



Press Release

Shedhalle Publication “Work to do! Self-organization in precarious working conditions”

Book launch: Wednesday, 29. July 2009, 20.00 Corner
College/Perla-Mode, Langstrasse 84/Brauerstrasse 37,
8004 Zurich. Drinks and Snacks 20.00. Bring your Friends!

“Work to do!

Self-organization in precarious working conditions”

Edited by Sönke Gau and Katharina Schlieben for the association Shedhalle by the Publishing House for Modern Art Nurnberg

A view behind the scenes: The publication “Work to do!” deals with the dynamics and emancipatory moments as well as the paradoxes and problems of self-organization. Starting point of the research and artistic projects is the occupation with the change of working conditions and their organizational structures as well as the context Zurich itself. With the artists bankleer, Saskia Holmkvist, Andrea Knobloch, Folke Köbberling/Martin Kaltwasser, Andreja Kulunčić, RELAX (chiarenza & hauser & co) und Mirjam Wirz projects were developed that ought to permit sustainability and a discussion in public spheres. Despite a concrete reference to the situation in Switzerland, the projects go beyond and are concerned with developments and courses of action, which are relevant also in other places. Results and sketches to the projects are summarized in this publication: Visual material as well as reflections presents the projects, their developments and conceptual approaches, as well as the production conditions. Hence the publication would like to provide a view behind the scenes of art production and at the same time contribute to the discussion about artistic practice. Texts by theoreticians, activists and curators furthermore comment on the question of working conditions and self-organization as well as the levels of research and production processes.

In the publication at hand — “Work to do! Self-organization in precarious working conditions” — the process and production oriented project and exhibition series of the same title (2007 – 2008 at the Shedhalle) are made visible in the form of a script.

Results, intermediate steps and sketches of the projects have been summarized in the publication. Extensive pictorial material as well as reflections reveal the projects’ conceptual approaches and advancements, conversions as well as the production conditions of art in „public space” transparency. The publication directs the view from the work also on the immaterial production forms and throws a view behind the scenes of art production.



The publication “Work to do!” makes project dynamics, production conditions and working methods clear to cultural workers and visitors of the Shedhalle, which are otherwise not communicated at first view.

An art institution like the Shedhalle works presentationally oriented on the one hand, during the opening of an exhibition or while inviting to a film night, and on the other hand production and research oriented, comparable with a research institute, a studio or a workshop. The publication would like to invite to

discuss formats of art in „public space“ locally and transnational and try to make a contribution to the research of artistic practice.

If it is our concern to effectively modify production conditions of art practices, which intervene into the “public space”, respectively actually manufacture publics, at first an evaluation of the production conditions and production dynamics of the art projects themselves must take place in to our opinion. We would like to try this on the basis the projects of “Work to do!” in the context Zurich.

Archive: comprehensive information to works/artists/authors of the exhibition and project series 2007 to 2008 at the Shedhalle see:

http://www.shedhalle.ch/eng/archiv/2008/programm/thematische_reihe/konzept/index.shtml

Initial position for the research for the project series “Work to do!” were meetings with self-organized initiatives from Zurich (part 1) and the dialogical discussion series with protagonists from feministic theory and practice on working conditions (part 2). These formats of dialogue that took place in different locations in Zurich were designed as „public investigation“. Based on these meetings and expanded research contexts, participants were invited to propose discussion partners for part 3 and to start a transnational dialogue via skype. These conversations were recorded and could be heard and viewed at the exhibition.

Three film programs, two assembled by Madeleine Bernstorff and one by Frederikke Hansen, comprised further components next to the artistic projects and the “public investigation”. The film programs are also documented in the publication. In addition texts by theoreticians, activists and curators comment the question of working conditions and self-organization as well as levels of processes in research and production.

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“Work to do!

Self-organization in precarious working conditions”

Edited by Sönke Gau and Katharina Schlieben for the association Shedhalle

Design by Urs Lehni and Lex Trüb

240 pages, thread-stitching, softcover, with many color and black-and-white illustrations, format: 210 x 297 mm, paper Lessebo Natural 1.3, language: German/English

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With the artists: bankleer, Saskia Holmkvist, Andrea Knobloch, Folke Köbberling/Martin Kaltwasser, Andreja Kulunčić, RELAX (chiarenza & hauser & co) and Mirjam Wirz

With contributions by: bankleer, Madeleine Bernstorff, Jo Bucher, Robert Burghardt, CCC Critical Curatorial Cybermedia Study Programme, Geneva University of Art and Design (Valérie Anex, Kasia Boron, Giulia Cilla, Cecilia Cardoso Rodriguez, Gaël Lugaz, Urduja Manaoag, Eva May, Laura von Niederhäusern, Danaè Panchaud, Jean-Marie Reynier, Maria Sanchez Garcia), Benjamin Cölle, Nikita Dhawan, Verena Doerfler, Maria do Mar Castro Varela, Sönke Gau, Alex Gerbaulet, Lydia Hamann, Frederikke Hansen, Emma Hedditch, Frauke Hehl, Tobias Hering, Saskia Holmkvist, Catherine Hoskyns, Millay Hyatt, Israeli Center for Digital Art, Martin Kaltwasser, Folke Köbberling, Andrea Knobloch, Birge Krondorfer, Andreja Kulunčić, Urs Lehni, Nicole Niedermüller, Johannes Raether, RELAX (chiarenza & hauser & co), Yvonne Riano, Corina Rombach, Sven Sappelt, Sylvia Schedelbauer, Katharina Schlieben, Bärbel Schönafinger, Basak Senova, Iris Ströbel, Copenhagen Free University, Lex Trüb, Ian White, Mirjam Wirz/Flash Institut, Christine Woditschka, Tim Zulauf

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Downloads Media (Images/Texts/Captions):

http://www.shedhalle.ch/eng/programm/thematische_reihe/book-launch/index.shtml