"Migratory People, Migratory Images"
QUESTIONING AESTHETICS SYMPOSIUM
NYU-Berlin – June 17-18, 2016
Auditorium of the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

PROGRAM

Friday, June 17, 2016
9:00 AM — Introductions

9:30 AM—11:30 AM
Moderator: Susanne von Falkenhausen (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Speakers:
Saskia Sassen (Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Committee on
Global Thought, Columbia University)—“A Massive Loss of Habitat: New Drivers of
Migrations”
Miguel Angel Hernandez-Navarro (Associate Professor of Art History at University of
Murcia, Spain, and fiction writer)—“Fictionalizing Migration: Travelings from
Visual Art to Literature”
Mariam Ghani (NYC, artist)—“Untitled”

11:45 AM — 1:45 PM
Moderator: Jèssica Jaques Pi (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Speakers:
Mieke Bal (Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam)—
“Migratory Aesthetics”
Meleko Mokgosi (Artist, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University)—
“Untitled”
André Leipold (Zentrum für Politische Schönheit; Artist Collective, Berlin)—
“Real Fiction or Discoveries at the Interface between Arts and Politics”

1:45 PM — 3:15 PM — Lunch

3:30 PM — 5:30 PM
Moderator: Gregg Horowitz (Pratt Institute)
Speakers:
Eve Meltzer (Associate Professor of Visual Studies, Gallatin School of
Individualized Study, New York University)—“Untitled”
Olga Jitlina (Artist, Saint Petersburg; Editor-in-Chief of the Utopian News Agency; co-
Founder of Idleness Academy)—“Untitled”
Ahmet Ögüt (Artist, Amsterdam)—“Untitled”
Saturday, June 18, 2016
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Moderator: Gerard Vilar (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Speakers:
T. J. Demos (Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture, and Director,
Center for Creative Ecologies, University of California at Santa Cruz)—
“Climate Refugees and Visual Politics”
Ihab Saloul (Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies & Academic Coordinator of
Amsterdam School for Heritage & Memory Studies, University of Amsterdam)—
“Contested Sites of Memory: Aesthetics and Performativity in Times of Conflict”
Nina Katchadourian (Artist, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York
University)—“Untitled”

11:45 AM — 1:45 PM
Moderator: Karen Hornick
Speakers:
Arjun Appadurai (Professor of Media, Culture and Communication, New York
University)—“Untitled”
Luka Lucic (Assistant Professor, Department of Social Science & Cultural Studies, Pratt
Institute)—“Thirsty for Internet: Technological Affordances along a Migratory Journey”
Vera Tollman (Artist; Research Centre RCPP, Berlin)—“Untitled”

1:45 PM — 3:15 PM — Lunch

3:30 PM — 5:30 PM
Roundtable
Moderator: Michael Kelly, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at
Charlotte; & Transdisciplinary Aesthetics Foundation
Speakers: All Symposium Participants

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University; New York University Berlin; Gallatin School of Individualized Study,
New York University; NYU Gallatin Office of Global Study; Pratt Institute; and
the Transdisciplinary Aesthetics Foundation.
SPEAKER BIOS

**Arjun Appadurai** is Paulette Goddard Professor of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University. He was educated in India and in the United States and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. During 2016-17, he will be a Visiting Professor at the Institute for European Ethnology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His most recent book is *Banking on Words: The Failure of Language in the Age of Derivative Finance* (University of Chicago Press).

**Mieke Bal** is a cultural theorist, critic, and video artist. Her books include a trilogy on political art (2010-213) and *A Mieke Bal Reader* (2006). She just published a book on the political force of the shadow plays of Nalini Malani. Her experimental video documentaries on issues of migration and identity have been internationally exhibited. Her video project, *Madame B*, with Michelle Williams Gamaker, offers a critique of “emotional capitalism” and what is now ravaging the world as neo-liberalism. In April 2016, the première of a 5-channel installation and a feature film on the mis-encounter between René Descartes and Queen Kristina of Sweden, leading to the philosopher-of-rationalism's death took place in Kraków, Poland. [www.miekebal.org](http://www.miekebal.org)


**Miguel Ángel Hernández Navarro** is Associate Professor of Art History at University of Murcia, Spain, and formerly Director of CENDEAC in Murcia. He is the author of several books on contemporary art and visual culture, including *Materializar el pasado: El artista como historiador benjaminiano* (2012), *Robert Morris* (2010), and *2Move: Video Art Migration* (2008, with Mieke Bal); and is also co-Editor of *Art and Visibility in Migratory Culture* (with Mieke Bal, 2011). He is also novelist and fiction writer. His novel *Escape Attempt* (translated into several languages) is a reflection on the ethics of contemporary art and the representation of migratory culture.

