

“Our House in the Middle of the Street”

Kunsthuis SYB at the Kunstvlaai

From 23 November to 2 December 2012, Kunsthuis SYB creates a space for collective and personal self-education at the Kunstvlaai with a series of lectures, presentations and exercises revolving around the six themes of the book “Our House in the Middle of the Street” (edited by Maja Bekan and Irene Kromhout and published on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Kunsthuis SYB).

Issues such as hospitality, relationships between private and public dimensions, social politics, openness and collectivity are the central themes shaping the activities and atmosphere at SYB’s booth during the ten days of the Kunstvlaai.

Graphic designer Sandra Kassenaar and artist Niels Vis have translated the topics of the book and the intimate and domestic space of SYB into an open structure: a spatial installation that will provide a platform for discussions, lectures, performances and workshops on our understanding of residencies and what SYB means for us and the artists we have hosted.

We invite you all to join us at SYB’s booth for one or more of our events!

Calendar of Activities, with description of the programme:

1) Saturday 24 November, Time: 2 - 4pm

Public talk on concepts of ‘openness’ and ‘collectivity’, with Aymeric Mansoux and Frans Willem Korsten, accompanied by the band ZIMIHC.

Aymeric Mansoux will discuss the complexity of concepts such as openness and free culture and their potential to build an alternative in "a society where information, code and law are forming an increasingly powerful trinity". Following Mansoux, Frans Willem Korsten will present his ideas on "the minimal conditions" for collectivity together with ZIMIHC, the Utrecht based band, performing since 1983, and from which he is a member.

Everybody is welcome to join.

2) Wednesday 28 November, Time: 4 - 7pm

"Toothpick Geometries" – A collective performance/exercise by Italo Zuffi.

Is it possible to explore a different approach to art experience through collective exercises? At Kunstvlaai, artist Italo Zuffi invites the visitors to build up geometric shapes by taking part in his performance "Toothpick Geometries".

The performance has a visual aim – to generate basic forms (a line, a triangle, a pentagon...) within the space of Kunstvlaai, and thus suggesting the option for a “sparse”, rather than oversophisticated, approach to art. But its scope involves also a physical level, which is to create conditions for nearness and intimacy. In fact, following a vocal command, participants – including people from the public – are asked to gather in small groups and to assemble geometrical forms by bringing together the points of toothpicks ‘hoisted’ on their

lips. Simultaneously, the details of the geometry are filmed and projected onto a screen in real time.

Moving back and forth between the filmed images and what takes place in the booth, the performance leads a continuous oscillation between almost-abstract forms and the material effort of the bodies. A part of "Flickering", a series of works addressing the concepts of uncertainty and vibration, Zuffi's "Toothpick Geometries" reflects upon the double nature of every collaborative process, which is extremely powerful but at the same time fragile and demanding.

To participate in the performance please sign up at: valeriodelbaglivo@gmail.com

Italo Zuffi's "Toothpick Geometries" is part of "PAY ATTENTION please", a project co-curated by Valerio Del Baglivo and Angela Serino, promoted by Kunsthuis SYB, FARE and the City of Milan. The curators will present the project in an informal conversation at 6.30pm in SYB's booth, following the artist's performance.

3) Thursday 29 November, Time: 3 - 7pm

"Seen and Unseen" – Writing workshop with Renske Janssen.

For a number of years, Kunsthuis SYB has organised a programme for reviewers, whereby young writers are offered the opportunity to write a review on a regular basis, which is then published on SYB's newsletter and website. For Kunstvlaai, SYB has invited critic, curator and writer, Renske Janssen, to give a workshop on art writing.

"A review is often read afterwards, while the exhibition is already almost or completely over. As such, the reader often reads about something they have not yet seen. How do you communicate your subjective experience as a writer to the reader? How do you communicate this exhibition and the individual practice of the contemporary artist? Or, more generally, how do you make the world of contemporary art insightful? Is art what it is, or is there a bigger story?" (RJ).

During the workshop, the dos and don'ts of an art review will be discussed and new reviews will be written.

Participation in the workshop is free. There are still places for five persons (between the ages of 20 to 30 years). If you would like to participate, please send a short biography of yourself and a recent article to info@kunsthuisyb.nl (no later than 22 November).

4) Saturday 1 December, Time: 2 - 6pm

Public talks on Residency Models and Experiences

Time: 2 - 3pm

"Living and Working Together" – Public talk featuring art historian Brian Dudley Barrett, plus art theorists and curators Lisa Mazza and Laura Windhager.

