



IT'S THE POLITICAL ECONOMY, STUPID 01 February – 26 May 2013, Wing, MEDIApoint

Curated by Oliver Ressler & Gregory Sholette

Participating Artists:

FILIPPO BERTA (IT), JULIA CHRISTENSEN (US), FIELD WORK (DK), YEVGENIY FIKS, OLGA KOPENKINA & ALEXANDRA LERMAN (US), FLO6x8 (ES), MELANIE GILLIGAN (CA), JAN PETER HAMMER (DE), ALICIA HERRERO (AR), INSTITUTE FOR WISHFUL THINKING (US), SHERRY MILLNER & ERNIE LARSEN (US), ÓLAFUR ÓLAFSSON (IS) & LIBIA CASTRO (ES), ISA ROSENBERGER (AT), DREAD SCOTT (US), SUPERFLEX (DK), ZANNY BEGG (AU) & OLIVER RESSLER (AT)

Pori Art Museum:

Media Day Thursday 31 January 2013 at 11.00

Curator and Artist Talks Friday 01 February 2013 at 12.00 Oliver Ressler and artists from flo6x8 group will be present, free admission

Opening Friday 01 February 2013 at 18.00, opening performance by flo6x8 group

Additional program has been scheduled, on the occasion of the exhibition

Kiasma Theatre, Helsinki:

Workshop Oliver Ressler: *Alternative Economics, Alternative Societies*, 28 January at 10-16.00 and 29 January at 10-13.00, advance enrolment

Lecture and book launch Oliver Ressler: *Take The Square*, 29 January at 15.00, free admission
Oliver Ressler will present the exhibition and the publication *It's the Political Economy, Stupid: The Global Financial Crisis in Art and Theory* published by Pluto Press (UK) and Pori Art Museum

Pori Art Museum lecture serie

Lecture Oliver Ressler: *Spatial Occupations* 30 January 2013 at 18.30 Pori Art Museum, lecture hall, free admission

It's the Political Economy, Stupid [1] brings together a group of superlative artists who focus on the current crisis in a sustained and critical manner. Rather than acquiesce to our current calamity this exhibition asks if it is not time to push back against the disciplinary dictates of the capitalist logic and, as if by some artistic sorcery, launch a rescue of the very notion of the social itself.

The exhibition *It's the Political Economy, Stupid* launched a preview exhibition at Open Space in Vienna (2011), continued at Austrian Cultural Forum in New York and Centre of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki (both 2012). The show at Pori Art Museum is carried out in co-operation with Austrian Embassy (Helsinki).

The work shop *Alternative Economics, Alternative Societies* is carried out in co-operation with Reality Research Center, Kiasma Theatre, Austrian Embassy (Helsinki) and Pori Art Museum.

Austrian Embassy



Helsinki

More information:

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The work shop *Alternative Economics, Alternative Societies:* Reality Research Center, Saara Hannula tel. +358 41 5058 470 saarahan@gmail.com www.todellisuus.fi/en/



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Globalization, privatization, flexible work schedules, deregulated markets; 30 years of neoliberal capitalism has driven most of the world's governments to partly or wholly abandon their previous role as arbitrators between the security of the majority and the profiteering of the corporate sector. It comes as no surprise therefore that when problems in the US real estate and financial sectors resulted in a global financial crisis starting in 2008 governments all over the world pumped trillions of dollars into banks and insurance companies, essentially creating the largest transfer ever of capital into the private sector. One argument often cited for this unprecedented action was that many of these transnational corporations were 'too big to fail.' Still, despite these enormous expenditures millions of people soon lost their homes and livelihood, and the economic and social damage has not yet ended.

The cost of these bailouts is staggering. States borrowed capital to rescue financial institutions resulting in growing national debt and virtual insolvency for some countries. Managing these budget deficits might have been possible if wealthy transnational corporations were forced to assist the economy, but neoliberal governments instead chose to introduce belt-tightening programs that radically reduce public services and social welfare. Needless to say, these austerity measures do not necessarily reflect the will of the majority, and increasing voter apathy is one serious side effect of such top-down decision-making.

Today, we are facing a catastrophe of capitalism that has also become a major crisis for representative democracy. The very idea of the modern nation state is in jeopardy as the deterritorialized flow of finance capital melts down all that was solid into raw material for market speculation and bio-political asset mining. It is the social order itself, and the very notion of governance with its archaic promise of security and happiness that has become another kind of modern ruin. Theorist Slavoj Žižek puts it this way, "the central task of the ruling ideology in the present crises is to impose a narrative which will place the blame for the meltdown not on the global capitalist system as such, but on secondary and contingent deviations (overly lax legal regulations, the corruption of big financial institutions, and so on)." [1]

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[1] Slavoj Žižek, *First as Tragedy, Then as Farce*. Verso Books, London/New York 2009, p. 19

[2] The title *It's the Political Economy, Stupid* is a re-phrasing by Slavoj Žižek of the phrase "It's the economy, stupid", a widely circulated phrase used during Bill Clinton's successful 1992 presidential campaign against incumbent President George Bush Senior.

A publication titled *It's the Political Economy, Stupid: The Global Financial Crisis in Art and Theory* published by Pluto Press (UK) and Pori Art Museum will be available in January 2013.

MEDIA IMAGES

<http://www.poriartmuseum.fi/fin/tiedotusvalineet/lehdistokuvat.php>

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