory art, theatre and conflict, feminist theory, and pedagogy. Following her doctoral study on *The Performativity of Nonviolent Protest in South Asia* (2009), her essays have appeared in the journals *Theatre Research International*, *Research in Drama Education, Peace & Change*, and the *Dutch Yearbook for Women’s History*, as well as in anthologies in German and English. During the last decade she has been involved as a researcher and facilitator in various community arts training projects.

FRI  
18:05  
—  
18:25

## Howard Barrell

is a journalist, academic, and one-time political activist. His intellectual interest is in violent and nonviolent insurgency, and in habits of political reasoning. He is a senior lecturer in the School of Journalism, Media, and Cultural Studies at Cardiff University, and formerly headed its MA International Journalism and MA Political Communications. He is an academic advisor to the International Centre on Nonviolent Conflict, Washington DC. His doctoral thesis at Oxford University examined African National Congress operational strategy between 1976 and 1986. Between 1981 and 1988, he was a member of the then-outlawed ANC of South Africa for which he worked on intelligence and information tasks in its domestic underground and later from exile in Botswana and Zimbabwe. Since 1988, he has been politically independent.

FRI  
18:30  
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18:50

## Younes Belghazi

is a filmmaker and human rights activist who graduated with a degree in sound production. From Salé, Morocco, Younes is one of the founders of the February 20 movement and a cofounder of Guerrilla Cinema.

[younesbelghazi.wordpress.com](http://younesbelghazi.wordpress.com)

FRI  
15:25  
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15:45

## Olaf Bertram-Nothnagel

makes films and other things, and has worked in the guts of many civic causes. He holds an MFA in Integrated Media Arts from CUNY Hunter College, where he studied nonfiction media for social change.

SUN  
10:05  
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11:15

## Imani Jacqueline Brown (Quezergue)

is an artist, activist, and cultural producer. She is devoted to facilitating a renewed convergence, in writing and in practice, of art, life, and social activism. At Columbia University Imani explored the historical and contemporary use and abuse of art as a tool for both

authoritarian domination, as well as personal and societal emancipation. Occupy Wall Street was and continues to be a welcome breath of inspiration for a reimagined society, fermenting her sense of belonging within the trans-local activist community. She is a member of Occupy Museums and coorganized Occupy Sandy, a grassroots hurricane relief effort in New York.

FRI  
18:55  
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19:15

## Bani Brusadin

is a freelance producer and researcher in the troubled water where art, digital technologies, popular cultures, and politics clash. Together with Eva and Franco Mattes (0100101110101101) he founded *The Influencers*, a small cult festival about nonconventional forms of art and communication, whose 9th edition took place in Barcelona in 2013. He also teaches at the University of Barcelona, Elisava design school, and the ESDi master program in curatorship and new media art.

[theinfluencers.org](http://theinfluencers.org)

SUN  
10:05  
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11:15

## Antonio Calleja López

is a collaborator of the Datanalysis15M research group and will shortly take up a position of research assistant at the IN3 (Internet Interdisciplinary Institute) at the Open University of Catalunya. In the last three years he has collaborated in a number of 15M and Occupy projects. He earned a master's degree in political science (Arizona State University, USA) and is currently undertaking PhD work in sociology (University of Exeter, UK) and philosophy (University of Seville, Spain). He has taken part in projects ranging from sociological studies of laboratories and technoscientific practice to the analysis of movements such as 15M and Occupy, or activist experimentation with art and politics.

[datanalysis15m.wordpress.com](http://datanalysis15m.wordpress.com)

[winterholidaycamp.org](http://winterholidaycamp.org)

FRI  
14:35  
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14:55

## Robin Celikates

is associate professor of Political and Social Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam, where he is also the Vice Director of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis and a member of the Amsterdam Centre for Globalisation Studies. He is the author of *Kritik als soziale Praxis* (Campus, Frankfurt am Main, 2009) and the coauthor of *Einführung in die politische Philosophie* (Reclam, Stuttgart, 2013) as well as coeditor of the journals *Krisis* and *Polar*.

SUN  
10:05  
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11:15

## Nitasha Dhillon

(\*1985, Rangareddy, India) is an artist based in New York and New Delhi. She has an Honors BA in Mathematics from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, and attended the Whitney Independent Study Program in New York (2011–2012) and the School of International Center of Photography (2009–2010). Nitasha is a founder and editor of *Tidal: Occupy Theory, Occupy Strategy*, a strategic movement platform that weaves together the voices of on-the-ground organizers with those of long-standing theorists to explore the possibilities created by the rupture of the Occupy movement and its aftermath. Nitasha is also a cofounder of MTL with Amin Husain, a collective that combines research, aesthetics, and activism in its practice.