Towards the end of the 19th century, village art colonies were extremely popular across

Europe. They were not rustic retreats for dreamers, but – as Brian Dudley Barrett describes – highly-motivated international forums for experiment and debate. Taking inspiration from his recent book ("Artists on the Edge: The Rise of Coastal Artists' Colonies, 1880-1920", 2010), Barrett will talk about the ideological and practical reasons that led to the development of these rural communities.

Lisa Mazza and Laura Windhager have recently graduated at the Visual Cultures Department of Goldsmiths University London with their dissertation "How to Live Together? How to Work Together? On Residencies as Sites of Community and Production". Here at the Kunstvlaai, they will concentrate on questions of production and representation within contemporary residency programmes, as well as the reciprocity between infrastructure and artistic production in those given spaces.

3.30pm break

Time: 4 - 6pm

"Nesting Togetherness" – Public talk with artists Noa Giniger and Lea Porsager, curator Yael Messer and philosopher Marco Pasi.

Noa Giniger: "Ecstatic + Streaming", book and project presentation.

"Ecstatic + Streaming" is the title of the book recently published by Noa Giniger, which concludes and translates "Zimmer for FAB" into a printed form. This was a project started at SYB in 2011. During her residency at Beetsterzwaag, Giniger invited six fellow artists from different countries to stay with her — each for one week — for an in-situ dialogue. For the artist, the act of spending time together in “a domestic vacation” at SYB becomes a way to examine notions of time and leisure within the artistic process: "how we, as artists, deal with the idea of leisure, not merely as a time to relax, but as a time that provides the ideal conditions for communicating, for sharing individual information, so that we can look into how things are created and how we create things."(NG)

Lea Porsager: "The Anatta Experiment", film screening and project presentation.

"The Anatta Experiment" revolves around Monte Verità in Ascona, Switzerland. In the early 1900s, this hill served as a lodestone for spiritual rebellion, attracting anarchists, free love advocates, Dadaists, theosophists, psychoanalysts, and occultists, all rejecting an increasingly materialistic society. In the late summer of 2011, Lea Porsager invited seven friends to Casa Anatta, Monte Verità's principal building, in its final moments before undergoing major restoration. Initially inspired by the rich and dense history of the site, the project soon became an experiment in itself: an exploration of "avant-garde spasms, transformation, anarchy of self, mothers and Mutters, and psychotherapeutic processes". (LP). "The Anatta Experiment" is a film and an installation realised for and presented at documenta13 this year.

Curator Yael Messer and philosopher Marco Pasi will comment respectively on the works by Noa Giniger and Lea Porsager. Angela Serino will moderate the talk.

More to be seen: In the "Doubling Time, Cinema & Video Area" of the Kunstvlaai, you can view special screenings of "THE APOCALYPSE COMMUNITY" (2012) by artists Joaquín Cociña and Cristóbal León, and "The Frisian landEscape" (2011) by artists Noa Giniger and Shana Moulton. Both the works were realised during the artists' residencies at SYB.

THE APOCALYPSE COMMUNITY (Dutch premiere!) by Joaquín Cociña and Cristóbal León.

On the main stage: Saturday 24 November, 14:00-14:25h

In the Artist's cinema: Friday 30 November, 15:15-16:00h

THE FRISIAN landESCAPE by Shana Moulton and Noa Giniger.

In the Artist's cinema: Friday 30 November, 15:15-16:00h

The programme of Kunsthuis SYB at Kunstvlaai is supported by the Mondriaan Foundation, the Province of Friesland and Amsterdam Funds for the Arts. Special thanks to Maja Bekan and Emily Williams.

The project is curated by Maritt Serena Kuipers and Angela Serino, both members of SYB's programming committee. Production: Suzie Hermàn.

Biographies participants:

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Brian Dudley Barrett (1951, UK) is an international art historian, who has worked for 40 years as a curator, designer, illustrator and conservator in museums in several cities, such as Kyoto, Kingston (Jamaica), Vancouver and Calabar (Nigeria). For the last two decades, Barrett has worked as curator at Fanø Kunstmuseum in Denmark and KMSKA, Antwerp. He was awarded a PhD from the University of Groningen, 2008, for his thesis on "North Sea Artists' Colonies, 1880-1920 – Their Development and Role in Marketing Modernism". Barrett has written more than a dozen art history books and continues research into the rise of Modern Art markets and certain technological innovations behind their success. Barrett lives and works in UK.