**Olga Jitlina** (Zhitlina) is an artist based in Saint-Petersburg, Russia. She is Editor-in-Chief of the Utopian News Agency and co-Founder of Idleness Academy (together with Emily Newman and Alexander Skidan). Also, she has worked in collaboration with Alejandro Ramirez (artist, film-director), Anna Tereshkina (artist, graphic), and others. Together with Andrey Yakimov (human rights advocate), she developed “Russia, the Land of Opportunity Labor Migrant Board Game” (see the Amanda Weil Award Lecture at the 2014 Creative Time Summit, Stockholm, a collaboration with Public Art Agency Sweden: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boMMHjsVQvI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boMMHjsVQvI)). See [http://www.olgajitlina.info](http://www.olgajitlina.info)
Nina Katchadourian is an interdisciplinary artist and an associate professor at New York University’s Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Her video *Accent Elimination* was included at the 2015 Venice Biennale in the Armenian pavilion, which won the Golden Lion for Best National Participation. A solo survey show of her work will open in March 2017 at the Blanton Museum in Austin, Texas, with an accompanying monograph; and she is currently working on a sound-based project about dust for MoMA. See www.ninakatchadourian.com

André Leipold is the privy councilor of the ZPS. He is responsible for the development of ideas, the manufacturing of coherence, the setting of the conceptual frameworks of all parts in a production (basis of texts, staging and public representation) and the coordination of participating artists. Leipold is a singer ("Kreismal") and producer, also in the music at home.

Luka Lucić is an Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, where he also coordinates the Psychology Minor. Luka is a developmental psychologist whose research explores the socio-cognitive process of sense-making among children and youth who experienced abrupt resettlement and relocation, such as migrants and those living in war-affected areas. His recent publication titled *Changing Landscapes, Changing Narratives: Socio-Cultural Approach for Teaching Global Migrants* (Pédagogy, Culture and Society) explores the effects of new media technologies on development of today’s children and youth migrants.

Eve Meltzer is Associate Professor of Visual Studies and Visual Culture at New York University’s Gallatin School of Individualized Study, and an affiliated faculty member in the Department of Art History. Her first book, *Systems We Have Loved: Conceptual Art, Affect, and the Antihumanist Turn* (University of Chicago Press, 2013) situates the conceptual art movement in relation to the field of structuralist thought and the notion of the world as a total sign system. Her second book, tentatively titled *Group Photo: Psychoanalysis, Photography, and Belonging* will examine several bodies of group photographs, through which she elaborates the claim that the subject’s being for and belonging to others has a psycho-photographic consistency.

Ihab Saloul is Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies, co-founding Director and Academic Coordinator of The Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture at the University of Amsterdam. He is a Visiting Professor of Culture and Politics at Free University Berlin, and a Research Fellow at the network “Re-Configurations. History, Remembrance and Transformation Processes in the Middle East and North Africa” at Marburg University. He was a Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study, and a EUME-Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. His publications include *Catastrophe and Exile in the Modern Palestinian Imagination: Telling Memories* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), and *Zoom In: Palestinian Refugees of 1948, Remembrances* (Republic of Letters, 2011). Saloul is a book series editor of “Palgrave Studies in Cultural Heritage and Conflict” and “Heritage and Memory Studies” series at Amsterdam University Press.

Saskia Sassen is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Chair, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University (www.saskiasassen.com). She is the author of several books and the recipient of diverse awards and mentions, ranging from multiple doctor honoris causa to named lectures and being selected for various honors lists. Her new book is *Expulsions: When Complexity Produces Elementary Brutalities* (Harvard University Press 2014).