[tidalmag.org](http://tidalmag.org)

[mtlcollective.org](http://mtlcollective.org)

SUN  
10:05  
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11:15

## Hadeer Elmahdawy

is an Egyptian journalist and researcher. She graduated from the Political Science Department – Faculty of Economics and Political Science – at Cairo University in 2006. She started working as a journalist for a national magazine, then moved to various independent Egyptian newspapers, covering issues of healthcare, corruption, poverty, and political, social, and cultural aspects of the

Egyptian society. She now works as a freelance journalist for the Lebanese newspaper *As-Safir*. She also worked for almost two years as a research assistant in various Egyptian research centers and for almost three years in the Egyptian independent theater. Currently she is writing her master's thesis on *Political Culture and Protests: A Comparative Study of Egypt and Greece* (2008–2012) at the European Mediterranean Studies department at Cairo University.

SUN  
10:00  
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11:15

## Noah Fischer

is an artist and activist based in New York. His installations, videos, and drawings explore the official rhetoric and currencies that condition national identity. He asks: How can art practice aid the peoples' movements that struggle to change the narrative? Following the 2008 crash, Fischer shifted focus to the streets, collaborating with the Aaron Burr Society on a Wall Street performance series in summer 2011, and then merging his practice with the Occupy movement from September 17. Within the movement, Fischer has initiated Occupy Museums, planned actions at MoMA and Lincoln Center, and intervened in the 7th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art. Currently the artist is occupying museums internationally, making free sculpture, and modeling a post-capitalist art market.

[occupymuseums.org](http://occupymuseums.org)

[debtfair.org](http://debtfair.org)

SUN  
10:05  
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11:15

## Amin Husain

(\*1975) is a Palestinian-American lawyer, artist, and activist. He has a BA in Philosophy and Political Science, a JD from Indiana University Law School, Bloomington, and LLM in Law from Columbia University. He practiced at a law firm for five years before leaving law for art, studying at the School of the International Center of Photography (2009–2010) and at the Whitney Independent Study



Program (2011–2012). Amin is a founder and editor of *Tidal: Occupy Theory, Occupy Strategy*, a printed magazine and an on-line and in-person conversation that facilitates movement-generated theory, strategy, and action. Amin is also a part-time lecturer at The New School where he teaches a graduate course entitled Race, Class and Ethnicity in Media, and he is cofounder of MTL with Nitasha Dhillon, a collective that combines research, aesthetics, and activism in its practice.

[tidalmag.org](http://tidalmag.org)

[mtlcollective.org](http://mtlcollective.org)

SAT  
11:20  
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11:40

## **Birgitta Jónsdóttir**

is an Icelandic poetician currently serving as a member of the Icelandic Parliament for the Pirate Party; she is one of its founders. Birgitta is also the founder and chairperson of the International Modern Media Institute, better known as IMMI. She specializes in lawmaking for the twenty-first century. Birgitta has worked as a volunteer and activist for various organizations including WikiLeaks, Saving Iceland, and Friends of Tibet in Iceland. She carries on being an activist in Parliament, a poet, and a pirate. She organized Iceland's first online broadcast in 1996, was the first female Icelandic web developer, and has worked as a publisher in cyberspace for Beyond Borders since 1995.

[this.is/birgitta](http://this.is/birgitta)

SAT  
14:05  
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14:25

## **Olivier Krischer**

is an art historian and writer, and currently a post-doctoral fellow with the Australian Centre on China in the World at the Australian National University. His research concerns art and social engagement across East Asia, as well as modern and contemporary China–Japan relations through art. In 2013 he convened the symposium *Tilting the World: Modern and Contemporary Histories of Asian Art* (Art Gallery of New South Wales, University of Sydney),

and in 2011 curated *After Effect* at the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney. He has also been the managing editor of *ArtAsiaPacific* magazine in Hong Kong (2011–2012).

SUN  
11:30  
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12:45

## Napuli Paul Langa

is a human rights activist. She worked for the Sudanese Organization for Nonviolence and Development (SONAD), and is active in the Refugee Movement in Berlin, Germany.