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Valerio Del Baglivo (1979, IT) is a freelance curator, educator and perennial collaborator. He holds a BA in Art History at Roma Tre University of Rome (Art History Department, 2005) and MA in Visual Arts at IUAV University of Venice. In 2010-11 he attended CuratorLab a postgraduate programme for curators at Konstfack University of Stockholm. Since 2008 he has been working as Assistant Professor at IUAV University of Venice, teaching History of Exhibitions. From 2009 to 2010 he curated the project Artplaces.org, the first worldwide web database for independent art spaces. He has curated exhibitions and projects for Isola Art Center, Konsthall C in Stockholm, Apexart in NY, and Kunstverein in Milan. He has participated in international residencies at Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, The Banff Centre, and ICC at Gwangju Biennale in South Korea. His writing has been published on Arte&Critica, The Kaleidoscope and Piano Magazine. He is also a Founder/Editor-in-Chief of artist and curatorial publishing house commonthread.it (website still in progress) and co-director of the Milanese branch of Evolution de l'Art Gallery (www.evolutiondelart.net), a gallery specialises in immaterial art-works. Del Baglivo lives and works in Milan, Italy.

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Noa Giniger (1977, ISR) graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2005. In 2003, she received a fellowship from the Collin LeFranc Foundation in France to attend the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA. Between 2006-2008, she was a resident at De Ateliers, Amsterdam and in 2011 she was a Royal Dutch Institute Affiliated Fellow at the American Academy in Rome. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris; Galerie Gabriel Rolt, Amsterdam; Sommer Gallery for contemporary art, Tel-Aviv; de Appel Arts Centre, Amsterdam; Speedy Wash, Wiels, Brussels; The Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya; Access Gallery, Vancouver; De Injkijk, Amsterdam; Attitudes, Geneva; and Passage du Retz, Paris, among others. She created the set design for the musical theatre piece 'Persona' by Studio Minailo, Amsterdam, and recently published the artist book "Ecstatic+Streaming", a collection of texts and images in relation to her project Zimmer for FAB. Giniger lives and works in Amsterdam.

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Sandra Kassenaar (1982, SA) lives and works in Amsterdam where she runs a graphic design studio. She graduated with a BA from ArtEZ in Arnhem in 2003 and an MA from the Werkplaats Typografie in Arnhem (NL)

in 2007 and since then worked for a diverse range of clients from individuals to institutions, focusing mainly on printed matter. The book "Public Arena", Bik Van der Pol, designed i.c.w. David Bennewith was selected as one of the "Best verzorgde Boeken 2009" (Best Designed Books 2009) and she was recently nominated for the Dutch Design Award for the project "Success and Uncertainty". Besides running her own studio, Sandra regularly teaches at the graphic design department of the Willem De Kooning Academy in Rotterdam.

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Frans Willem Korsten (1959, NL) is currently working at the department of Film and Literary Studies at the University of Leiden, and at the School of History, Culture and Communication at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, where he has held the Chair for Literature and Society in the name of Stichting Letteren en samenleving Rotterdam since May 2007.

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Renske Janssen (1975, NL) is an art critic, curator and writer. Janssen worked as curator at Stedelijk Museum and Witte de With CCA Rotterdam. She organised exhibitions and was co-author of books with several international artists and institutions. She wrote for magazines such as Gonzo Magazine, Kunstbeeld and Petunia. Janssen was mentor at the Ateliers. She gave lectures on contemporary art and theory at KASK in Gent, the University of Utrecht, the University of Amsterdam and the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Janssen is a regular contributor to Frieze Magazine and accompanies artists and their artistic practice at Stroom Den Haag. She is active as advisor at the Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst and a board member of MU in Eindhoven. Currently she is writing her debut novel and is conducting research for a group show on the relation between ethics and aesthetics. In 2013 she will be a resident at The Bookstore, where she will write a book on the role of contemporary art in Bos and Lommer, a part of the city Amsterdam. She lives and works in Eindhoven and Amsterdam.

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Aymeric Mansoux (1976, FR) has been involved in several projects that challenge the understanding of copyright, free culture and online surveillance. Amongst other things, he has been involved in "make art," a festival for artists using and writing free software; "Puredyne," a live GNU/Linux distribution for media art; "FLOSS+Art," the first collection of essays on FLOSS and media art; "Naked on Pluto," a Facebook game about privacy and communication mediation within proprietary and commercial social network software. His latest collaboration, the "SKOR Codex," is a raw digital data publication documenting the life at a disappearing art institution in the Netherlands. Aymeric currently works as a senior lecturer at the Willem de Kooning Academie and the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam. He is also a PhD student at the Centre for Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London, researching the creative misunderstandings between art, politics and the law within copyleft practices.

