

MGKSiegen

Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen
Unteres Schloss 1
57072 Siegen

DO. 8.10.20
Press release

Lara Favaretto – Clandestine Talks in the frame of the project Thinking Head 2017-2020

As a contribution to the exhibition “The Clouds and the Cloud” (4.9.20–10.1.21) at MGKSiegen, Lara Favaretto realizes as part of her ongoing project “Thinking Head” three “Clandestine Talks”. The Series of meetings will take place behind closed doors, inside a bunker. There are no spectators. The streaming of the talks and the transcriptions of the dialogues can be found on the website www.thinking-head.net.

Originally realized for her solo exhibition “Absolutely Nothing” at Nottingham Contemporary in 2017 and further developed in 2019 at the 58th Venice Biennale in the Central Pavilion within the main exhibition “May You Live in Interesting Times” curated by Ralph Rugoff, Thinking Head (2017–2019) is a complex and decentralized artwork that implicitly mirrors the functioning of the human brain. Referencing Alighiero Boetti’s sculpture *Mi fuma il cervello* (1993), a self-portrait whose head literally fumes, Favaretto installed in Nottingham and Venice vapor-producing machinery on the roof of the institutions, so that a constant mist obscured their façade, as if dissolving their cultural authority. In a far less visible part of this work, the artist and a group of thinkers periodically gather during the course of an exhibition for clandestine discussions in order to reflect each time on a single word from a list of 50 different key words. The ‘secret’ character of these talks is designed to encourage the possibility of creating an independent “guerrilla” knowledge, which will be shared with the public through different information channels.

The words to be discussed are linked to groupings of objects that are bound to change: objects may move from one group to another or new ones may be added, during the course of the project, the arrangement only becomes definitive when the talks have been completed. Some objects come from the artist’s personal archive, things she found and selected over the past 25 years. The artist intention is that these objects together with the words will be processed in each viewer’s mind and the result will be something similar to a very advanced, hyper-technological dimension.

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What at first sight could be considered 'archaic' will turn into the most advanced augmented reality.

In the Clandestine Talks, which will continue at MGKSiegen, up to four participants discuss a single word from the original list of key words. The ones that have been chosen for Siegen are: Control, Borders and Identity. Each group of thinkers, all coming from different disciplines, will contribute to the discussion with their own perspectives.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 08, 2020, 7pm

TALK no. 22 CONTROL

with participants: Mustafa Kizilcay, Hubertus Koch, Michael Nassauer

Information on speakers

Mustafa Kizilcay

was born in Bursa, Turkey in 1955. He received the B.Sc. degree from Middle East Technical University of Ankara in 1979, "Dipl.-Ing." degree and Ph.D. degree from University of Hanover, Germany in 1985 and 1991. From 1991 until 1994, he was as System Analyst with Lahmeyer International in Frankfurt, Germany. 1994-2004 he has been professor for Power Systems at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Since 2004 he is with the University of Siegen, Germany, holding the chair for electrical power systems as full professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Since 2010 Mustafa Kizilcay has been attending courses on art photography and on art history at the Art Department of the University of Siegen, with regular participation in the annual student exhibitions since 2011. In 2017 he joined the artist association "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Siegerländer Künstlerinnen und Künstler e. V." (ASK) in Siegen as member upon application.

Dr. Hubertus Koch

was born in the former GDR and spent his childhood there, until the 1970s, when the family was forced to leave for political reasons. For that reason, he is familiar with the dynamics between East and West. After graduating, he became a specialist for mouth-, jaw- and facial surgery and specialized in early infantile surgery of facial deformities. He has been the director of the center for lip-, jaw-, palate- and nose deformities at DRK children's hospital for about 15 years. The center has a great reputation all over Germany. Another, not job-related, interest of his is art. This curiosity has been developing since childhood, since he grew up in an art-affiliated environment. Apart from the classics of Impressionism and Expressionism, he favors artists of the Zero movement and selected contemporary positions. Supporting the local art scene is important to him. He has been a member of the museum's circle of friends for many years.

Michael Nassauer

was born in Betzdorf (near Siegen) and has been the director of the Philharmonie Südwestfalen (Philharmonic Orchestra of Südwestfalen) since 2014. He began his musical career as a horn player and has participated in various concerts, orchestras and philharmonical arrangements. Since the winter of 2008/09 he has been teaching at the University of Siegen. Michael Nassauer is also a member of the board of trustees of the Philharmonie Südwestfalen Foundation, a member of the board of trustees of the Barbara Lambrecht Foundation, and a member of the supporting association and the program advisory board of the Apollo Theater Siegen. In 2018 he was also appointed to the Federal Committee on Education of the German Music Council.