

Aesthetic Matters: becoming an artist, a designer and an architect in the age of Bologna.

After the Europe-wide implementation of the Bologna reform in higher education, the impact of academisation, especially the research imperative, is causing a series of transformations, challenges and opportunities in the arts. The international conference **Aesthetic Matters: becoming an artist, a designer and an architect in the age of Bologna** aims to contextualise and further expand on the debate around aesthetic education and aesthetic practices in order to explore emerging epistemologies and their potential as political and social forces.

Bridging positions from Science and Technology Studies (STS), aesthetic theory, praxeological approaches and artistic research, relevant topics will be unfolded by questions such as: How can inherited academic notions of "research" and "knowledge" be redefined for and by the field of aesthetic practices? In what way will these practices be taught, performed and situated within academia and also beyond the institution? What are the current challenges related to the epistemology of aesthetic practices and education in the context of academisation, economization and globalization?

The conference will take place the 1st to 3rd of June 2016 at the Toni Campus of the Zurich University of the Arts and will consist of three days of lectures, panel discussions and workshops (check the call for participation in the separate document). The conference will be structured along three perspectives or streams:

Aesthetic practices as epistemic cultures: Presentation of findings from an empirical study carried out in Switzerland in the fields of visual arts, design and architecture, focusing on the question of aesthetic practices meeting academic research within the context of education.

Reassembling practice and research: On the way to an epistemological basis for aesthetic practices from the perspective of practice theory: testing methods and novel approaches.

The cosmopolitics of aesthetic education: The production or creation of aesthetic knowledge and how it is being addressed, supported or marginalized in the context of academisation, economization and globalization of higher education.

The conference will gather national and international researchers and young scholars with a shared interest in aesthetic education and a critical voice on the future of aesthetic practices. The meeting will encourage exchange and novel insights into different understandings and practical framings of aesthetic knowledge and shed new light on the role of aesthetic practices in a wider socio-political context. Following speakers have confirmed their participation:

Tyna Fritschi, philosopher, member of the editorial board at Kamion Journal, assistant at the Theory Study Program, Zurich University of the Arts; **Anneli Käsmayr**, artist, founder of the dilettantin produktionsbüro and doctoral candidate at the Institute of Aesthetic Practice and

Theory from the HGK FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel; **Dr. Andreas Nobel**, interior designer, member of the Uglycute collective and senior lecturer for history and theory of design, Beckmans School of Design, Stockholm; **Prof. Nicolas Nova**, ethnographer, member of the Near Future Laboratory, and professor of Media Design at HEAD, University of Arts and Design, Geneva; **Prof. Dr. Gerald Raunig**, philosopher, founder of the European Institute for Progressive Cultural Policies (eipcp), and Program director of the Theory specialisation at the ZHdK Zurich University of the Arts; **Prof. Dr. Johanna Schaffer**, head of the Theory and Practice of Visual Communication platform at the Kunsthochschule Kassel; **Dr. Christiane Schürkmann**, Institut für Soziologie, Gutenberg University, Mainz; **Sophie Vögele**, ethnographer and sociologist, and **Philippe Saner**, sociologist and political scientist, Zurich University of the Arts; **Curatorial Collective WHW** (What, How and For Whom), Zagreb; and **Prof. Dr. Albena Yaneva**, Manchester Architecture Research Center, University of Manchester.

The conference is the closing event of the research project ‘Aesthetic Practices after Bologna: Architecture, Art and Design as Epistemic Cultures in the Making’, which has been a three-year cooperation between the ETH Wohnforum (represented by Dr Monika Kurath at the ETH Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich), the Intermediality Research cluster (represented by Prof. Dr. Priska Gisler at the HKB University of the Arts in Bern) and the ith Institute of Theory (represented by Prof. Dr. Elke Bippus at the Zurich University of the Arts). The aim of the project has been to conduct a multi-focal ethnographic study at several universities in Switzerland and develop a critical analysis in order to examine the impact of academisation (mainly the research imperative) in the education of art, design and architecture after the Europe-wide implementation of the Bologna reform in higher-education.

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Project team: Monika Kurath (ETH/Wohnforum, project leader), Anna Flach (ETH/Wohnforum), Priska Gisler (HKB), Aline Seyfang Maas (HKB), Elke Bippus (ith / ZHdK) and Monica Gaspar (ith / ZHdK).

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