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Lisa Mazza (1980, IT) is a cultural organiser and curator. She worked as curatorial assistant at Shedhalle Zürich and Halle für Kunst in Lüneburg and was the assistant coordinator in South Tyrol of the European Biennial Manifesta 7 and Manifesta Biennial coordinator of Manifesta 8. Since 2011 she is Manifesta Journal Managing Editor for the Manifesta Foundation in Amsterdam. Mazza lives and works in Bolzano, Italy.

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Yael Messer (1982, ISR) is an independent curator. She holds a post-graduate diploma in curating from Goldsmith College, London. Messer participated at De Appel curatorial program in 2009-2010 where she co-curated the exhibitions "I'm Not Here An Exhibition Without Francis Alÿs" (Amsterdam 2010). Recent exhibitions and projects: "Our Work is Never Over" (Madrid 2012), Film programme for "Social Housing, Housing the Social", symposia initiated by SKOR | Foundation for Art and Public Domain (Amsterdam 2011) "Possibly Here", Sommer Contemporary Art, (Tel- Aviv, 2011) and "Fucking Tourists", (Athens, 2009). Messer is co-founder and member of the collective The Living Room(s), a group of artists and cultural mediators engaging with social change, collective action and the practice of everyday life.

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Marco Pasi (1968, IT) is Associate Professor in History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents at the University of Amsterdam. He has written extensively on the history of modern Western esotericism, especially in relation to magic, art, and politics and has curated the exhibition of A.Crowley's paintings at the Palais de Tokyo ("La Chambre des cauchemars", 2008). Pasi lives and works in Amsterdam.

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Lea Porsager (1981, DK) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, and the Städelschule, Frankfurt/Main in 2010. Porsager's works have been shown in solo and group exhibitions at Kumu, Tallinn (2012), Aros, Aarhus (2011), Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen (2011), Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2010), and Röda Sten, Gothenburg (2006). In 2008, Porsager was awarded the Montana Enter Prize for her work "LEAP – The Awakening of the Dark Muses". In 2012, she participated in dOCUMENTA(13) with her work "Anatta Experiment." Porsager lives and works in Copenhagen.

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Niels Vis (1980, NL) is a visual artist based in Amsterdam. With the use of different media such as photography, video, new media and installation he creates site and context specific interventions. In 2009 Vis received a grant from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, USA, and holds an MFA from the Piet Zwart Instituut, Rotterdam (2007). In 2003 he received his BFA at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam. Selected exhibitions and projects: "Threewalls" artist in residence, Chicago, 2010. "I Know What You Did Last Summer", St. Cecilia Convent, Brooklyn, USA, 2010. "Red A.i.R., Redlight Art Amsterdam", 2009, a one-year artist in residence project in Amsterdam. "Simultaan: Twin Localization; Hoorn/Cape Horn", HMK, Hoorn, 2008.

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Laura Windhager (1984, AT) is a theorist and art historian. She has previously worked at the Museum of Modern Art, Stiftung Ludwig and as a research assistant for Contemporary and Modern Art at the University of Vienna. She was a 2012 grant holder for the Steirischer Herbst festival in Graz Austria. Windhager lives and works in Vienna.

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ZIMIHC is a Dutch band, based in Utrecht, that has been performing since 1983. Being a small collective in itself, its members have followed a ZIMIHC philosophy of collectivity wherever they worked. The band was at the basis of the most important centre for all kinds of amateur art in Utrecht, which also carries the band's name (www.zimihc.nl).

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Italo Zuffi (1969, IT) is a visual artist who employs sculpture, performance, text-based work and video to create "no total plan, just an indefinite series of stanzas." (Pier Luigi Tazzi, 2003). He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts of Bologna (BFA Painting, 1993), and at Central St Martins College of Art & Design, London (MFA, 1997). In 2001, he was awarded the Wheatley Bequest Fellowship in Fine Art (Sculpture) at the Institute of Art & Design, School of Art, Birmingham (GB). He is currently a PhDArts candidate (2010-2014) at the University of Leiden (NL), Faculty of Creative and Performing Arts. Zuffi lives and works in Milan.