[facesofberlin.org/illegal-in-berlin](http://facesofberlin.org/illegal-in-berlin)

FRI  
14:10  
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14:30

## Ugo Mattei

attended the Law School of the University of Turin, J.D. (1983); University of California Berkeley School of Law, LL.M., Fulbright Fellow (1989); and the London School of Economics Faculté Internationale de Droit Comparé, Strasbourg. He has been a visiting scholar at Yale Law School and the University of Cambridge, and a visiting professor at Oslo, Berkeley, Montpellier, and Macau. In 1997 he accepted a professorship at the University of Turin, Faculty of Law. As lawyer and an activist, Ugo Mattei recently masterminded the Italian campaign against the privatization of water, which was successfully completed in June 2011 with a national referendum in which over 27 million Italians voted to endorse his scheme to recognize water as a common good. His highly interdisciplinary work has been published widely in many languages. His most recent book, which is a manifesto for the commons, provides a theoretical basis for the current wave of resistance against neoliberalism in Italy, and has reached its eighth edition in just six months.

[iuctorino.it/content/ugo-mattei](http://iuctorino.it/content/ugo-mattei)

SAT  
10:30  
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10:50

## Thameur Mekki

is an independent Tunisian journalist. He observes and writes about the cultural scene in Tunisia for *Huffington Post Maghreb*, as well as for various European magazines and newspapers. Amongst other subjects, he writes about independent art and artists, alternative urban culture, and different forms of expression among emerging artists. He also produces and hosts music concerts and programs for TV and radio. Thameur Mekki is involved in many campaigns as a free speech advocate. He is a graduate of l'Institut de Presse et des Sciences de l'Information de Tunis (IPSI).

SUN  
11:30  
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12:45

## Daniel Mützel

is a writer and activist, and has been involved in various movements and solidarity networks such as Occupy, Autonome Universität Berlin (AUB), and the Refugee Movement. He is, together with Joulia Strauss, the editor of the Berlin edition of *Krytyka Polityczna*.

SUN  
11:30  
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12:45

## Lucas Oliveira

is a Brazilian activist of the Movimento Passe Livre [Free Fare Movement] since 2005. Previously, he was a volunteer with the Indymedia collective in Brazil, and became involved in anti-globalization movements; today he also writes for [passapalavra.info](http://passapalavra.info). He is a history teacher who graduated at the University of São Paulo and is currently doing a master's degree at the same institution.

[passapalavra.info](http://passapalavra.info)

FRI  
17:40  
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18:00

## Rita Raley

is a researcher and lecturer at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the author of *Tactical Media* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009), coeditor of the *Electronic Literature Collection, Volume 2* (2011), and has more recently published articles on interventionist media

arts practices, dataveillance, digital poetics, and global English. She has had fellowship appointments at the National Humanities Center; University of California Los Angeles (as part of the Mellon-funded project on the Digital Humanities); University of Bergen, Norway (Fulbright); and the Dutch Foundation for Literature in Amsterdam. She has taught at Rice University, the University of Minnesota, and New York University, and she currently coedits the “Critical Issues in Media Aesthetics” book series for Bloomsbury and the “Electronic Mediations” book series for the University of Minnesota Press.

[raley.english.ucsb.edu](http://raley.english.ucsb.edu)

FRI  
19:20  
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19:40

## Arash T. Riahi

is a director, producer, and dramatic advisor.

He was born in Iran in 1972 and has been living in Vienna since 1982. Arash studied Film and Arts and has since worked for the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF on a freelance basis. In 1997 he founded the film production company Golden Girls Filmproduktion, for which he has written, directed, and produced several award-winning documentaries, shorts, experimental films, music videos, and commercials. *The Souvenirs of Mr. X* was his first cinema documentary, followed by the multi-award-winning *Exile Family Movie* and *For a Moment Freedom*. In the meantime he has won more than 50 international awards and was the Austrian candidate for the Academy Awards 2010. Since 2009 he also works as a jury member for various international festivals as well as script advisor and coach for SOURCES 2, NiPKOw ProGrAMM, ORF and the Scottish Documentary Institute. He also teaches fictional and nonfictional storytelling and producing at Vienna University.

[goldengirls.at](http://goldengirls.at)

FRI  
19:20  
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19:40

## Arman T. Riahi

is a director and scriptwriter. He was born in Iran in 1981 and grew up in Vienna, Austria, where he made his first short films as a teenager. He studied media technology and worked as a screen and graphic designer in London and Vienna. In 2005 he began his TV work for the ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation). In the same year, his short film *Elektronischrott* won the national short film award “Shorts On Screen.” His first cinema documentary *Schwarzkopf* [Dark Head] (Golden Girls Filmproduktion, Thimfilm, 2011) won the Audience Choice Award at the Diagonale Festival of Austrian Film and the Special Jury Mention Award at the Beirut International Documentary Festival Docudays. The film opened the documentary competition of the 17th Sarajevo Film Festival in 2011. At present Arman is working on his first feature film script and his next cinema documentary, *Everyday Rebellion*, together with his brother Arash.

