

KAAI **THEATER**

The Artist Commoner **(Self) Education of New Subjectivities**

25/11 – 10:00 + 26/11/2016 – 15:30 – Kaaistudio's
public meeting • English

THE ARTIST COMMONER

During a two day event, a.pass welcomes a gathering of researchers, artists, a.pass program participants and public to engage with the struggle of being an artist commoner today, and the role of (educational) institutions in bringing this subject about. Two days of presentations, exchanges and commoning practices. Two days of ateliers, books launches, performances, workshops and discussions.

When we talk about commoning in the arts, or of artistic production as a site of commoning, or the arts as a common good, we evoke economies of material and immaterial labour within the field of art. But we seldom consider the changing understanding of what an artist is, and how this historic subjectivity possibly undergoes a dramatic shift in response to the resurgence of the commons debate in the last few years. Not only do we need to ask ourselves how to be an artist and a commoner today, and how to produce art within commoning processes, but also what kind of a new artist subjectivity is summoned by the commons. Long gone is the conception of the artist as a craftswoman, long gone the conception of a solitary genius, yet the market still welcomes the individualistic producer, enamoured with the beautified reflection the neo-liberal consumer finds in the persona of the free-to-do-anything, singular novum-art-maker.

Does commoning, as a means of artistic practice, require a radically different self-conception of the artist? And if we see the emergence of a different artist subjectivity, what role does (self-)education in the arts play in fostering and welcoming this subjectivity? What kind of (educational) institutions can the artist- commoner take root in? How can these institutions engage not only in educating the artist about the commons but in developing radical methodologies of commoning education?

FRIDAY

- 10:00-16:00 *Open Space / habitat*, with a.pass participants
- 11:00-15:30 *Office-work*, with Femke Snelting, Kate Rich, Magda Tyzlik-Carver
- 15:30-17.30 *Regime Change*, presentation after office-work, with Femke Snelting, Kate Rich, Magda Tyzlik-Carver
- 18:00-22:00 Common Sweat Sauna, with Steven Jouwersma
- 18:00-19.30 *Turn, Turtle! panel*, with Vladimir Miller, Nicolas Galeazzi, Daniel Blanga-Gubbay. Followed by *The Missing Chapter*, by Guy Gypens & SPIN.
- 20:30-21:30 *SITUATMENTS* with Vladimir Miller, Lilia Mestre, Pierre Rubio, Kristien Van den Brande & Cecilia Molano, Steven Jouwersma, Nicolas Galeazzi, Philippine Hoegen & Einat Tuchman
- 21.30-02:00 *PRACTICES*. Mobile Interviews + City of Commons + Reading out loud & von unten + Common Sweat Sauna + ArtsCommons rehashed + Open Space

SATURDAY

- 15:30-16:30 *Figures of Commoning*, introduction by Rudi Laermans
- 16:30-18:00 Launch *Bubble Score*-publication, with Lilia Mestre, Philippine Hoegen, Miriam Hempel, a.o.
- 17:00-21:00 Common Sweat sauna, with Steven Jouwersma
- 18:00-19:30 Presentation of the ThK Journal #23, *Commons / Undercommons in art, education, work*, with Bojana Cvejić interviewed by Pierre Rubio.
- 20:30-22:30 *Between what is no longer and what is not yet*, performance by Juan Dominguez
- 22:30-02:00 introduction Dino Sound System + PARTY!

FRIDAY 25/11

A.pass books on display / for sale

at the bar

The stock of books, artist-publications, posters, leaflets produced by a.pass-curators, researchers and participants will be on display and for sale during the Artist Commoner public meeting.

Open Space / a common habitat for artistic research practices

at the dance studio

with Nicolas Galeazzi and a.pass-participants

10:00-16:00

Every Friday of the last three month a.pass participants met for a concentrated commoning experiment.

With this practical inquiry into artistic research as a commons we try to establish an Open Space practice, that allows pursuing the individual researches while observing at the same time the general picture that these activities generate together. Every artistic element within that space is considered as a common good. Training the simultaneity and interdependence of individual and common interests not only puts our commons economy at work, but also lets us investigate the personal and collective effects of this structural shift.

For the *The Artist Commoner*-meeting we move the Open Space Practice to the Kaaistudio's and continue our work under the new spatial conditions, inviting you as a potential Open Space commoner into these investigations. You are welcome to explore, expand, dismantle and recharge this space with whatever you consider as your current work. Please bring at least a vegetable for the common cooking.

10:00 warm up

11:00 practice

13:00 common soup and discussion

14:30 logging

Regime Change

at the concert studio

with Kate Rich, Femke Snelting and Magdalena Tyzlik-Carver

office hours 11:00-15:30

presentation 15:30-17:30

A day long session, aimed at aligning the a.pass computing infrastructure with the ambitions and aspirations summoned by the commons. Tech giants currently dominate all forms of digital communication, from cloud-storage to production tools and archiving systems. For cultural institutions like a.pass and many kindred spirit organisations, there is potential for resistance. Kate, Magda and Femke will use the common power of their intersecting practices in art, technology and theory, to break the spell of this paralysing digital regime. With the aid of *Free, Libre and Open Source* software, the transposition agents will begin to transform the relation of a.pass to its computing technology.

