



## Press Release

### Mental States and Global Structures: *Forum Expanded* 2012 Explores New Forms of Artistic, Cinematic and Political Expression

37 works by artists, filmmakers, theorists and musicians from 20 different countries comprise this year's compact and focused *Forum Expanded* programme, taking in exhibitions, film programmes, discussions and performances that place an emphasis on aesthetic explorations of the global and individual dimensions of current crises. The programme explores the extent to which the radical and avant-garde ideas of the past are still relevant today and seeks to redefine the role of contemporary cinema.

This year's exhibition in Salon Populaire (Kunstsaele Berlin) is entitled "Critique and Clinic". Criticism of institutions and clinical psychiatry in particular played a central role in the political discourse of the 1960s and 1970s, a movement which regarded psychological pathologies as a product of social conditions and the repressive structures of society. Luke Fowler's film *All Divided Selves*, which explores the work of psychiatrist and guru of the anti-psychiatry movement RD Laing, forms the starting point for the "Critique and Clinic" exhibition. The works it comprises take an in-depth look at the current psychological dimensions of socio-political structures. By examining the relationship between mental states and global structures, the exhibition offers a diagnostic panorama of the "psychospheres" of a form of capitalism which has made life, subjectivity and the psyche into a central resource. Much like the rest of this year's *Forum Expanded* programme, the exhibition also raises the question of art's scope for taking action in both visual and narrative terms.

Another exhibition will be presented at the Gutschow-Haus in Friedrichstraße, which takes the global geographies of conflict as its theme. The focus here is on the Israeli-Palestinian border zone (Elle Flanders/Tamara Sawatzky and Yazan Khalili) as well as on a copper mining district in southern Spain used to carry out research on Mars (Anne Quirynen). We will also be presenting some treasures by experimental filmmaker Steve Reinke at the Marshall McLuhan Salon in the Canadian Embassy, which together form a feature length film.

*Forum Expanded* will once again be bringing cinema to the stage at HAU - Hebbel am Ufer. Israeli director Avi Mograbi, whose work has been shown at the *Forum* on numerous occasions and who is known for his radical staging of the self, returns to Berlin as a musician and will be performing with his four-person band at HAU 2. *The Last Days of British Honduras* by Caroline Sullivan and Farhad Sharmini, an adaptation of the play of the same name by Ronald Tavel, is a cinematic adventure of the absurd.

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Two programmes by Harun Farocki and Constanze Ruhm/Angela Melitopoulos look to explore how cinema functions as a historical space for the present and provide insight into the large-scale “Living Archive - Archive Work as a Contemporary Artistic and Curatorial Practice“ project taking place at Arsenal - Institute for Film and Video Art.

The *Forum Expanded* film programmes include works by artists such as Deimantas Narkevičius as well as filmmakers Isabell Spengler and Isabelle Prim, whose work has already been shown at previous editions of *Forum Expanded*. The short film programmes will be showing experimental works by Eva Heldmann, Laure Prouvost, Ahmad Ghossein and many more.

For the second year in a row, Prinzessinnengärten will be turning the Arsenal cinema foyer green as well as running the bar. As in previous years, the b\_books collective will also be present with a bookstand.

*Forum Expanded* is curated by Stefanie Schulte Strathaus (head curator), Anselm Franke, Nanna Heidenreich, Bettina Steinbrügge, and Ulrich Ziemons (assistant curator). More information about the programme as well as a list of all the artists involved will be provided in a second press release.

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