



## ENGADIN ART TALKS

### CURATORS 2017

#### **DANIEL BAUMANN**

is currently the curator and director of the Kunsthalle Zurich. Recipient of the Swiss Award for Best Curator (2006) and Special Advisor for Frieze (2009/10), In previous years he was the curator of Adolf Wölfli Foundation at the Kunstmuseum Bern and the Carnegie International in Pittsburgh (2013). Baumann was a contributing writer for Exhibition #1. Baumann is an art historian, curator and writer for Kunst-Bulletin, Parkett and Spike Art Quarterly.

#### **CRISTINA BECHTLER**

is a collector and publisher of Ink Tree Editions, a publishing house, which specialises in art books, portfolios and special contemporary art editions. She is also editor of the “Art and Architecture in Discussion” series, which is published by Birkhäuser. A committed human rights activist, she is a founding member of the Zurich section of Human Rights Watch, a human rights organisation which is active throughout the world.

#### **BICE CURIGER**

is a Swiss art historian, curator, critic and publisher. In 2011 she became only the third woman to curate the Venice Biennale. She is currently the Artistic Director of the Fondation Vincent Van Gogh. She is a very respected and connected person in the art world and a strong opinion leader.

#### **HANS ULRICH OBRIST**

(b. 1968, Zurich, Switzerland) is Co-director of the Serpentine Galleries, London. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris. Since his first show “World Soup” (The Kitchen Show) in 1991 he has curated more than 250 shows. Obrist's recent publications include Do It: The Compendium, Think Like Clouds, Ai Weiwei Speaks, Ways of Curating and new volumes of his Conversation Series.

#### **PHILIP URSPRUNG**

is an American art historian. Since 2011 he chairs Department of Art and Architecture at the ETH Zurich. He is a very well respected and connected figure in the international architecture scene.

## **SPEAKERS 2017**

### **SUBHANKAR BANERJEE**

Subhankar Banerjee, (b. 1967 in Berhampore, India), incredulously holds the Lannan Chair and Professor of Art and Ecology post at the University of New Mexico since he has no formal training in art or humanities (he was trained as a physicist). A self-trained visual ecologist and environmental humanist he has so far engaged with three geographies (Arctic, desert, and forest) undergoing rapid climate change. He aims to close the nature-culture dualism gap by highlighting a rather simple visual concept, (non)human. His collaborative work with environmental NGOs and the Gwich'in and Iñupiat indigenous communities have contributed significantly to stopping (or slowing down) oil and gas development in some of the most bio-culturally significant and politically contested areas in the American Arctic. His photographs have been exhibited widely, including the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Nottingham Contemporary, and the Biennale of Sydney; and academic and public writing have been published in anthologies, journals and blogs.

### **JULIAN CHARRIÈRE**

Julian Charrière (b. 1987, Morges, Switzerland) is a French-Swiss artist based in Berlin whose work bridges the realms of environmental science and cultural history. Marshalling performance, sculpture and photography, his projects often stem from fieldwork in remote locations with acute geophysical identities – such as volcanoes, ice-fields and radioactive sites. To date, his works has explored post-romantic constructions of 'nature', and staged tensions between deep or geological timescales and those relating to mankind. Charrière's approach further reflects upon the mythos of the quest and its objects in a globalised age. Deploying seemingly perennial imagery to contemporary ends, his interventions at the borderline of mysticism and the material encapsulate our fraught relations with place today.

### **SIMONE FATTAL**

Simone Fattal is a ceramic sculptor, and a painter. She founded and directed a publishing house in California for a long time, dedicated to avant-garde and experimental writing, The Post-Apollo Press. she is also a translator, and a collage artist. sh is also the author of an autoportrait in film.

### **MANUEL HERZ**

Manuel Herz is an architect based in Basel, Switzerland. His projects include the Synagogue of Mainz, housing projects in Germany, Switzerland and France and a museum extension in Ashdod (Israel). He has taught at the ETH Zürich and Harvard GSD and is currently professor of urban and territorial design at the

University Basel. His research focuses on the relationship between migration, architecture, nation-building and spaces of refuge. He has exhibited widely, amongst others at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2016 where he designed and curated the National Pavilion of the Western Sahara. His books include *Nairobi: Migration Shaping the City* (2014), *From Camp to City: Refugee Camps of the Western Sahara* (2013) and *African Modernism – Architecture of Independence* (2015).

### **FRANCIS KÉRÉ**

Diébédo Francis Kéré is a German-trained architect from the small West African town of Gando in Burkina Faso. As the first son of the head of his village, his father allowed his son to attend school even though many villagers considered conventional western education to be a waste of time. He was eventually awarded a scholarship to apprentice in Germany, where he went on to earn a university degree in architecture and engineering. Parallel to his studies, he founded the Kéré Foundation (formerly Schulbausteine für Gando e.V.) for the purpose of raising funds to build the Gando Primary School which earned the prestigious Aga Khan Award in 2001. Kéré has since focused on reinvesting his knowledge back into his Burkina Faso community and beyond. Using his formal training, he has developed innovative construction strategies that combine traditional materials and building techniques with modern engineering methods. Since founding Kéré Architecture in 2005, his work has earned numerous prestigious awards such as the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture, BSI Swiss Architectural Award, Marcus Prize, Global Holcim Gold Award, and Schelling Architecture Award. Kéré was granted the honor of Chevalier de L'Ordre National de Burkina Faso in 2006, chartered membership of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in 2009, and honorary fellowship of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) in 2012. He has held professorships at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the Swiss Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio.

