Say Shibboleth!
On Visible and Invisible Borders

Curator

Boaz Levin (b. 1989, Jerusalem) is an artist, writer, and curator. Together with Hito Steyerl and Vera Tollmann, he co-founded the Research Center for Proxy Politics. Levin has presented his work internationally, most recently at the CCA (Tel Aviv), Human Resources (Los Angeles) and FIDMarseille. Last Person Shooter, directed together with Adam Kaplan, was awarded the Ostrovsky Family Fund Award (2015). Regarding Spectatorship, an ongoing curatorial research project with Marianna Liosi, was shown at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien (Berlin) in 2015–16. Since October 2016, Levin has been a PhD candidate as part of the Cultures of Critique research training group at Leuphana University, Lüneburg. In 2017, Levin co-curated the Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie (Mannheim-Ludwigshafen-Heidelberg). Recent publications include: Proxy Politics: Power and Subversion in a Networked Age, co-edited with Vera Tollmann, Archive Books, 2017; Alles, Tobias Zielony, Etude Books, 2019; Rules for Extractor, (exhibition catalogue for MINE, Simon Denny), co-edited with Sian Scott Clash, MONA 2019.

Artists

Ovidiu Anton (b. 1982, Timisoara, Romania) lives and works as an artist in Vienna. He studied photography with Friedl Kubelka and at the Academy of Arts in Vienna as well as at the École Supèrieure de Beaux-Arts in Marseille. His work was shown as solo exhibitions in Vienna, Salzburg, Ljubljana and Cologne.

Caroline Bergvall (b. 1962, Germany) is a French Norwegian poet. She earned degrees from the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle, the University of Warwick, and Dartington College of Arts. Working across languages, media, and art forms, Bergvall's interests run from multilingual poetics to feminism to issues of cultural belonging. Projects include poetic works, audio pieces, drawings, installations, and live performances. Her practice pushes at the boundaries of language and has an ongoing concern with issues surrounding social displacement, migration, belonging, language histories and liminal spaces. Starting-points and source materials emerge often from a mixture of literary or historic events and contemporary events. Her work has been commissioned and shown by such institutions as MoMA, the Tate Modern, Dokumenta 14. In 2017 Bergvall was awarded a Cholmondeley Award for her poetic work, and is the first recipient of the art literary prize Prix Littéraire Bernard Heidsieck-Centre Pompidou. Her current ongoing project Sonic Atlas involves collaborative performances as well as engaging in conversational research with multiple language speakers across the UK and the Continent.

Zach Blas (b. 1981) is an artist and writer whose practice confronts technologies of capture, security, and control. Currently, he is a Lecturer in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London. Blas has exhibited and lectured internationally, recently at Gasworks, London; Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane; and Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven. His current project "Contra-Internet" is supported by a 2016 Creative Capital award in Emerging Fields and the Arts Council England. His writings can be found in Documentary Across Disciplines, Queer: Documents of Contemporary Art, and e-flux journal. His work has been featured in Artforum, Frieze, Art Review, Mousse Magazine, and The Guardian.

Sophie Calle (b. 1953, Paris, France) is a French writer, photographer, installation artist, and conceptual artist. Calle's work is distinguished by its use of arbitrary sets of con-straints, and evokes the French literary movement of the 1960s known as Oulipo. Her work frequently depicts human vulnerability, and examines identity and intimacy. Since 2005 Sophie Calle has taught as a professor of film and photography at European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland. She has lectured at the University of California, San Diego in the Visual Arts Department. She has also taught at Mills College in Oakland, California. Exhibitions of Calle's work took place at the Centre George Pompidou, Paris; Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia; Museé d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme, Paris; and others. She represented France at the Venice Biennale in 2007.

Arno Gisinger (b. 1964, Dornbirn, Austria) lives and works in Paris, where he teaches photography at the University of Paris VIII. His work deals with questions of history and memory, language and images. Recent exhibitions: Nouvelles histoires de fantômes (with Georges Didi-Huberman), Palais de Tokyo, Paris 2015; Invented, Center George Pompidou, Paris 2014; Archéologies, Reims, 2016; Constellation Benjamin, Pau, 2017; Ghost Stories, Biennale for Contemporary Photography, Mannheim, 2017; Faux Terrain / Viewer Images, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt 2017.

