



PERFORM ING

A SEMINAR ON ART,
ACADEMISM AND ACTIVISM

May 29, 2015 at Valand Academy and Skogen

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Gregory Sholette

Janna Graham

PERFORMANCE

Psychic Warfare

RESIST ANCE

Programme

14.00 Seminar at *Valand Academy*

18.00 Collective walk to *Skogen*

18.30 Welcome drinks and presentations

19.00 Performance by *Psychic Warfare*

19.30 Dinner

20.00 Bar and socializing

The seminar is arranged by Annika Lundgren and Niklas Persson in collaboration with the Valand Academy Research Board and the artist-run cultural platform *Skogen* and constitutes a part of Lundgren's current research project.

Register for the seminar and receive further information at [\[web URL for information\]](#)

The seminar *Performing Resistance* constitutes part of Lundgren's current research project and departs from the question of how to combine artistic work undertaken inside of the institution with a political commitment today.

At present, our society is governed by increasingly strong neo-liberalist tendencies that are systematically undermining the integrity of art, research and education.

Is it possible to resist the forces of our current financial system from this position? Is it possible to avoid that artwork is taken hostage and is used for decorating and justifying the very forces that it aims to oppose in the process? What actually constitutes political activism? Could the separation between 'thinkers' and 'doers' perhaps be overcome by carving out new ways to perform resistance? And how can the institution be politically useful in our present situation?

The struggle to overcome the obstacle that working within the academic institution constitutes and actualizing political agency is a dilemma that politically engaged artists share with practitioners from several areas within social science and the humanities. Nonetheless, there has been little or no dialogue on resistance between the different fields so far.

At its best, the institution—the university, the art scene, the society—can be a place where people come together and exchange experiences, build collective visions and formulate new ideas and identities. In short, create new realities.

In her essay *Turning* from 2008, Irit Rogoff says: "When

we say that these institutions of ours could be so much more than they are, we don't imply that they should be larger, or more efficient, or more progressive, or more fun (though they certainly should be more fun). Instead, we wish to say that their reach could be wider, that they might provide sites for doing so much more than they ever thought they could."

The research project *Performing Resistance* aims for a practical bridging of the gap between artistic and academic discourses on the one hand and the political on the other hand.

In a series of seminars we will attempt gather a selection of strategies, perspectives and ideas on political resistance emanating from the sectors of art, social science and the humanities.

On this very first occasion, we are very happy to welcome artist and writer Gregory Sholette (US) and theorist Janna Graham (UK) as our keynote speakers.

GREGORY SHOLETTE at vero eos et accusamus et iusto odio dignissimos ducimus qui blanditiis praesentium voluptatum deleniti atque corrupti quos dolores et quas molestias excepturi sint occaecati cupiditate non provident, similique sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollitia animi, id est laborum et dolorum fuga. Et harum quidem rerum facilis est et expedita distinctio. Nam libero tempore, cum soluta nobis est eligendi optio cumque nihil impedit quo minus id quod maxime placeat facere possimus, omnis voluptas assumenda est, omnis dolor repellendus. Temporibus autem quibusdam et aut officiis debitis aut rerum necessitatibus saepe eveniet

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JANNA GRAHAM at vero eos et accusamus et iusto odio dignissimos ducimus qui blanditiis praesentium voluptatum deleniti atque corrupti quos dolores et quas molestias excepturi sint occaecati cupiditate non provident, similique sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollitia animi, id est laborum et dolorum fuga. Et rerum facilis est et expedita distinctio. Nam libero tempore, cum soluta nobis est eligendi optio cumque nihil impedit quo minus id quod maxime placeat facere possimus, omnis voluptas assumenda est, omnis dolor repellendus. Temporibus autem quibusdam et aut officiis debitis aut rerum necessitatibus et voluptates repudiandae sint et molestiae non recusandae. Itaque earum rerum hic tenetur a sapiente delectus, ut aut reiciendis voluptatibus maiores alias consequatur aut perferendis doloribus asperiores repellat.

ANNIKA LUNDGREN is an artist who's practice mainly consists in time and text base work such as performances, interventions, public arrangements, lectures and writing. A current project is Strategies of Magic—a series of magic shows that addresses the difference between trickery and actual political

transformation and where the purpose is to reveal rather than disguise the means behind the manifestation. In *The Stock Is Rising* Lundgren initiates a levitation of the Old Frankfurt Stockmarket while *Atomic Tour—City Of The Damned* is a guided bus tour treating it's audience to a political sci-fi narrative relating the rise of right wing populism. Annika Lundgren is also a professor of Fine Art at the Valand Academy, currently conducting a research project on the relationship between art and politics, supported by the academy research board. This discussion forum at Skogen is carried out as a part of this and is the very first in a series of many to come. It also constitutes the initial establishment of the Resistance Archive which is a central feature of Lundgrens research project.

SKOGEN is an artist-run platform working in close collaboration with a number of artists, local as well as international, to produce artworks and a public program with performances, screenings, lectures and installations. Understanding art as a common resource, we are interested in expanding artistic research and presentations to create situations for learning, sharing, discussing, eating and socializing together. As we, on a global level, are facing huge social, economical and political challenges, Skogen wants to be a place where we—together—are able to share, discuss and process ideas and experiences; a space where different fields of knowledge (art, political activism, academy etc.) are brought together to reflect on contemporary life, work, economy, politics, environment and technology.

- ▶ How can art and academic work produce political resistance?
- ▶ How can one avoid being taken hostage by the neo liberal forces the work aims to resist?
- ▶ How can a traditional separation between inside/outside, thinking/doing and art/activism be prevented?
- ▶ What practices can be created from a merging of the academic fields of humanities and contemporary art?

14:00-18:00

Seminar at *Valand Academy*

18:00-18.30

Collective walk to *Skogen*

18:30 and onwards

Bar, performance and socializing at *Skogen*

Register for the seminar and receive further information at [web URL for information]