

Vienna, May 8, 2018

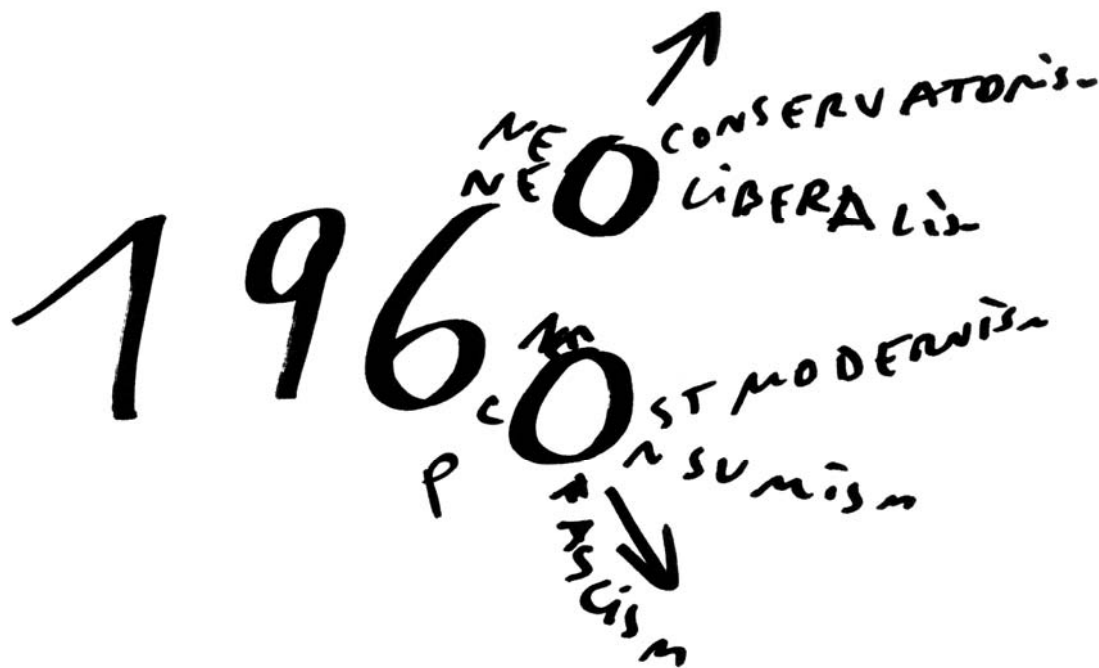


Illustration © Dan Perjovschi, 2018

## JOINT VENTURES

A public program on the relevance of 1968 in the present day

1968 brings to mind social change, insurrection, and liberation, an eventful period of worldwide protests, dismantling authoritarian structures, and creating alternative social models. The public program *Joint Ventures*, takes place over six weekends between May and December and will examine how things stand today with regard to the sociopolitical achievements and demands of the movements of 1968.

*"Thinking together, acting together, imagining another world together - that is the Spirit of '68, that is the motto under which we developed this year's program at Belvedere 21. For the public program, the museum will become an open space for many voices to have a multifaceted discussion of our current time in light of the historical panorama of "1968," according to Stella Rollig.*

The fight for emancipation and equality, civil rights and participation, democratization and opening-up of institutions has certainly achieved lasting change. The world of today is a different world, but some hopes and expectations have remained unfulfilled and are still a matter for dispute in society. The movements were immediately followed by (self-)critical examination of the events and their scientific

review in contemporary history and cultural studies. At the same time, some of the central ideals were co-opted by neoliberalism while neoconservatives made the revolutionary movement of '68 into their bugbear. They seek "to liquidate the spirit of '68" and turn back the clock on that epoch-shattering period.

With this in mind we ask, without cynicism or naivety: Where has the spirit of social change gone? What does the public sphere mean today? How can utopian thinking be reinvented? Is the social model of a pluralistic and representative democracy still to be saved? What can we learn from emancipation movements in feminism on a local and transnational level?

*"We go beyond a backward-looking interpretive argument about what 1968 actually was to deal with burning questions of the present time, which is marked by a crisis of democracy, the strengthening of authoritarian forces and the questioning of emancipatory achievements,"* explains Luisa Ziaja, curator of the public program. *"The title Joint Ventures has a thoroughly programmatic meaning: We want to create an atmosphere of hospitality and communality in which active participants, experts, museum visitors, passersby, and people who are interested or highly engaged can meet each other to reflect on what it means today to take a shared risk."*

The public program includes film presentations, readings, performances, lectures, planned and open discussion forums, workshops and conferences. The events, most of which will last several days, each focus on one issue with program elements that vary in content and form. The interaction of these elements creates a specific way of experiencing content and communality that will determine the essential character of the "joint ventures." The public program is free of charge for participants at all events.

