

...and they installed the office in the tavern.
The Office and Le Bureau/ are meeting.



A program of artistic interventions by The Office (Berlin) and Le Bureau/ (Paris)

Berlin 30.06.2012, 12:00-18:00
Kunstquartier Bethanien, Restaurant "Drei Schwestern"
Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin

Paris 07.07.2012, 12:00-20:00
Gaîté Lyrique, "Bar du foyer historique"
3bis rue Papin, 75003 Paris

"[...] It may occasionally happen that one office ordains this, another that; neither knows of the other, and though the supreme control is absolutely efficient, it comes by its nature too late, and so every now and then a trifling miscalculation arises." Franz Kafka, *The Castle*

As part of the Berlin-Paris gallery exchange, The Office (Berlin) and Le Bureau/ (Paris) implement a day of artistic interventions in two analogous public spaces "Drei Schwestern" restaurant in Kunstquartier Bethanien Berlin and "Bar du foyer historique" of La Gaîté Lyrique in Paris.

As in Kafka's *The Castle*, The Office and Le Bureau/ install themselves in a preexisting social space, in order to follow their own professional interests. Over the course of one day, following a planned schedule, artists will contribute performances, conversations, games, workshops and videos, using the existing café structures: the bar, the tables, the chairs, etc. Visitors can choose to get involved in a diversity of programs, or keep following their own business.

BERLIN_30.7.2012

Program of artistic interventions/performances

- For information on scheduling and registration please consult the reception desk -

Nicolas Boulard will organize a beer tasting session, like the famous French wine *à l'aveugle* sessions. Art critics will be invited to analyze and provide their expertise on the mixtures, according to a format that combines the aesthetics of an office and a tavern.

Intervention: 4:30 pm

Alejandro Cesarco will present a non-authorized selection of Douglas Gordon's instructions as a ventriloquist's form of appropriation, an excuse to reenact the work and reawaken the rumors – the fear, the anxiety, or the bewilderment – that they originally created.

Intervention: ongoing

Daniel Cockburn will attempt to combat his own forgetful, absentminded nature by turning the restaurant "Drei Schwestern" into a mnemonic device.

Performances: 2 pm, 4 pm

The big Conversation Space, aka Clémence de Montgolfier & Niki Korth, carried out an investigation for Le Bureau/. The content of their private investigation, as well as anything that may be discovered or uncovered, will be presented in the space, hence: "**The big Conversation Space**".

Installation

Amélie Deschamps proposes to distribute a text, like a political leaflet, constructed on the codes of theater. The text highlights the question of notoriety in art world and is a guide of sorts, a protocol to be performed by the public within its own space.

Intervention

Alicia Frankovich will choreograph a situation for spontaneous performances by amateurs in a social space.

Performances: sudden appearances

Patrycja German will perform card readings to those who are absolutely determined. She will lay out the spread and foretell their future. Each participant will receive a participation certificate.

Performance: sessions of 40 min

Assaf Gruber will work with moving image fragments of absurdity, taken from the legendary television series "The Prisoner" (1968), known for its Kafka-esque atmosphere.

Video Installation

Alexis Guillier & Sebastien Rémy will present "HMV", a live broadcasting project composed of numerous excerpts, taken from fictional or historical situations, in which a particular device is used to make the audience hear a disembodied voice.

Intervention: 5:30 pm

Hadley+Maxwell will stage a new version of their performance "Metal Pessoa" (2011), involving Fernando Pessoa's unsigned "Letter to Two French Magnetists", and will visibly intervene in the restaurant's décor.

Performances: 1 pm, 3 pm

Olivia Plender will tell a story titled "Are Dreams Hallucinations During Sleep, or Hallucinations Waking Dreams?" (2011), based on a lecture by the 19th century spiritualist and clairvoyant Andrew Jackson Davis, as received by the medium Gladys Carr.

Performance: throughout the day

Marlies Pöschl will present her film “Manova”, in which she experiments with flipping existing mechanisms of control and surveillance. The film is based on interviews with Austrian market research institutes regarding art and collecting art, which Pöschl constructs into a panoptic view of contemporary office environments.

Video Installation

Organizers

THE OFFICE seeks to create, facilitate and produce projects of contemporary culture and intends to detect where, how and through whom art happens today. THE OFFICE intervenes in cities' cultural infrastructures to connect and expand existing configurations, and to provide a space for discursive activities in constantly changing environments. THE OFFICE explores a model of collective practice and experimentation for artists, curators, writers and other cultural producers. It is a network for receiving and developing projects, inventing and testing formats.

LE BUREAU/ is a group of curators based in Paris, whose aim is to question the very form of the exhibition as a medium and idea. In the context of the multiplication of independent curators, also called ‘authors’, exhibitions are defined as the showcasing of an ensemble of artworks following an individual’s intentions: exhibitions which often mask singularities behind a supposedly optimal presentation of the works. Consequently, LE BUREAU/ was founded as a group, in order to question these exhibiting strategies by avoiding the prominence of a single personality.

www.theoffice.li / www.lebureau.tk