



Sommerakademie

Zentrum Paul Klee  
Bern

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## Press Release

### *When your Lips are my Ears, Our Bodies Become Radios*

Curated by Jan Verwoert  
Sommerakademie at Zentrum Paul Klee  
10.-19.8.2010

#### **Press conference**

10<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 11.00-12.00h at Grand Palais, Helvetiaplatz, Thunstrasse 3, Berne  
with Dr. Jacqueline Burckhardt, Director, Jan Verwoert, Curator und Fellows

#### **Annual event with an international reputation**

The Sommerakademie is an annual international platform for contemporary art that encourages artistic production and reflection. For the fifth year running, the Sommerakademie has invited emerging artists and curators to Berne for ten days of exchange and workshops focused on a specific theme, with selected figures of the international art scene. As a professional training programme founded in partnership with the Cantonal Bank of Berne (BEKB/BECEB), the Sommerakademie breaks new ground in the fields of art training, sponsorship and mediation.

#### **Theme and participants**

For this year's Sommerakademie, twelve international emerging artists and curators, together with this year's leading curator Jan Verwoert, will address questions of artistic communication in its social context: where do we want to meet? What of the unshareable do we want to share, and how? What are the conditions needed for 'exchange' and 'community' in art? The workshops will engage these issues while attempting to dissolve the traditional oppositions of individual and collective production, public and private space, production and presentation.

Central to this process is the daily production of public statements by the Fellows in collaboration with Radio RaBe and the Berner Zeitung, which will also be presented on public advertising pillars belonging to the city of Berne. A joint performative production by the Fellows at the Kunsthalle Bern on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August is set to become one of the highlights of this year's academy.

Every year the Fellows participate in a field trip within Switzerland. In accordance with the theme, this year's excursion will explore the monastery as a social model of work and discourse during a visit to the Kloster Einsiedeln.

### **Local networks**

The Sommerakademie 2010 will work with two partner institutions in Bern: the exciting off-space Grand Palais will act as a centrally located workshop/studio for the Fellows, while the renowned Kunsthalle Bern will host the public events that take place most evenings for the duration of the academy. While the workshops are closed, offering a space for Fellows, Curator and invited guests to work in a focused way, the events in the Kunsthalle are open to the public. In this way, we hope to generate the productive interplay between specialised group work and public exchange that characterizes the Sommerakademie as an integral and innovative part of the local and international cultural scene. At Zentrum Paul Klee, a curated display wall will feature the daily production by the Fellows.

### **Jury, Nominators, Fellows and Speakers**

This year the jury, consisting of Director Dr. Jacqueline Burckhardt as well as Andreas Fiedler, Sabina Lang, Prof. Beate Söntgen and Jan Verwoert, considered 56 portfolios of which 36 were suggested by international nominators, key people of the art world. 20 artists applied independently. The selection of fellows is based on their close connection to the theme of the year as well as their professional experience, which is measured in terms of the independent development and complexity of their practice. The disciplinary range is very open: this year theoretical as well as artistic positions were admitted. The international diversity of the academy is evident in the selection of 12 Fellows from 9 different countries, as well as Speakers who will travel to Bern from England, the USA, Australia, Sweden and from within Switzerland.

### **Website and events**

The Sommerakademie celebrates its fifth year with the launch of a new website that offers comprehensive documentation of the Fellows, Nominators, Curators and Themes of all the academies to date. During this year's academy the site will be updated daily with details of the ongoing productions. Apart from video footage and lots of useful background information, the website also offers a good selection of images for the press: <http://www.sommerakademie.zpk.org/>.

For a retrospective of this year's Sommerakademie you are kindly invited to attend the **Closing Event**

18<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 17.00h, Auditorium, Zentrum Paul Klee  
with Dr. Jacqueline Burckhardt, Director; Jan Verwoert, Curator; Dr. Juri Steiner, Director Zentrum Paul Klee and a contribution by the fellows in collaboration with Radio RaBe.

We would also like to take this opportunity to announce a publication emerging from last year's Sommerakademie 2009:

#### **Book Launch *Internal Necessity***

18<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 15.00h, Auditorium Zentrum Paul Klee  
with curator/ editor Tirdad Zolghadr und the alumni 2009.

You are very welcome to attend all of these events and we look forward to seeing many of you at what promises to become another innovative and exciting Sommerakademie.