Vincent Grunwald (b. 1984, Berlin, East Germany (former GDR)) is an artist and publisher. His work is shown internationally. He studied at UdK Berlin (University of Fine Arts) and UNA Buenos Aires (National University of Arts), Argentina. He received his degree as Meisterschüler in the class of Hito Steyerl at the UdK Berlin. In 2008 he founded together with 3 colleagues the publishing house AKV Berlin. His works were shown recently in Athens, Berlin, Prague and Cologne.

Lawrence Abu Hamdan (b. 1985, Amman, Jordan) is an artist and audio investigator currently living in Berlin. Abu Hamdan's interest with sound and its intersection with politics originate from his background as a touring musician and facilitator of DIY music. Abu Hamdan's Rubber Coated Steel 2016 won the short film award at the Rotterdam International Film festival 2017. Other solo exhibitions include Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018); Kunsthalle, St. Gallen (2015); The Showroom, London (2012), and others. Abu Hamdan is the author of the artist book [inaudible]: A Politics of Listening in 4 Acts and a forthcoming ebook produced as part of his 2015–17 fellowship at the Vera List Centre for Art and Politics at the New School in New York. His works are part of collections at MoMA New York, GuggenheimNew York, and others.

Ryan S Jeffery (b. 1978, Fairfax, Virgina, US) is an American filmmaker who lives in Los Angeles, California. His work considers how political, cultural and economic structures are imprinted within the built environment, and their subsequent reproduction and circulation through images and media. Jeffery has currently been teaching in The School of Critical Studies at The California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). His work has exhibited at such venues as D21 Kunstraum, Leipzig; The Museum De Domijnen, Sittard, Netherlands; The Kyiv Biennial, Ukraine; and others.

Leon Kahane (b. 1985, Berlin, East Germany (GDR)) studied at the Ostkreuz School of Photography Berlin and the Berlin University of the Arts. His video and photographic works address themes such as migration and political protest from a conceptual perspective that examines the complexity of visual media as a document of social reality. His work has been exhibited internationally, most recently at the Kunsthalle Wien, Moscow Biennale and Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig. In 2017 he received the ars viva prize.

Mikael Levin (b. 1954, New York, New York, US) works in photography and film, his projects often intersect the particulars of his family history with the general movements and major events of the 20th century. Through such works his images explore the representation of time and place, memory and document, and commonality and beauty. His work has been exhibited widely in the US and in Europe, including solo exhibitions at the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris (2003); the International Center of Photography, New York (1997); and others. In 2003 his work was included in the Venice Biennale. His work is part of the permanent installation of the Jewish Museum Berlin; he is represented in major collections such as those of the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

Fiamma Montezemolo (b. 1971, Rome, Italy) is an artist and cultural anthropologist. She is an established scholar in border studies and the author of two monographs: La Mia Storia Non La Tua: La Dinamica Della Costruzione Dell'identita' Chicana (2004) and Senza volto: L'etnicità e il genere nel Movimento Zapatista (1999). She is also a co-author of Here is Tijuana (2006) and co-editor of Tijuana Dreaming: Life & Art at the Global border (2012). As an artist she situates her work as a critical extension of the ethnographic turn in contemporary art, and works with various media, including installation, cartography, video, digital photography, archives, and ethnography. Her artwork has been widely exhibited both nationally and internationally.

Pınar Öğrenci (b. 1973, Van, Turkey) is an artist and a writer based in Istanbul. Öğrenci uses various media in her artistic practice, including photography, video, performance and installation. Her works address subjects such as migration, war, collective movements, nationalism, cultural assimilation, stories of heroism and urban transformation. Her works have been exhibited widely at museums and art institutions. Her first solo exhibition abroad was realized at Kunst Haus-Hundertwasser Museum in Vienna in 2017. She is the founder of MARSistanbul, an art initiative launched in 2010. Since the late 1990s, Öğrenci has extensively written on contemporary art and architecture in magazines, including Agos, Radikal, ArtUnlimited, among others.

Fazal Sheikh (b. 1965, New York, US) is an artist who uses photographs to document people living in displaced and marginalized communities around the world. FazalSheikh's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, including Tate Modern, London; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation, Paris. Sheikh's ten books include The Victor Weeps, Moksha, and Ether. He has received many awards for his work, including a Fulbright Fellowship (1992), Le Prix Dialogue de l'Humanité, Rencontres d'Arles (2003), the Deutscher Fotobuchpreis (2009 and 2016), and the Kraszna-Krausz Book Award (2016). In 2005 he was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow and in 2012 a Guggenheim Fellow.