

AR-607

Biennial / Manifesta : from discourse to agency

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture and Sciences of the City		Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	2
Session	
Exam	Term paper
Workload	60h
Hours	44
Courses	12
Exercises	8
TP	24
Number of positions	30

Frequency

Only this year

Remark

This year only. From: 8th October 2019 to 9th October 2019

Summary

This course examines the phenomenon of biennials through the case study of Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial which evolved from an art exhibition into an interdisciplinary platform for social change, introducing holistic urban research and legacy-oriented programming as the core of its model.

Content**INVITED LECTURERS**

Prof. Lilet Breddels - Dutch Art Institute, Director of Volume Magazine

Dr Marina Otero - Royal College of Art, Member of the artistic team of Manifesta 13 Marseille (2020), Former Chief Curator of the Oslo Architecture Triennale 2016

"The biennial as format and phenomenon was declared dead or obsolete time and again, it was discarded as commercial, promotional, touristic, capitalistic, wasteful, white supremacist and what not. In the end, that is not the issue. The issue is the tension between expectations and pretension, between agency and result" (from Volume, n. 54, "On Biennials")

This course examines the contemporary phenomenon of biennials through the case study of Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial which exists since 1996. Since its last edition which took place in Palermo in 2018, it changed its approach to the widespread model of the biennial, evolving from an art exhibition into an interdisciplinary platform for social change, introducing holistic urban research and legacy-oriented programming as the core of its model.

For these two-days seminar, Javier Fernandez Contreras, head of the Interior Architecture Department, and Charlotte Laubard, head of the Visual Arts Department of HEAD—Genève, will invite key thinkers and players to present their views and experience about biennials and about Manifesta in particular: Marina Otero, architect, head of research at the Het Nieuwe Instituut and co-curator of the next Manifesta in Marseille; Lilet Breddels, art historian, director of the Archis Foundation, a cultural think tank promoting debate on spatial and urban urgencies and publisher of Volume Magazine; and artists involved in developing a project for Manifesta in Palermo and in Marseille (to be confirmed).

Together they will discuss the shift of paradigm that Manifesta brought within the realm of biennials, the relevance of its interdisciplinary approach, and its focus on situated research practices through the means of art and of architecture.

www.manifesta.org

Keywords

Biennials, Manifesta, interdisciplinarity, social change, urban and art research

Resources

Bibliography

<http://volumeproject.org>

Websites

- <https://manifesta.org>