[everydayrebellion.com](http://everydayrebellion.com)

SAT  
16:10  
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16:30

## Jonas Staal

(\*1981) studied monumental art in Enschede, The Netherlands, and Boston, USA. He is currently working on his PhD dissertation entitled *Art and Propaganda in the 21st Century* at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. He is the founder of the artistic and political organization New World Summit (NWS), which contributes to building alternative political forums for organizations banned from democratic discourse, and of the New World Academy, which connects progressive political organizations to artists. His work includes interventions in public spaces, exhibitions, lectures, and publications, focusing on the relationship between art, politics, and ideology. Staal lives and works in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

[www.jonasstaal.nl](http://www.jonasstaal.nl)

SAT  
10:55  
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11:15

## Martina Steis

studied Slavistics, Eastern European History, and Eastern European Law in Cologne, Germany. Fascinated by the general way a state functions, she gained first-hand insights into a society in development during internships and private trips to Russia beginning with the Yeltsin era. Since March 2012 she has worked for the International support group of Pussy Riot, which meant standing up for the rights of the arrested members, and also spreading their ideas. Pussy Riot proved that a small group has the ability to influence the system; their analyses were so profound, that they do not only apply to Russia. This led Martina to get involved in the StopWatchingUs movement in Berlin since autumn 2013.

SUN  
11:30  
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12:45

## Joulia Strauss

(Autonome Universität, Berlin) is an artist and activist uniting science, technology, art, and politics. Joulia is involved in several movements in Berlin, Moscow, Athens, and Warsaw, but would prefer to discuss details during personal meetings. She is part of the *global aCtIVISm* team and, together with Daniel Mützel, editor of the Berlin edition of *Krytyka Polityczna*.

[autonomeuniversitaetberlin.wordpress.com](http://autonomeuniversitaetberlin.wordpress.com)

FRI  
15:50  
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16:10

## Jackie Sumell

looks back on a decade-long collaboration with Louisiana Prisoner Herman Wallace, which has become the subject of a full-length documentary nationally syndicated on PBS called *Herman's House*. Her work humanizes dialog around the overuse of solitary confinement and cruel and unusual punishment in American prisons. It directly addresses distinctions of the American psyche. Sumell's work at the intersection of art, social justice, and yoga continues to engage new audiences by

employing the power of imagination. Her work has been included in numerous international exhibitions and has received widespread critical acclaim including the 2013 Soros Justice fellowship.

[hermanshouse.org](http://hermanshouse.org)

SAT  
10:05  
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10:25

## Zixue Tai

is currently an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Telecommunications at the University of Kentucky. His primary area of research pertains to the various aspects of the sociopolitical ramifications of Internet-based new media in China. He is the author of *The Internet in China: Cyberspace and Civil Society* (Routledge, New York, 2006 (hardcover); 2012 (paperback)), a pioneer scholarly work examining the social impact of the Internet in China. He has also published extensively in premier journal outlets in the fields of communication, new media, and journalism studies. Additionally, he has contributed numerous chapters to edited volumes focusing on the interplay of new media and Chinese society. He is currently completing two book-length projects, one focusing on online video games in China and the other concerning social media use and impact in China.

SAT  
15:20  
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15:40

## Tatiana Volkova

has held curatorial positions at the Tsaritsino Museum, State Tretyakov Gallery, Reflex Gallery, the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, and the ZHIR project, Moscow. Since 2009 she has specialized in the research and development of Russian activist art. Tatiana curated a series of exhibitions of young Russian activist artists at the ZHIR project, Moscow (Winzavod Art Centre, 2009–2010) as well as the *Silence=Death* exhibition (Artplay Centre, 2012, Moscow). Since 2011 Tatiana has been an initiator and moderator of the MediaImpact Festival of Activist Art, that was held in

Novosibirsk, Murmansk, and Moscow (twice). She has written for exhibition catalogs, books, and the Web and given a course of lectures on Russian activist art.

