



BACKGROUND PAPER

ORGANISATIONAL ART SUMMIT

At 'Organisational Art Summit' 20 leading artists, practitioners and researchers meet to explore contemporary art projects where organisations and organisational issues are central themes in the art itself.

An art form is emerging. Professional artists are currently generating an important field that works *together* with non-artistic organisations (companies, institutions, governments, communities and NGOs) to produce art that in one way or another evolves around organisational matters. With their artistic practice they aim to advance and challenge both art and organisational practices.

Until now, there have only been few joint efforts to explore and document this art form across the boundaries of disciplines. This is why the research consortium 'The Creative Alliance' (TCA) at Learning Lab Denmark and a group of contemporary artists have teamed up to organise an international summit for twenty leading artists, practitioners and researchers, on what tentatively can be called 'Organisational Art'. Apart from documenting current practices, the aim of the summit is to find ways to move forward; ways that both the artists, practitioners and researchers will benefit equally from.

The summit is organised as four days with various documenting and working sessions for the twenty invitees and concludes with a summary symposium open to the public and media. The findings will be documented in a so-called 'Thin Book', edited and published shortly after the summit by Learning Lab Denmark together with a number of the participating artists. It will be distributed on a not-for-profit basis, targeted at various stakeholders within the field (artists, practitioners, business people and researchers), and will

hopefully pave the way for mutual successful future collaborations in this field.

As the summit is a collaborative event, no concrete projects will be accentuated in this connection - instead we refer to publicly available websites and the following general description.

The Thin Book will naturally feature rich accounts and documentation of completed and ongoing projects. This emergent art form can tentatively be characterised as:

- *conceptual* as it concentrates on organisational issues and creative processes without necessarily producing 'artworks' in the traditional sense (e.g. painting and sculpture);
- *socially engaged* or *ethical*, that is, motivated beyond narrow financial objectives and with a strong ambition to make sustainable changes for the collective better in social environments;
- *trans-discursive*, that is, partnering with non-artistic partners (consultants, researchers, managers, employees, etc.) and working across various disciplines and organisational levels; and
- *site-specific* and *contextual* as it works specifically with people and relations 'on site', such as employees and managers in an organisation or members of a community.

INFO_ORGANISATIONAL ART SUMMIT

- **25-28 November 2004** at Lisegaarden Conference Center in Liseleje, Denmark.
- The public symposium is on **28 November 10.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 28 November** at Lisegaarden, Denmark (www.lisegaarden-kursuscenter.dk).
- The summit is being co-organised by the research consortium The Creative Alliance (TCA) at Learning Lab Denmark (David Barry, Martin Ferro-Thomsen and Hilde Bollen), artist Kent Hansen (democratic innovation) and an advisory group consisting of artists Henrik Schrat (Germany), Philippe Mairesse (Local Access, France), and Teike Asselbergs (Orgacom, The Netherlands), all of whom will also partake in the summit.
- As this art form does not exist isolated in society, key fringe representatives, such as curators, consultants, researchers and entrepreneurs, are invited to participate. The confirmed participants are (in no particular order): **aladin**, CEO alkhemi, strategist, social development practitioner, interdisciplinary artist, magician (UK) - **Barnaby Drabble**, Artist/Curator (UK/SW) - **Carey Young**, Artist (UK) - **David Barry**, Professor, TCA (DK/US) - **Gavin Wade**, Artist/Curator (UK) - **Henrik Schrat**, Artist (DE) - **Hilde Bollen**, Consortium Coordinator, TCA (DK/B) - **Karolin Timm-Wachter**, Siemens Arts Program (DE) - **Kent Hansen**, Artist, democratic innovation (DK) - **Lise Autogena**, Artist (UK/DK) - **Lotte Darsø**, Research Director, TCA (DK) - **Martin Ferro-Thomsen**, Assistant Project Manager, TCA (DK) - **Barbara Steveni**, Cofounder and Director of O+I (formerly APG), Artist (UK) - **Teike Asselbergs**, Artist, Orgacom (NE) - **Tine Byrckel**, Writer/Art critic, Information Newspaper (DK) - **Patrick Mathieu**, Consultant (FR) - **Philippe Mairesse**, Artist, Acces Local (FR) - **Henrik Mayer**, Artist, Reinigungs-gesellschaft (DE) - **Scott Rigby**, Collaborative Artist and Director of Basekamp exhibition space (US) - **Susanne Kandrup**, Entrepreneur etc., TCA (DK).

CONTACT // INFORMATION

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