

Fri, August 14 – Sun, October 18, 2015

Without Firm Ground – Vilém Flusser & the Arts

ZKM_Atrium 1 + 2, 2nd storey

Into the universe of technical images, praise for superficiality or For a philosophy of photography - With such programmatic titles, Vilém Flusser (1920–1991) has advanced to become one of the most influential thinkers of communication and media in the last decades of the 20th century. In the positive sense of the word, he took on the challenge of rethinking the arts in view of the fact that our existence had become significantly technical.

In the manner of a circuit, the *Without Firm Ground – Vilém Flusser and the Arts* exhibition invites you to imagine the movement of the volatile existence of Vilém Flusser as a model for that force of interconnectivity that we refer to of the 20th century.

Flusser's thoughts and writing were a permanent experiment of living (and surviving) in the diaspora. As a nineteen year old, the Prague-born citizen fled from the advancing Nazis through England to Brazil, where he lived for thirty years. During the military dictatorship, he returned to Europe, lived in Italy, in Switzerland as well as almost twenty years in France. At the end of the 1980s, he became the star of media theory in Europe and frequently appeared as such in the academic fora and arenas of Germany.

Flusser counteracted the surreal past with an intensified anticipation of what the start of the 21st century would represent – by means of the arts and his writing. In the exhibition, in addition to the manuscripts, image and audio files, digital artefacts, travel logs and correspondence, work from around 30 artists is also presented, to whom Flusser makes reference and who corresponded or worked together with him, such as Louis Bec and Fred Forest. These two companions of Flusser will also be present at the talks on Friday 14th August.

FLUSSERIANA is being published to accompany the exhibition – an intellectual toolbox, edited by Siegfried Zielinski and Peter Weibel with Daniel Ir-rgang (Minnesota: Univocal 2015).

Press release

July 2015

Without Firm Ground Vilém Flusser & the Arts

Place
ZKM | Center for Art and
Media Karlsruhe

Date
Fri 14.08. – Sun 18.10.2015

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76135 Karlsruhe

Social programme

Friday 14th August 2015, from 14.00

Flusser Talks

ZKM_Cube, Entry on Friday

Podium discussions will be taking place as part of the *Without Firm Ground – Flusser and the arts* exhibition. At the centre of the first talk, *Bottomless – Without Firm Ground* is Flusser's philosophy of thinking in motion, in the diaspora, of nomadology and indiscipline. Categories such as post-history, the new design of the subject as the project and the telematic dialogue as a community of kindred spirits will be subjected to a critical examination. The second talk, *Flusser and the Artists* is dedicated to art as a possibility space, as the only home, which Flusser has accepted along with text.

PROGRAM

Friday 14th August 2015

14.00

Bottomless – Without Firm Ground

Discussion forum with Steffi Winkler, Rainer Guldin,
Nils Röller, Florian Rötzer and Andreas Ströhl
Language: German

16.30

Flusser and the Artists

Discussion forum with Baruch Gottlieb, Marcel
René Marburger, Louis Bec, Fred Forest, Pinar
Yoldas
Language: English

Saturday 15th August 2015

11.00

Tour with curator Baruch Gottlieb

in conversation with Flusser expert
Marcel René Marburger
Language: English and German
Cost: Museum entry

From 19th November 2015 to 10th January 2016, the nomadic exhibition will be on display in the Academy of the Arts in Berlin.

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