SUN  
11:30

## Alexandr Wolodarskij

12:45

(\*1987, Luhansk, Ukraine) moved with his family to Germany in 2002 (Weiden, later Nuremberg), where he graduated from high school. From 2008 he studied at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. In 2009 he was arrested after organizing an art-activist action in Kiev, in 2010 he was taken to court, and in 2011 was committed to a penal colony for a year, but was released after five months. In 2012 he returned to his studies in Germany. From 2010 to 2012 he was a member of the Ukrainian student syndicate Direct Action, from 2011 to the present he has been a member of the anarcho-syndicalist Autonomous Union of Workers. Since 2010 he is a member of the artist, curatorial, and art-activist association Hudrada [art council].

SAT  
14:30  
—  
14:50

## Veronika Zangl

is assistant professor at the Department of Theatre Studies, University of Amsterdam. Her research interests encompass theater, poetics, and memory studies, specifically Holocaust studies. She has taught literature, theater, and cultural studies at the Universities of Vienna and St. Pölten and is a member of the COST European Research Network on Memory Studies. Her publications include *Poetik nach dem Holocaust. Erinnerungen – Tatsachen – Geschichten* (Fink, Paderborn, München, 2009), and *Körperkonstruktionen und Geschlechtermetaphern*, coauthored with Marlen Bidwell-Steiner (Studien-Verlag, Innsbruck, Wien, Bozen, 2009).



FRI  
15:00  
—  
15:20

## Bo Zheng

grew up in Beijing. He has been making and writing about socially engaged art since 2003. He has worked with a wide range of communities, including the Queer Cultural Center in Beijing and Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong. His most recent project, *Plants Living* in Shanghai, combines a physical site with an open online course to explore historical, political, and cultural connections between plants and the city. His essays on Chinese socially engaged art have been published in journals and books. In *From Gongren to Gongmin*, he argues that Ai Weiwei's project *Sunflower Seeds* at Tate Modern segregated object production (in China) and meaning production (in Western media), whereas Ai's sound project *Nian* created a genuine public through collective production. He teaches at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong, and is affiliated with the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou. He received his PhD in Visual and Cultural Studies from the University of Rochester.

SAT  
15:45  
—  
16:05

## Ragip Zik

was born in 1981 to a family with immigrant roots. He holds a master's degree in Cultural Studies. His interest in culture and languages led him to work for civil society organizations in Turkey, Italy, and Greece. He has experience in managing projects in various fields such as human rights, youth empowerment, migration, culture and arts, and conflict transformation. Ragip currently lives in Istanbul and occasionally travels for his work across Europe, North Africa, and the Caucasus.

SUN  
11:30  
—  
12:45

## Artur Żmijewski

was born in Warsaw in 1966. He studied at the local Academy of Fine Arts, Faculty of Sculpture, from 1990 to 1995, where he obtained his diploma from the studio of Professor Grzegorz Kowalski. He creates installations,

photographic objects, photographs, video realizations, and films. At the *Guarene Arte 2000* exhibition he received the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Per L'Arte Prize for his work *An Eye for an Eye*. In 2005 his *Repetition* was shown in the Polish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, and two years later his film *Them* was shown at the Documenta 12 in Kassel. From 2007 to 2008 he was a DAAD Artist in Residence in Berlin where he prepared his project *Democracies*. Źmijewski was an editor of *Czereja* magazine and also works as an art critic and curator. In 2010 he received the Ordway Prize, administered by the New Museum in New York and Creative Link for the Arts. He was curator of the 7th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art.

SAT  
21:00  
-  
23:00

## Film Screening **ART WAR** and Artist Talk

Film Still ART WAR, © Marco Wilms, Heldenfilm



On the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution

January 25, 21:00 h, ZKM\_Cube

Artist Talk with Marco Wilms, Ammar Abo Bakr, and Ganzeer

*ART WAR* (Germany 2013, 90 min), a feature-length documentary by Marco Wilms, is about art and war, graffiti and the recapturing of the streets after Mubarak's dictatorship. Art is the weapon of this movie's protagonists: their large-format graffiti and paintings tell about suppression and upheaval. Director Marco Wilms has accompanied the actors of the Egyptian art scene with life-threatening commitment. His film tells about the explosion of their creativity after the Arab Spring 2011 until the fall of President Mursi and the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013. Electropunk and

Rap provide the soundtrack for the lifestyle of the Egyptian youth of the revolution.