The venues for this program will be the Blickle cinema and an area of the Belvedere 21 foyer. Artists Căcilia Brown, Noële Ody and Maruša Sagadin are creating objects that are at once sculptural and functional to give form to the different situations of coming together. Romanian artist Dan Perjovschi is responsible for the visual appearance of the series. His drawings capture the conditions of the world we live in and provide pointed, humorous commentary, often with biting irony.

The public program was conceived by Luisa Ziaja (curator for contemporary art); the film program was determined in cooperation with Claudia Slanar (curator of the Blickle cinema and video archive).

## **PROGRAM:**

### **1968/2018 – Where has all the Spirit gone?**

May 25 to 27 and May 30, 2018

Chris Marker's epic essay film *Le Fond de l'air est rouge* (A Grin without a Cat, F 1977/1993) kicks off the series. This major work of European cinema about the rise and fall of the political left from 1966 to 1977 is a reminder of the global dimension of the long 1968. After the failure of the emancipation movements, Marker traced their remnants, a "red breeze," in a way that is visually impressive, poetic, and solidary, but also ironic. The program takes up these threads and gathers local and transnational

perspectives of contemporary witnesses and later generations in lectures, dialogs and round tables. Entitled *1968/2018 – Where has all the Spirit gone?*, this event examines where the spirit of social change can still be found and in what forms it could be actualized. Portuguese artist Filipa César provides one answer with her film *Spell Reel* (D/P 2017), which conceptualizes work on the history of the liberation struggle in Guinea-Bissau as a transformative practice in the present day.

With Filipa César (artist, filmmaker, Berlin), Maja & Reuben Fowkes (curators, Translocal Institute for Contemporary Art, London/Budapest), Kerstin von Gabain (artist, Vienna), Sibylle Hamann (journalist, author, Vienna), Alexander Horwath (publicist, film critic, Vienna), Farah Kassem (filmmaker, Brussels/Beirut), Jens Kastner (art historian, sociologist, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna), Wolfgang Kos (historian, author, curator, Vienna), Maria Mesner (historian, deputy head of the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Vienna; head of the Kreisky archive), Robert Misik (journalist, author, Vienna), Rafal Morusiewicz (artist, Vienna), Vrääh Öhner (historian, Ludwig Boltzmann-Institut für Geschichte und Gesellschaft, Vienna), Stella Rollig (Belvedere Vienna), Claudia Slanar (Belvedere Vienna), Marlene Streeruwitz (author, director, Vienna/London/New York), Luisa Ziaja (Belvedere Vienna)

#### **After Audience**

A conference in the context of the eipcp-project Midstream

June 9, 2018

Around 1968 and afterwards, art was understood as an essential part of life in which everyone could take part. Later, audience participation became a principle and self-actualization became a duty. The neoliberal efforts to "tap into" ever more audiences made audience development a major topic in cultural politics. Following the conference *Publicum* in Lüneburg in 2005, which offered a reading of reception issues through the lens of public-sphere theory, the eipcp (European Institute for Progressive Cultural Policies) is again setting out to examine the practice and concept of the audience. What has become of this figure in times of the imperative of participation? How can we connect to the narratives and practices around 1968, which were, if nothing else, feminist, anticolonial, and anticapitalist practices?

With Manuel Borja-Villel (Museo Reina Sofia Madrid), Christoph Brunner (University of Lüneburg), Boris Buden (eipcp permanent fellow), Lucie Kolb (FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel), Solvita Krese (Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art Riga), Brigitta Kuster (Humboldt University, Berlin), Isabell Lorey (University of Kassel), Kelly Mulvaney (University of Chicago), Stefan Nowotny (Goldsmiths, University of London), Gerald Raunig (Zurich University of the Arts), Stella Rollig (Belvedere Vienna), Ruth Sonderegger (Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna)

Moderation: Monika Mokre (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Luisa Ziaja (Belvedere Vienna)

#### **"Theory like Swimming in the Storm"**

A film workshop with Alexander Kluge and guests on the topic "the poetic power of theory."

July 6 and 7, 2018

Based on his multimedia exhibition *Pluriversum. The Poetic Power of Theory* (June 6, 2018 – September 30, 2018), Alexander Kluge will organize a film and discussion workshop with his guests at Belvedere 21. The previous evening, on July 6, Alexander Kluge will show a special program with texts, films and

music entitled "Knowing the emergency exits is the finest theater of the world," as a preparation for the workshop on July 7. The film workshop will offer a dynamic combination of theory, poetics, and practice.