Throughout the day the trio will conduct fieldwork, draw up solemn oaths & commit the institution to a rite of passage: from efficiency to curiosity; from scarcity to multiplicity and from solution to possibility. Champagne served all day.

Turn, Turtle! Panel

at the concert studio

with Vladimir Miller, Nicolas Galeazzi, Daniel Blanga-Gubbay, Guy Gypens, SPIN

18:00-19:30

We would like to draw your attention to the publication of the book '*Turn Turtle, Turn!*', a creative and intellectual analysis of the new turn in the perception and workings of institutes in the performing arts.

What has become apparent in the last ten years or so is a move towards an engaged re-appropriation of arts institutions in artistic (performance) practices, and a more in-depth collaboration between institutes and artists in rethinking the functioning, position, and decision-taking structures of these organisations. We asked several artists, programmers and thinkers to contribute to this publication from the viewpoint of their practice and experience within the institutional framework. *Turn, Turtle! Re-enacting the Institute* is the second part of the publication series *Performing Urgency*, commissioned by European theatre network House on Fire which will continue half-yearly.

For this edition launch in Brussels, the artists Vladimir Miller, Nicolas Galeazzi and Daniel Blanga-Gubbay will debate on these questions. The panel is followed by *The Missing Chapter*, a discussion between SPIN and Guy Gypens.

SITUATMENTS

at the concert studio

with Vladimir Miller, Lilia Mestre, Pierre Rubio, Nicolas Galeazzi, Kristien Van den Brande, Steven Jouwersma, Philippine Hoegen & Einat Tuchman.

20:30-21:30

Collective scheduling and set-up. The first evening of The Artist-Commoner meeting is structured as an overlap of practices, talks and mini-workshops. We would like to provide a space and time for the audience to engage in the politics, pragmatics and poetics of collective scheduling and setting up, believing that commoning begins where stakes and engagement are developed within a framework that is open to change by its outsiders. On Friday evening we come together to introduce and situate our main concerns and give space to a self-organization of the evening. Guided by open space principles, the audience is invited to take active part in existing proposals and schedule other circles and meetings around possible emergent topics. All proposals will be organized and communicated on a central wall paper. This sprawling exploration of the conference themes will be injected into the discussions and presentation of the second day.

PRACTICES

at the concert studio

with Vladimir Miller, Kristien Van den Brande & Cecilia Molano, Steven Jouwersma, Pierre Rubio, Nicolas Galeazzi, Philippine Hoegen & Einat Tuchman.

21:30-2:00

Common sweat sauna

with Steven Jouwersma

18:00-23:00 - please bring your sauna gear.

The Common Sweat Sauna is a real working sauna made only from recuperated materials. It was built in the public space of Brussels and immediately opened up to the public. The project intends to create a free nomadic urban sauna space that diverts from the logic of commercial and individualized wellness and that de-colonizes the public space. The sauna moves from place to place in Brussels and gathers a growing crowd that takes care of the sauna.

Mobile interviews

with Pierre Rubio

Pierre Rubio will conduct several nomadic interviews with the participants and with the audience throughout the two-day event. They will revolve around preconceptions about and definitions of the very terms of the a.pass event. What does 'commoning' mean? Who is the 'subject' producing and operating the commons? What is a 'commoning practice'? What can 'commoning' do? What is the relation between the production of subjectivity and the production of a commoning theatre of operations?

City of Commons

with Vladimir Miller

In 2015 Stefan Gruber and Vladimir Miller began working on a series of speculative vignettes imagining and discussing a city (or rather a multitude of cities) where certain key institutions are based on practices of commoning. These fragmented utopian visions do not necessarily function or come together as one proposal, but are tools to explore critical positions towards the commons. The texts approach commoning not from the present state of things but speculate from within an imaginary state of commoning as a status quo, thus shifting critique towards a position of inner logics. Rather than discussing commoning practices by comparing or contrasting them with present day structures we jump to a discussion of commoning from within its own possibilities and contradictions, on its own terms. Vladimir Miller will facilitate a work session where together we will develop and discuss visions of institutions as radical spaces of commoning.

Reading out loud & von unten

with Cecilia Molano & Kristien Van den Brande

Out of the clear, critical light of day, where black night is falling, let's do something as simple as reading a novel to each other. From beginning to end, *von unten* and out loud, with no particular perspective in mind. *Vocalizing writing in order to actualize it, like visualizing it, is not without danger*, says Lyotard. Let's see. If on your bookshelf you have a copy of anti-bildungsroman *Jakob Von Gunten* by Robert Walser please bring it. Books-with-scribbles-in very much appreciated. Starting at 9.30 pm, until the last page is turned.

