

Group Matters

MENTOR

Saioa Olmo Alonso

GUEST

Sabel Gavaldón (curator, Museum of the Gesture)

DATES

22nd-26th June (deadline submission **22.05.2015**)

LANGUAGE

English

PARTICIPATION FEE

€ 570 (including accomodation and half-board)

TOPICS / TAGS

group behaviour, behavioural art, participation, temporality, creation of situations, art experiences, interactions, cybernetics, relational systems, transactions

MODULE OUTLINE

Group Matters is a module on group dynamics. It is a research about how relationships work in groups for using this knowledge in participatory art projects and for applying the transformative potential of art to power relations within social structures.

Group Matters is a series of experimental group sessions on human interactions through artistic devices. Different situations are created for working on specific themes through the experience of the participants. The group is considered as a powerful gear of common knowledge and art is taken to the encounter of group behaviours to find new ways to unveil, appoint and transform them.

Group Matters is a methodology in progress. Until today several dynamics have been designed and tested: "The Line: Binomies, Borders and Dual Thinking" (on cultural identity), "Eromechanics: The Erotic of the Social Machinery" (on libidinous power relationships in social structures), "Interdependencies" (on live sociograms) and "Behavioural Choreographies" (on deconstruction of habits).

Group Matters needs the complicity of its participants to continue evolving. It is a project that requires contact with people who might want to engage with issues deriving from their own experience and work through disruptive methods.

Group Matters is the final phase of the larger project TRANSART. Participative art practices and social behaviour, focussing on behavioural aspects of participatory art.

Objectives

Generating artistic expressions that can unveil aspects related to human interactions. Being able to apply the knowledge acquired in the workshop to participatory art projects or collaborative ways of working in art.

Contents

The workshop is based on the experiences that participants can feel in group dynamics.

The contents of the workshop are arranged attending to the following sequence:

Detecting interrelationships - Displaying interactions - Playing roles - Exploring power relationship - Discovering artistic ways of behavioural transformation.

SCHEDULE

June 22nd

Detecting interrelationships

morning

Guided tour to Cittadellarte, including the Pistoletto, Arte Povera collections and temporary exhibitions (curated by Luca Furlan)

afternoon

Introduction

Brief presentation of Saioa's recent work and framing of the workshop

Presentation of each of the members underlining three aspects

Your area of work

Your interest towards group dynamics

How do you think you normally behave inside your groups of reference: family, friends etc.

Drawing relationships: Sociograms - Presenting the idea of group. We as a temporal group

Presenting examples of artistic graphic sociograms

Interdependencies (1h. 30 min) : A life sociogram to work out specific themes in which interdependencies and relative positions are significant. An attempt to explore the relationships among the participants' fields of interest

The dynamic is articulated through: Introduction; Turns (quite rational): Each turn of statements relates to a different field: the thematic, the behavioural, the aspirational;

Playful approach (more irrational); Ending: integration and sharing: each person narrates how does s/he sees the situation from their own position

night (22:00)

Film: *The Wave* (Die Welle) (2008. Directed by Dennis Gansel. 107 min) or *Dogville* (2003. Directed by Lars Von Trier. 117 min)

June 23rd

Displaying interactions

morning (10:00 – 14:00)

Inventing other life sociograms: each participant would think a dynamic or human sculpture to display relations within a group (2h.)

Playing two of them (2h.)

afternoon (16:00 – 20:00)

Audio-visual Source Code: Group Behaviours (2h.)

This is an audio-visual story-telling to present a theme (group behaviours) through fragments of films related to each other (Format by Zemos98)

Psicodrama (2h.)

Choosing one of the fragments and explore it to locate alternative endings

night (22:00)

Film: *The Exterminating Angel* (El Ángel Exterminador) (1962. Directed by Luis Buñuel. 93 min)

June 24th

Role Games

morning (10:00-14:00)

The Line (4h.)

Presenting the idea of role game (15 min)

Active warming (30 min)

Playing the line (1h.)

Sharing (30 min)

Participants invent other role games (1h.)

We play one of the games (1h.)

afternoon (16:00-20:00)

Working with texts

Presenting the Walking Reading Group on Group Behaviour (WRG is a format picked up from Ania Bas and Simone Mair)

Individual readings (1h 30min.)

