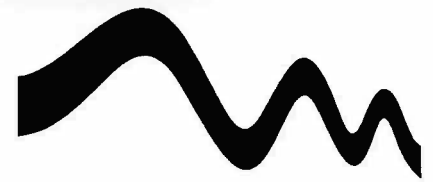


Sommerakademie 2008



Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern

PRESS RELEASE

dragged down into lowercase

**An Exhibition and Summer Academy at the Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern
Curated by Clémentine Deliss and Oscar Tuazon**

What happens when you dig a gallery space into the earth in a field in Bern, a city famous for its sixteenth century bear pits and medieval churches? Early garden architecture, graves, crypts, or hidden reserves come to mind. Is this perhaps an archaeological excavation, revealing an unexpected mix of artefacts from different cultures? Could this be 1960s or 70s Land Art, or a modern day dumping ground? What connotations come to mind through an action as simple as lowering art works into the earth?

dragged down into lowercase is the concept devised by curator Clémentine Deliss and artist Oscar Tuazon for the 2008 Paul Klee Sommerakademie. Working as a team, they have invited leading artists and scholars to reflect on the connotations of the *underground* through new art projects, and diverse theoretical and cultural positions. Eleven nominated artists from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, the UK, and the US, will present new works and performances in the outdoor exhibition space designed by Oscar Tuazon. The exhibition will be held in the parklands of the Zentrum Paul Klee in a triangular dug-out structure with a 2 meter high wall, built from local timber cut into boards by UK artists Heather and Ivan Morison. Exhibits include diverse sculptures, some reaching 4,5 meter high, tent structures, sound installation, invisible technological input, and references that highlight the history of the city of Bern.

The international Faculty of the Sommerakademie will give public lectures, take part in panel discussions, and host club nights. Members include curator Erik Fredericksen from Seattle who will discuss the 'Ha-Ha', the concealed trench used first in 18th century English garden design and now enjoying a revivalism in State security planning. Joe Scanlan known for his on-line sales of coffins will workshop the idea of 'Classism', low-tech economies, and survivalism as an artist. Martin Kimani, the conflict analyst from Nairobi will question the museological ramifications of genocide and memory with reference to recent warfare. Swiss artist Christoph Büchel and US conceptual artist Adrian Piper will engage with the team of young artists who form this year's Sommerakademie. Curator Giovanni Carmine will lead a two-day expedition into the mountains to visit the historical *réduits* and bunkers scattered in the Swiss countryside. Finally, Philippe Pirotte will moderate a debate on the art market and the underground, held at the Kunsthalle Bern, and both Clémentine Deliss and Oscar Tuazon will present lectures in English and in German.

Nominated Artists:

Aaron Flint Jamison (US), Michael Höpfner (A), Irina Korina (R), Alexej Koschkarow (BY), Heather and Ivan Morison (UK), Avigail Moss (US), Lucy Pawlak (UK), Pamela Rosenkranz (CH), Robert Stark (G), Charlie Tweed (UK), and Philippe Van Wolputte (B).

Guest Faculty:

Christoph Büchel, Artist, Basel
Giovanni Carmine, Curator and Director, Kunsthalle St. Gallen
Eric Fredericksen, Curator and Director, Westernbridge, Seattle
Martin Kimani, Conflict Analyst, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, New York

Adrian Piper, Artist, Berlin
Philippe Pirotte, Curator and Director, Kunsthalle Bern
Joe Scanlan, Artist, New York

Concept and Faculty Chair:

Clémentine Deliss, curator and publisher based in London.
Director of *Future Academy* (Edinburgh College of Art), and *Metronome* (Paris, London).
Oscar Tuazon, artist from the US, based in Paris.
Co-director of the gallery *castillo/corrales* in Belleville, Paris.

Public Events:

Duration of the Sommerakademie: August 5th – August 14th 2008
Duration of the exhibition: August 6th – August 17th 2008

Monday 4th August, 11 am: Press Conference

Tuesday 5th August, 6.30 pm, Zentrum Paul Klee, Auditorium:
Public Opening with Lecture 'dragged down into lowercase' by Clémentine Deliss and Oscar Tuazon

Wednesday 6th August, 6.30 pm, Kunsthalle Bern: 'Incorporation of the Underground'
Discussion on the art market and the underground with Philippe Pirotte, Clémentine Deliss, Oscar Tuazon, Wolf von Weiler, Georg Steinmann and Franca Mader

Friday 8th August, 6.30 pm, Zentrum Paul Klee, Auditorium:
Lecture 'Classism' by Joe Scanlan

Saturday 9th August, 1-2 pm, exhibition in the parklands of the Zentrum Paul Klee:
Presentation by Artists of the Sommerakademie and performance by Charlie Tweed

Monday 11th August, 6 pm, PROGR, visarte:
Lecture 'The New Ha-Ha' by Eric Fredericksen

Monday 11th August, 10 pm, Dampfzentrale:
Party 'The Road' with DJs Oscar Tuazon and Philippe Pirotte

Tuesday 12th August, 6.30 pm, PROGR, visarte:
Lecture 'A Lowercase Condition of Humanity' by Martin Kimani

Wednesday 13th August, 6 pm Zentrum Paul Klee, Auditorium and exhibition in the parklands:
Academy evening, aperitif

www.sommerakademie.zpk.org