

/// Tout Va Bien Series: Art and Politics

/// Guests:

/// Alain Badiou, Claire Bishop, Jacques Rancière

Applicant: Alt Går Bra

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PROPOSAL

Brief Description

Support for the second session (2017-18) of series on arts and politics at Bergen Kunsthall featuring key international figures: Alain Badiou, Claire Bishop, Jacques Rancière.

The Tout Va Bien series holds three free-of-charge events per year with prominent academics and artists to stimulate professionalism and pluralism, setting Hordaland at the forefront of international art trends.

After the success of the 2015-16 session, Alt Går Bra starts a new 2017-18 session with two important additions: 1) inviting local guest from different fields to convey a local perspective and reach a diverse public, and 2) free-of-charge study group sessions before and after each event to rise professional level and make the series accessible to a diverse public including the youth.

Proposal

"Contemporary art is nothing if not innovative, but only occasionally does artistic innovation get applied to politics. There is one new example, however, and this can be experienced in the work of the Bergen-based art group, Alt Går Bra, which is trying to get a debate going in Norway with the launch of Tout Va Bien, a series of live events, accompanied by a new monthly publication entitled Trykksak."

Bob Dickinson, KUNSTforum

(Article about Alt Går Bra's series)

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, an increasing number of artists worldwide have become concerned with political issues ranging from the destruction of the planet to curtailed civil liberties.

In order to contribute to this discussion, the art group Alt Går Bra started the Tout Va Bien series at Bergen Kunsthall in 2015.

The series presents key international figures from the art world who have displayed a trajectory of engagement with arts and politics supporting democracy and pluralism. Inviting some of the most prominent artists and academics worldwide, the series aims to set Hordaland at the forefront of the art world.

Review of series from KUNSTforum by BBC/Art Monthly writer Bob Dickinson

<http://kunstforum.as/2015/12/alt-gar-bra-and-tout-va-bien>

Sponsored by Norsk Kulturråd, Fritt Ord, Bergen Kommune, and Pro Helvetia.

2017 GUESTS

Alain Badiou, one of the most famous living philosophers, will be in Norway for the first time. This is relevant not only because of the exclusive opportunity it presents to the Hordaland public but also because Norway will be introduced to the philosopher from the locality of Bergen. In the thought of Badiou, art and politics are inseparable. Trained as a mathematician, Badiou conceived the theory of inaesthetics, wrote philosophical treatises, theater pieces, and political commentaries. He is a symbol of independent thought.

Art critic Claire Bishop will be the series' second guest in 2017. A professor of Art History at CUNY Graduate Center, Bishop is one of today's most prestigious art critics. Her book "Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship" is the first historical and theoretical overview of socially engaged participatory art. Her research on amateurism and 'de-skilling' in contemporary dance and performance art is of particular interest to discuss professionalism in the arts.

The third guest, Jacques Rancière, is perhaps the major contemporary philosopher working in aesthetics and has become a referential point in the visual arts. His political theory is not of less importance. He has opposed most philosophers in the left accusing them of deprecating democracy. As our guest, Rancière will contribute much to bring a deeper understanding of art criticism and the importance of freedom and dissensus to build a strong democracy.

FUNDING REQUESTED FROM HORDALAND COUNTY

A total of 100 000 NOK is requested from Hordaland County to cover partial costs for the three events in 2017:

- guest fees and travel/transfer
- participation of local guest speakers
- study groups to be held before and after the event to increase professionalism and promote the participation of diverse public including the youth

NEED

Events of this type are vital at a time when public debate about deep issues in political life need to be encouraged. With war being portrayed as an alternative and extreme right-wing parties in the rise, artists and theorists with a trajectory in art and politics are essential to understand present circumstances and envision democratic ways to move forward.

AIMS

The aims of the series and study groups are to:

- generate political debates with art as a starting point to strengthen democratic participation
- create a scene where Hordaland can be the leader by bringing key international guests to Hordaland and introducing guests to Hordaland community groups and institutions
- support democracy and freedom of speech by inviting critical and independent guests
- promote a rich, active, and diverse cultural scene with access for all
- stimulate a strong professional cultural life that introduces independent artistic and theoretical expressions

2015-16 SERIES

With guest artists from Russia and Slovenia, the 2015-16 events have produced awareness about the importance of art in adverse political conditions. Chto Delat presented its project dealing with lack of freedom in Putin's Russia, IRWIN/NSK discussed about artistic strategies in former Yugoslavia. Chantal Mouffe brought awareness about democracy, and Thomas Hirschhorn discussed about the importance of diversity in art.

Curatorial duo Le Peuple Qui Manque and Professor Domenico Losurdo will be our guests in September and October 2016 respectively.