



Centre
for Contemporary
Art
Ujazdowski
Castle



GALA Workshop: Architecture and social space – The Ecology of Work

Organised by Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Julie's Bicycle (UK) in cooperation with Happy Museum (UK)

Date 16 January 2015

Location: Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Jazdów 2 St, 00-467 Warsaw (Poland)

CCA staff participants: Grzegorz Borkowski (chief of publications department), Waldemar Brański (chief of administration), Kaja Pawełek (curator), Michał Matuszewski (chief of CCA's cinema, curator), Marlena Sent (documentation department), Maria Parczewska (LET education department, curator), Ms. Alina (administration worker), Aleksandra Berłożecka (webmaster), Joanna Rentowska (education department), Marianna Dobkowska (artists-in-residence Laboratory, curator), Ika Sienkiewicz-Nowacka (artists-in-residence Laboratory, chief curator of the programme), Aleksandra Gajda (artists-in-residence Laboratory, office manager), Anna Ptak (artists-in-residence Laboratory, curator), Ewa Gorządek (chief curator), Romuald Demidenko (coordinator), Jarosław Lubiak (Deputy Director).

Guest speaker(s)/Artists involved

Sholeh Johnston, Julie's Bicycle (UK)

Hilary Jennings, Happy Museum (UK)

Lukasz Lendzinski, artist (DE/PL)

The workshop was inspired by the residency project by Umschichten Studio, Stuttgart-based architecture collective who in autumn 2013 arrived in Warsaw for the residency at A-I-R Laboratory/ CCA Ujazdowski Castle. Their project has been organised in the framework of the GALA project ("Ecology Lab Warsaw"). Collective tackled some of the challenges that the building posed to people, their well-being and achieving any ecological goals. (Publication attached.)

Our focus was an aspect of human ecology. We studied relationship between people – their well-being – environment in which they work and resources within institution, with an

emphasis on the role of CCA's staff agency and policy in developing more ecological attitude of CCA's staff members.

It occurred to us that to collaboratively tackle issues like sustainability and ecology, there must be trust between the group of people (staff members, partner institutions and even a network). Without creating a solid base a shared vision, action plan or consensus isn't possible. The workshop helped us to realise that the institution (as a living organism) has to improve its own health before it will be able to improve its relations to its surrounding environment. This GALA workshop had a unique profile focusing on human aspect.

The main conclusions are:

- that without trust, sustainability and wellbeing are not possible;
- that everyone needs to have an equal voice in order to build trust and honesty;
- that to create a sense of shared purpose, we must establish a set of shared values;
- that sustainability doesn't have to start with ambitious interventions in the building, or indeed the city;
- it sometimes has to start with small steps that are designed to create a supportive and positive community before real change is possible.

An internal report has been produced with key points which might help CCA to explore opportunity that sustainability and wellbeing offer to give. The CCA team gained new focus and ideas how to overcome internal problems. Individual feeling of isolation and separation was temporary changed among participants of the workshop.

More information:

www.csw.art.pl/index.php?action=wydarzenie&id=1153&lang=eng

www.facebook.com/events/1545794479014867/?ref=3&ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular