

Media Information

THE ENDS OF FREEDOM

New exhibition about artistic responses on the increasing authoritarianism in democratic systems

(September 2, 2019)

An authoritarian backlash has hold of democracies worldwide. Since 2003 Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the strong man in Turkey. In 2018, he reconfigured the government into a bespoke presidential democracy. In 2010 Viktor Orbán was again selected prime minister of Hungary and has created an illiberal democracy on Putin's model. Multi-billionaire Donald Trump – with his contemptuous, attention-grabbing posturing – took over the Republican Party and, in 2017, the most powerful office in the world. The True Finns, the Sweden Democrats, the Five Star Movement in Italy or the Alternative for Germany have twisted the political discourse in Europe to the right and celebrating electoral successes.

The new populism is an antipolitics that aims at division and reinforces centrifugal social forces. Exclusionary ridicule, provocation and political incorrectness have become weapons of these movements. Culture and art have fallen into this vortex and have again become a site of dispute.

The upcoming exhibition project addresses how artists are reacting to increasing authoritarianism within democratic systems. What political and artistic restrictions do they face? Where have there been cases of exertion of political influence and censorship? Where have artists endangered themselves? How and with whom do the artists feel solidarity? Which prescriptions can art offer for regaining one's own agency?

The opening event will feature a member of the American artist collective INDECLINE, who will present their public actions such as »The Emperor has no Balls« (2016), the reactions and their artistic background. The activist group was founded in 2001 and uses various artistic and subversive tactics to expose social, environmental and political injustices.

EXHIBITION FACTS

Exhibition Title: The Ends of Freedom

Artists: Makoto Aida, Ines Doujak, Işıl Eğrikavuk, INDECLINE, Eugenio Merino, Csaba Nemes, Tools for Action, Wen Yau

Opening: Saturday, September 7, 2019, 3 am

Duration: September 7 until December 7, 2019

Press Conference: September 5, 2019, 11 am

Autumn Tour of the SpinnereiGalleries: September 7 & 8, 2019

Events:

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 7 pm

Memory Tools / Werkzeuge der Erinnerung

Lecture & Talk with Artúr van Balen (Tools for Action)
Venue: Frei_Raum-Pavillon, Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz, Leipzig

Thursday, October 17, 2019, 7 pm

Time to Sing a New Song - On the situation of artists in Turkey and their response strategies
Discussion with Işıl Eğrikavuk (artist) & Erden Kosova (curator)

Thursday, November 7, 2019, 7 pm

WIR SIND DAS VOLK! (homage to all peaceful revolutionaries)
Live Performance by Wen Yau (artist)

Opening hours: Tue-Sun, 11 am-6 pm

Entrance fee: 4 €, reduced 2 € (free on Wednesdays)

Location: HALLE 14 – Centre for Contemporary Art

Address: Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei, Spinnereistr. 7, 04179 Leipzig, Germany

Phone: 0049 341 / 492 42 02

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Stadt Leipzig
Kulturamt



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Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf
der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen
Haushaltes.

PROGRAM DURING THE TOUR OF THE SPINNEREIGALLERIES

September 7, 2019, 3 pm

Exhibition Opening with Artistic Director Michael Arzt (HALLE 14)

September 7, 2019, 4 pm

THIS IS INDECLINE - Talk with INDECLINE

September 7 & 8, 2019

Elma Petridou: »TESTING OUR COMMUNICATION«
Exhibition & Workshops

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PRESS IMAGES:

Download in High Resolution: [Presse](#)



Eugenio Merino, Toxic Trump, 2017



INDECLINE, The Emperor Has No Balls, 2016

HALLE 14 – CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART | LEIPZIG

As a non-commercial art centre, **HALLE 14** is a space for the presentation of, reflection on and communication about contemporary art. It has been operating since 2002 in a listed historic industrial building on the grounds of the **Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei (Cotton Spinning Mill)**. With the conscious intent of highlighting the »luxury of emptiness«, an initiative of art enthusiasts created unique spaces in the generous halls of this late 19th century industrial building. As a non-profit organization, HALLE 14 serves the public interest in its artistic commitment. This goal is accomplished through projects such as exhibitions, an art library, an art education programme, a scholarship programme and a series of talks and discussions.

The dense artistic sociotope of the Spinnerei – with over a dozen galleries and project spaces, 130 artist studios, numerous other creative offices, a cinema, a café and more – combined with the countless off-spaces in the surrounding neighbourhood create an enriching environment. www.halle14.org