### **CHRISTINE LEVY**

Christine Levy grew up in Weinfelden (TG) and finished Matura in 1995. From 1995 until 2000 she studied Geography in Zurich, with geomorphology and glaciology. Because of her diploma work, she was sent to the Upper Engadin for a cartography in geomorphology, so she fell in love with this landscape. Since 2000 Levy works at Academia Engiadina as a scientific collaborator in the former institute of landscape and tourism, today European tourism institute. Here she works on projects concerning glaciers, permafrost, climate change, didactical trails etc. From 2002 to 2006 she wrote her dissertation about GISALP, a modelling of the climate-sensitive landscape of the Upper Engadine.

Since June 2006 Christine works part-time for the Academia Engiadina and part-time for GEO Grischia AG, a surveying office. Since 1995 she spent her leisure time with flying gliders and since 2001 she takes fotos of the glaciers and landscape changes regularly from the air.

## HEINZ MACK

Heinz Mack (b. 1931, Lollar, Germany), is known for being co-founder of the group ZERO, one of the most important and meaningful Avant-garde movements since the Second World War. He participated in Documenta II (1959) and Documenta III (1966) and represented the Federal Republic of Germany at the 35th Venice Biennale (1970). The central theme of Heinz Mack's art is light. In his works, he experiments with the effects of light and color in order to explore reflection, movement and structure. Using several media such as painting, sculpture, drawing, ceramics and interiors, his genuine artistic language is one of the highest exponents of kinetic art. In 1959, Heinz Mack designed his 'Sahara-Project'. Ever since, he has installed several 'artificial gardens' in the desert and arctic. His latest project in relation to the 'Sahara-Project' is 'The Sky Over Nine Columns', currently on view at Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, Valencia.

## EILEEN MYLES

Eileen Myles (b. 1949, Cambridge, USA), is an American poet and writer who has worked in fiction, non-fiction, and theater. She is considered one of the savviest and most restless intellects in contemporary literature. Her audacious and singular poems relay thoughts and experiences in a genuine lyrical language. Myles is an Emeritus Professor of writing and literature at the University of California in San Diego, and currently teaches at New York University, Columbia University, and the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

## EMILY SCOTT

Emily Eliza Scott is an interdisciplinary scholar, artist, and former park ranger who focuses on contemporary art and design practices that engage pressing (political) ecological issues, often with the intent to actively transform real-world conditions. Currently a postdoctoral fellow in the architecture department at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich), she teaches on subjects ranging from the concept of "post-nature," to institutional critique, to the emergent geographies of climate change. Her writings have appeared in *The Avery Review*, *Art Journal*, *American Art*, *Third Text*, and *Cultural Geographies* as well as multiple edited volumes and online journals; her first book, *Critical Landscapes: Art, Space, Politics*, coedited with Kirsten Swenson, was published by the Univ. of California Press in 2015. She is also a founding member of two long-term, collaborative, art-research projects: World of Matter (2011-), an international platform on global resource ecologies, and the Los Angeles Urban Rangers (2004-), a group that develops guided hikes, campfire talks, field kits, and other interpretive tools to spark creative explorations of everyday habitats in their home megalopolis and beyond.

## HITO STEYERL

Hito Steyerl (b. 1966) lives and works in Berlin. Steyerl's prolific filmmaking and writing occupies a highly discursive position between the fields of art, philosophy

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and politics, constituting a deep exploration of late capitalism's social, cultural and financial imaginaries. Her films and lectures have increasingly addressed the presentational context of art, while her writing has circulated widely through publication in both academic and art journals, often online.

### **OSCAR TUAZON**

Oscar Tuazon (b. 1975, Seattle, USA) is an artist who lives and works in Los Angeles. His practice encompasses a wide diversity of large-scale sculptures and installations that cross the line between art and architecture, form and function. Inspired by what is called "outlaw- architecture" (a kind of extreme do-it-yourself architecture) his works explore the physical space and refer to minimalism. His work is characterised by a combination of natural and industrial materials such as wood, concrete and metal. He uses these to create inventive objects, structures and installations that can be used, occupied and engaged by viewers.

### **NOT VITAL**

Not Vital was born in 1948 in Sent in the Engadin. He was sent to Chur to high school at the age of 14 & later studied art for 2 years at Centre universitaire expérimental in Vincennes before spending 2 years in Rome where he had a small circus. As a fire-eater & juggler he couldn't make a living, which was OK with him & moved in 1974 to New York, where he had a studio till 2012. Now he lives & tries to work in Sent, Beijing & Rio de Janeiro. Not Vital has been traveling the world & is the world most travelled artist, according to the New York Times if you believe that.

### **RÜDIGER WEHNER**

Rüdiger Wehner (\*1940) is a neuroscientist focusing on insect vision and navigation, especially in the desert ant *Cataglyphis*. He was director of the Institute of Zoology at the University of Zürich, A.D. White Professor (at Large) at Cornell University, and Permanent Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin. He is currently working at the Brain Research Institute Zürich and as a Humboldt Award Guest Professor at the Biocenter of the University of Würzburg. He has received many international prizes and Academy memberships, e.g., of the Leopoldina and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Rüdiger Wehner loves deserts and has frequently lived and worked in the Sahara, the Namib and Australian desert.