Aside from Alexander Kluge, other participants will be: Rainer Bellenbaum (media critic, film and art critic, Berlin/Vienna), Christian Schulte (cultural critic, Alexander Kluge research center, University of Vienna), Sir Henry (musician, composer, actor, Berlin), Ann Cotten (writer, translator, Berlin/Vienna), Friederike Mayröcker (writer, Vienna), Bernhard Lang (musician, composer, Vienna), Eva Jantschitsch (composer, singer), Alexander Horwath (publisher, film critic, Vienna), Michael Loebenstein (author, curator, director, Austrian Film Museum, Vienna), Brigadier Dr. Wolfgang Peischel (Editor in chief, ÖMZ Österreichische Militärische Zeitschrift, Vienna), and other surprise guests. Sarah Morris (artist, filmmaker, New York) will be present either in person or via video call.

### **Reinventing Utopian Thinking**

September 19 and 21 to September 23, 2018

What united the 68 movement across different countries and continents was the idea that a better, more just and equal world was possible and should be demanded. What is the state of the utopian ideal today, after the failure of the great 20th-century utopias? And does this failure mean the total loss of utopian thinking? The economist and social reformer Otto Neurath wrote that we only fully recognize the real if we survey the possible. Pushing back against talk of a "post-utopian age," the program Reinventing Utopian Thinking aims to consider, in the spirit of Neurath, the horizons of the present in the form of alternative social and political concepts.

With Barbara Blaha (author, head of Politikongress Momentum, Vienna), Carola Dertnig (artist, Vienna), Ben Gyula Fodor (artist, Vienna), Dorothee Frank (journalist Ö1, Vienna), Ulrike Guérot (political scientist, European Democracy Lab, Berlin and Danube University Krems), Heidrun Holzfeind (artist, Vienna), Oliver Marchart (political theorist, author, University of Vienna), Karl Markovics (actor, Vienna), Sillyconductor (sound artist, Bucharest), and many more.

### **Reclaiming Democracy**

October 17 and 19 to October 21, 2018

It will be much more interesting to see who the revolutionaries of 2018 will be than to indulge in nostalgia for the generation of 1968, according to social psychologist Harald Welzer in an article published in early 2018. At the same time, he warns us not to leave the future of democracy in the hands of the new Right. Pluralist representative democracy is under pressure, if not in its worst crisis in decades. A liberal social order, a social safety net, and minority rights are being called into question by forces of right-wing populism. Which approaches and strategies of reconquest can be developed in different fields of cultural practice?

With Bassam El Baroni (curator, author, Alexandria/Helsinki), Isolde Charim (philosopher, Vienna, tbc), Gabu Heindl (architect, Vienna), Srećko Horvat (philosopher, DiEM 25, Zagreb, requested), Dominik Kamalzadeh (film critic, publicist, Vienna), Doreen Mende (curator, theorist, Berlin), Robert Misik (journalist, author, Vienna), Nora Sternfeld (documenta professor, Kunsthochschule Kassel), Harald Welzer (sociologist, futurzwei. Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit, Berlin, tbc), and many more.

**Movements in Feminism / Feminisms in Movement: Urgencies, Emergencies, Promises**

November 28 and 30 to December 2, 2018

In cooperation with Elke Krasny (Fachbereich Kunst und Bildung, Institut für das künstlerische Lehramt / Academy of Fine Arts) as well as Dorothee Richter and Lara Perry (Feminist Curators United)

Against the backdrop of the rise of the global Right and its misogynist and antifeminist populist gender politics, a new women's movement is forming. Marches, demonstrations, and strikes show how feminist consciousness is being revitalized, offering a sign of hope and desire for change. These should be strengthened and emancipatory movements in feminism, both local and transnational, current and in historical dis/continuities, should be considered. The symposium focuses on exchange and cooperation between actors with migratory and non-migratory positions and reminds us that decolonization, diaspora, migration and feminism in Europe since the 1960s have had a complex history characterized by conflicts.

With Athena Athanasiou (University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, tbc), Noit Banai (art historian, University of Vienna), Elke Krasny (Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna), Lara Perry (University of Brighton), Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez (curator, author, Paris), Dorothee Richter (Zurich University of the Arts), Stella Rollig (Belvedere Vienna), Ashley Hans Scheirl (artist, Vienna), Françoise Vergès (political scientist, author, Collège d'études mondiales, Paris), Luisa Ziaja (Belvedere Vienna), and many more.

**#JointVentures21**

Location: Belvedere 21, Blickle Kino and Foyer, Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna

Free entry to all events!

Registration and up-to-date information at [www.belvedere21.at](http://www.belvedere21.at)

**The press release and high-resolution press photos can be downloaded at the following link:  
[belvedere21.at/presse21](http://belvedere21.at/presse21)**

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