

How far do regions of Eastern Europe and Latin America challenge and diversify the concept of postcolonialism? What do they add and how do they challenge current concepts of postcolonial critique? The explorative workshop »Postcolonial Critique: Latin American and Eastern European Perspectives (American South - European East)« discusses Eastern Europe and Latin America as specific loci of postcolonial critique and knowledge production. In the opening event the organizers aim to explore the artistic dimensions of this production in dialogue with three artists, whose biographies and works are linked to the two regions in different ways. The event is open to the interested academic and non-academic public, who will have the opportunity to take part in the discussion.

Venue:

Forum Transregionale Studien
Wallotstraße 14, 14193 Berlin

Tel.: +49 (0)30 89 001-428
initiatives@trafo-berlin.de
forum-transregionale-studien.de

Images: Tonel, »Cosmos« & »Enlightenment« (Lights).

In cooperation with:



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Performance and Debate

Mon 23 Sep 2019
17:30-20:00

Postcolonial Critique and Artistic Encounters
American South - European East

Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin

Free entrance. Please register: initiatives@trafo-berlin.de



Postcolonial Critique and Artistic Encounters:

American South - European East
Performance and Debate

Public opening event of the Explorative Workshop »Postcolonial Critique: Latin American and Eastern European Perspectives (American South - European East)«

Opening Performance

»Songs of a Transindigenous Environmental Front« by Joulia Strauss

Artist Talk: »De-centering the Gaze: Artistic Strategies for a Decolonial Future«

Sara Alonso Gómez (art curator, Havana/ Paris) will discuss the question of postcolonial positionalities in the context of the arts with the artists Esther Shalev-Gerz (Vilnius/Paris) and Antonio Eligio Fernández (»Tonel«) (Havana/ Vancouver), especially the dimensions of alterity and critique.

Organizers

Clara Frysztacka, Jennifer Ramme, Pablo Valdivia (Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder, Institut für Europastudien der Europa-Universität Viadrina)

Antonio Eligio Fernández (»Tonel«)

Tonel is an artist, critic, and curator who shares his time between Canada and Cuba. He has exhibited extensively since the 1970s, including at the Havana, Sao Paulo, Berlin, and Venice biennials. His latest solo exhibition *Ajústate al tema* [Stop Digressing] was presented earlier his year at Havana's National Museum of Fine Arts. His articles and essays have been included in anthologies, catalogs and periodicals in Cuba and elsewhere. He was co-curator alongside Jürgen Harten of *Kuba o.k.: aktuelle Kunst aus Kuba*, Stadtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Germany (1990); and with Keith Wallace of *The Spaces Between: Contemporary Art from Havana*, at Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada (2014) and Bildmuseet, Umeå, Sweden (2015). He worked with Concha Fontenla as co-curator of *Signs: Arts, Industry and Vice Versa* at Factoría Habana, Havana, Cuba (2015); and with Andreas Beitin on *Art x Cuba: Contemporary Perspectives Since 1989*, at the Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany (2017). In 2017 he was a lecturer at the Graduate Lecture Series, San Francisco Art Institute, California. In 2019 he was awarded the »Edward Laroque Tinker Visiting Professorship« at Stanford University, California. He has been an adjunct professor at the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada and is currently a part-time lecturer at the same university.

Sara Alonso Gómez

Sara Alonso Gómez is art historian, curator and researcher on contemporary art. Currently enrolled in a doctoral program at the University Paris Diderot, she carries out a research project on the notion of artistic disobedience in global times, applied to the context of Latin America. In parallel to scientific research, Alonso Gómez has a 10-year curatorial experience between Latin America, Europe and, more recently, Africa. In 2018, she founded the platform ARTICHOK, which fosters South-South artistic collaborations between Africa and the Caribbean region, and has been appointed co-curator for next Yango Biennale of Kinshasa (DRC). She is currently recipient of a one-year fellowship of the Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte (DFK) in Paris for the academic year 2019-2020.

Esther Shalev-Gerz

Based in Paris, Esther Shalev-Gerz is internationally recognized for her seminal contributions to the field of art in the public realm and her consistent investigation into the construction of memory, history, the natural world, democracy and cultural identities. Her works challenge the notion and practice of portraiture and consider how its qualities may contribute to contemporary discourse about the politics of representation. Esther Shalev-Gerz, born Gilinsky, was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. Her family moved to Jerusalem in 1957. She graduated with a BFA from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, 1979. She lived in New York in 1980-1981. Since 1984 she has been living and working between Paris and Cortes Island, Canada. She received grants and generous support from, among others, the DAAD, Berlin in 1990, from IASPIS Stockholm in 2002, from The Wolfsonian, FIU, Miami in 2011, from the QoG Institute, Göteborg University, Sweden in 2011 and from the Swedish Research Council in 2010-2013. From 2003 to 2015 she was a Professor in the MA at Valand Art School, Göteborg University Sweden.

Joulia Strauss

Joulia Strauss (the political activist supercat shaman artist in Athens) is a member of the indigenous culture of Mari, a minority at the edge of Eastern Europe. She stands for a chord of artistic media, resonating in a deep bond with philosophy, technology, politics and environmental activism. Strauss has founded and organises *Avtonomi Akadimia* in the Akadimia Platonos Garden in Athens: an ongoing socio-cybernetic sculpture, a film set, and an activist initiative to transform the occidental educational system. Her sculptures, paintings, performances, videos, were presented at the solo and group exhibitions at the Tate Modern, London, ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Kyiv Biennial - Kyiv International, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Center for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Berlin Biennale 7, Athens Biennale 5-6, documenta14, Athens, Kassel, and many other venues. She publishes the art activist magazine *Krytyka Polityczna* in Berlin and Athens. The recent issue, »Occupy History. Decolonisation of Memory. The East German Revolution and the West German Takeover«, by Thomas Oberender, has been released earlier this month.