The ZKM is honored to present the documentary in the presence of producer and director Marco Wilms and the Egyptian artists Ammar Abo Bakr and Ganzeer. Street artist and Egyptologist Ammar Abo Bakr became famous with his martyr paintings on the wall of Mohamed Mahmoud Street. Artist, illustrator, and graphic designer Mohamad Fahmy (Ganzeer) is known especially for his painting of a tank that approaches a bicycle at Zamalek.



Teatro Valle, Rome, © Tiziana Tomasulo

## 1) How and why it was born

Empty theaters, official festivals with official people without much idea, everything the same all the time.

Public funds poorly distributed, removal of useless institutions, Monday strikes. Workers of the spectacle without wages and without unemployment pay. Well-paid bureaucrats, artists without a penny. Politics of the great event, theater of misery.

June 14th, 2011: we occupied a theater built in 1727, to make a true cultural revolution. We are in continual transformation.

To occupy something is a collective political practice, a gesture of reappropriation which institutes a public space of words. We continue

to occupy Teatro Valle so that the gesture will transform into a constituting process: to activate a different way of making politics without delegation, to construct a different way of working, creating, producing, to affirm a different idea of justice beyond legitimacy, to develop a new economy far away from the profit of the few.

An open space, a project to share with companies, artists, operators from Italy and Europe to try out participative planning and a different organization of work, based on cooperation. A place of formation and self-formation, where the access to knowledge and to quality will be guaranteed.

A dimension in which needs will be shared and transformed into common action.

## 2) On foundation

An occupation transforming itself into an open foundation is a leap into the void, a clear folly, a political and cultural wager.

The foundation is a constituent way to construct a new institution of the commons that will un hinge the mechanism of interference of parties and become the inspiring principle of new cultural politics thought upwards from below. By those who love culture and produce it. A space not public nor private, which is governed by the community of artists and citizens, caring and taking a risk to decide which direction should be given to Teatro Valle. One vote per capita in the assembly, beyond personal economic possibilities, according to the principle of the unalienable equality of people. With the collaboration of Stefano Rodotà, Ugo Mattei, and other lawyers following a road of participation, a new advanced legal form is being born, trying to function as a reproducible role model for schools, universities, hospitals et cetera...

## 3) Conclusion

Teatro Valle is a crossroad of persons. Point of no return for the many that have been tempted and attracted. Infectious, for those that watch from afar.

We are traveling because a different idea of Europe is possible, and the beauty we are searching for speaks of connecting to activists, institutions, artists, and persons who everywhere organize resistance and self-government, persons who do not conform but create different modalities of production, persons who cry out loud for new rights, such as an unconditional basic income, and who fight for the common good.

## Program

The 23rd of January will be entirely devoted to traveling. During the journey, which will be filmed, we will finish the script of the actions to happen in the next days together with Freddy Paul Grunert, the curator-conductor of our show, and Ugo Mattei who will come on board at Milan.

On the 24th we want to project uncut images of the journey (pathfinder method) on a screen (we still have to find out where to put it). Some of us will hold interviews in the city focusing on issues that are dear to us, and Giuliana will give a sort of performance in the rooms of the exhibition that will feature the Italian scandal of the SIAE. Italy is the only European country which has a monopolistic agency of copyright.

On the 25th we would like to project (onto the same screen used the day before) the performance about SIAE together with the interviews held on the 24th. In the early afternoon there will be a streamed performance with Teatro Valle (Emiliano is trying to put together a script for this) in which Rabbia (rage, anger) searches for new forms of writing over distances. Then, during the symposium, an intervention will follow, a sort of “detournement,” that expresses the sense of activism based more on action than on words. We have thought about starting from the incredible developments

manifesting themselves at the moment in Hamburg, but naturally this has to be coordinated and agreed upon by all of us.

On the 26th we want to screen the streamed performance made with Teatro Valle, and the detournement-action staged during the symposium. In this way we are seeking to create inside the museum a feeling of irritation and misplacement but also of inclusion; to understand together with the audience why activism is the first form of art of the third millennium.



Teatro Valle, Rome, © Tiziana Tomasulo

**bellezza:** beauty  
**desiderio:** desire  
**contagio:** contamination, epidemic  
**scossa:** toss, jolt, tremor  
**rete:** net  
**interazione:** interplay, interaction  
**rischio:** endangerment, chance, jeopardy

**senza paura:** intrepid, determined, doughty  
**branco:** crowd, pack  
**viaggio:** trip, travel, hit the road, run  
**cura:** concernment, care  
**insieme:** common  
**vento:** wind, gale

**PARTITIONS  
DESKS**





# global activism

## Symposium

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