

PRESS RELEASE

22.04.–12.06.2016

We Refugees – Of the Right to Have Rights

Opening: Thursday, 21 April, 7 pm

Press Preview: Wednesday, 20 April, 11 am

Participants: Maja Bajević, Danica Dakić, Petja Dimitrova, Edgar Endress, Azin Feizabadi, *foundationClass, Lampedusa Research Group, Nilbar Güreş, Annika Gutsche, Rana Hamadeh, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Zarina Hashmi, Mira Hirtz, Hiwa K, Thomas Kilpper, Eva Leitolf, Marina Naprushkina, Mario Rizzi, Till Roeskens, Zineb Sedira, Mounira Al Solh, Christoph Wachter & Mathias Jud, Qingmei Yao

Exhibition architecture: Thomas Rustemeyer

From April 22 to June 12, 2016, the Badischer Kunstverein will be mounting an extensive exhibition and events program on the subject of migration and flight. Hannah Arendt's essay "We Refugees" provides the exhibition and events with their title and conceptual approach. In her essay "We Refugees," which appeared in 1943 and was not translated into German until 1986, the philosopher takes her own biographical situation as her starting point to reflect on the status of so-called refugees and attacks the usual strategies for their assimilation. She views the refugee question instead as a universal issue: we are all, or can quickly become, refugees. Arendt argues for the right of migrants to be politically active and to participate in social practices. Not the newcomers must adapt to existing state apparatuses, but states should change in order to do justice in a positive sense to the condition of statelessness. She already saw that they, as "the vanguard of their peoples," necessarily call into question political principles such as nationhood, nationality, and territoriality.

In the face of over sixty million people in flight today the project at the Badischer Kunstverein starts from Arendt's seminal ideas and examines concepts such as relocation and migration from a range of perspectives. Participants from the arts, theory, and activist practice have been invited to present their works in close dialogue with each other. The formats range from documentary, short film, text, photography, and drawing to performance, installation, and objects. Alongside works by solo artists the show and events program also presents various collectives and networks.

A central subject of the exhibition is the concept and question of identity, where gender, queer and migration aspects are also articulated. Forms of racism in society are revealed, concepts and prevalent/prescribed language and terminologies critically examined. But also at stake are the specific visions and lived realities of those fleeing, at borders, and in accommodations. The legal status of the stateless is subject of some works while stateless people have long since begun politicizing themselves. Some of the projects and works also offer options for action that are networked directly in the Kunstverein — from independent, open-source communication principles to a library of process reports and drawings for future asylum proceedings.

The exhibition and events program at the Badischer Kunstverein marks an attempt to conduct a discussion about flight and migration in Arendt's sense and with an eye to the future: within a structure specially designed for the exhibition (space of optimism) the different approaches in form of lectures, workshops and seminars come together in order to reflect on alternative ideas of encounter, participation, and community at a location as independent as possible.

Curated by Anja Casser

More information on the exhibition programme will be available soon on the Kunstverein's website: www.badischer-kunstverein.de

The exhibition is part of the Festival of European Culture 2016

EKT:2016
EUROPÄISCHE KULTURTAGE KARLSRUHE

Exhibition hours: Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address: Badischer Kunstverein, Waldstrasse 3, 76133 Karlsruhe, www.badischer-kunstverein.de

For further information, press images, or to order a personal guided tour of the exhibition, please

contact: Constanze Schira/Badischer Kunstverein, Tel. +49 (0)721 28226,

presse@badischer-kunstverein.de