ArtsCommons - rehashed & common zapping

with Philippine Hoegen & Einat Tuchman & Nicolas Galeazzi

Based on their experience with an attempt to create a commons for the arts, Einat Tuchman, Philippine Hoegen, Nicolas Galeazzi will discuss the difficulties in practicing the commons as an artistic form. Their discussion is ongoing, temporarily settled at a table next to the bar, open for everyone and will be supported by a common zapping through YouTube clips

SATURDAY 26/11

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at the dance studio

with Nicolas Galeazzi and a.pass-participants

12:00-15:00

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Figures of commoning

at the concert studio

with Rudi Laermans

15:30-16:30

Commoning, or the collective production of a common (a commonality, a common good), is the essential practice through which the social instantiates the political, be it on the macro or the micro level. Evidently, there exist various modes of commoning - of being with and for, social giving and taking, sharing and co-creating. The presentation focusses on some of these practices, ranging from discussing to complicit action to doing nothing.

Launch: *Bubble Score*

at the concert studio

with Lilia Mestre, Philippine Hoegen, Miriam Hempel, and a.pass-participants

16:30-18:00

As a program curator of a.pass (advanced performance and scenography studies), Lilia Mestre has since 2014 developed *ScoreScapes*, a research on scores as pedagogical tools. Her theoretical interest focuses on performativity as a discursive practice leading to a method based on dialogical and intersubjective formats that function as enablers of exchange within artistic research. Working with this method led to various ways of reflecting on the participants' work, such as the question of authorship within a scored situation and the bearing of individual creativity within a collective. *Bubble Score* is the third score created for this context; on the occasion of *The Artist Commoner* a publication will be launched to share and open up the discussion 'of' methodologies of commoning education.

Commons / Undercommons in art, education, work...

at the concert studio

with Bojana Cvejić (ThK - Walking Theory), Pierre Rubio (a.pass)

18:00-19:30

a.pass welcomes Bojana Cvejić to discuss the last issue of the journal *TkH/Walking Theory Commons / Undercommons in art, education, work...*(2016).

In an interview by Pierre Rubio, co-curator of the a.pass program, Bojana Cvejić, co-editor of the journal, will address a few problems and questions following from *The Public Commons and the Undercommons of Art, Education, and Labour*' conference (Frankfurttlab 2014).

Taking a cue from Jason Read's contribution to the conference and journal *Individuating the Commons*, Cvejić will account for the approaches and arguments around the Common, its practices and plea for new subjectivation. Her own stance recasts collectivity through the questions of the pre-individual and trans-individual (in Gilbert Simondon, Paolo Virno, and Jason Read) Cvejić recently gave a lecture using these very concepts (*Radicalising a condition into a practice : Transindividuality*, London, Sept. 2016) to critically problematise art as "a site of intensive expression of individualism".

Why do concepts like 'individuation' or 'transindividuality' seem operative today for Bojana Cvejić to expand the narrow individual interest to a broader horizon of collective transindividual solidarity?

Between what is no longer and what is not yet

performance at the theatre space

with Juan Dominguez

20:30-22:30

Juan Dominguez suspends events and creates an interval of time in which he tries to integrate his past into his future. He translates his visions and his desire to encounter the unknown through language.

Juan Dominguez is a maker and organizer within the fields of choreography and performing arts. His work explores the relationship between different codes and advocates the complete dissolution between fiction and reality, using the former to produce the latter and vice versa. He is currently working on the construction of contexts that generate stronger and lasting relationships through continuity. He is also working on the idea of co-authorship between all the agents involved in a live aesthetic experience.

Some of his recent works are: *Shichimi togarashi* (2006), *All good artists my age are dead* (2007), *blue* (2009), *Clean Room Pilot* (2010), *Characters arriving* (2011), *Clean Room Season 1* (2012), *Clean Room Season 2* (2014) and *El Triunfo de la Libertad* (2014).

In the last 14 years, he has curated different festivals and programs. He was, amongst others, artistic director of the Festival In-Presentable/La Casa Encendida (2003-12), co-director of Living room Festival (2010-13) and co-curator of Picnic Sessions at C2M-Madrid (2013-15).

For the first time in 14 years, Dominguez is working alone, giving rise to a self-portrait that cites himself and some of his friends.

Dino Sound System

with Christophe Meierhans and Ant Hampton

22:30-02:00

To round up this public meeting, we will party. The sound will be produced by a sound system that is considered a common good – the ominously famous *Dino Sound System*. Driven by the need to dance – a group of artists, dj's and friends around Christophe Meierhans and Ant Hampton joined forces to construct an extraordinary loudspeaker system that can be used by any of the contributing 'Dinos' for whatever event they're planning. For our party, the system will experience its second test phase and official inauguration, with music played by a many-armed, collective DJ. Bring your ears for a listening event at 22.30 and you'll not be able to hold your legs back!

The Artist Commoner is supported by Imagine 2020