Sharing of the readings while walking around Cittadellarte and Biella. Thinking while walking. (2h)

night (22:00)

Film: *Them* (Artur Zmijewski)

June 25th

Power Relationships

morning (10:00-14:00)

Special Guest (2h.) - Sabel Gavaldón on "The Museum of the Gesture"

Gestures and power relations dynamic (2h.) - Exploring in groups correlations among gestures and: social classes, gender distinctions and group identity. Individual, peer and group gestures

Sharing of the discoveries

afternoon (16:00-20:00)

Re-enactment of Eromechanics - Eromechanics is a series of performances that plays with the libidinous fluxes in human interactions. We will use the dialogues of the performance to re-experience power relationships through them

Introduction of Eromechanics (30min)

Rehearsal of pieces in groups, and video recording it. (1h.)

Sharing of the recordings (2h.)

night (22:00)

Film: El Método. (2005. Directed by Marcelo Piñeyro, 115 min)

June 26th

Performative strategies for de-constructing behaviours

morning (10:00-14:00)

Introduction (1h)

Destabilising power structures through performative strategies and using the creativity of the group

- Group convergence / individual divergence
- Denaturize / Automatize
- Inventing an origin / loosing the origin / addressing other origin
- Going together without knowing exactly where

Words of plasticine (1h)

Joining voices, passing gradually from a fixed word to another fixed word

Chained Gestures (1h)

Passing gradually from one gesture to another without knowing the final gesture

The surrealist conference (1 h)

Trying to give among several participants a "press conference" without knowing its theme

afternoon (16:00-20:00)

Inertias (2h)

Sculping individual inertias. The rest of the people in turns look for ways of evolving that position

Sculping a group inertia. Evolving that inertia among all

Integration & Closing (2h)

Remembering what has been done

Feedback of the workshop

Sharing emotions

night (22:00)

Party

Using a card game about invisible missions on social encounters along the party

REFERENCES

The mentor will prepare a reader for participants with key texts, some of which will be discussed during the week

www.ideatomics.com

<http://sabelgavaldon.com>

<http://transarte.wordpress.com>

http://lacapella.bcn.cat/sites/default/files/pdf/bcn-pr-13_fullsala_sabel_en_x-web.pdf

Ardenne, Paul. *Un arte contextual. Creación artística en medio urbano, en situación, intervención, de participación*. Murcia: Cendeac, 2002

Bishop, Claire (ed). *Participation*. London: Whitechapel; Cambridge Mass: The MIT Press, 2006

Bishop, Claire. *Artificial Hells. Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship*. London/ New York: Verso, 2012

Butler, Judith. *Mecanismos Psíquicos del Poder*. Madrid: Cátedra, 2001

Duarte, Ignasi and Bernat, Roger. *Querido Público: El espectador ante la participación: jugadores, usuarios, prosumers y fans*. Barcelona: Centro Párraga, Cendeac y Elèctrica Produccions, 2009

Evans, Gregory S. *Art Alienated: An Essay on the Decline of Participatory Art*. 1989. [online]. [Entrance: 25-7-2012], <http://cafeirreal.alicewhittenburg.com/art.htm>

Fernández, Ana María. *De lo imaginario social a lo imaginario grupal*. Revista Actualidad psicológica, Colombia, November 1992

Rancière, Jacques. *El espectador emancipado*. Castellón: Ellago ed., 2010

The Century of the Self. Documental, part 4, directed by Adam Curtisek, distributed by BBC Four, United Kingdom, 2002

MENTOR

BIOGRAPHY AND STATEMENT

Saioa Olmo is an artist and researcher interested in the mysterious beings that people are: with their manias, passions, patterns of behaviour and unpredictability... and above all the way they relate to each other and the contexts within which they move. She explores power relationships from the disruptive field of art.

Saioa has been working about "cultural identity", "gender & feminism" and "mechanisms of desire" through collaborative and participative art processes. She is now delving into these issues in light of collective behaviour.

Derived from her artistic creation on participatory art, Saioa is now conducting a PhD research on "Participatory Art Practice and Social Behaviour".

PUBLICATIONS (selection)

Edited books

Olmo, Saioa. 2014. [Biotracks](#), Bilbao: Ideatomics

Fraga, Garikoitz and Olmo, Saioa. 2010, <https://www.consonni.org/es/publicacion/vuelven-las-atracciones>" HYPERLINK

Book sections

Olmo, Saioa, 2014, [Radiografías](#), on: *Manual de Emergencia para prácticas escénicas*, pp. 181-200

Olmo, Saioa. 2013, *Teorías, militancias, feminismos, academias y creaciones artísticas... plurales, juntas y revueltas*, on: M. Zilbeti, ed. *Producciones de arte feminista: procesos de conocimiento, visualidades y recorridos*. Bilbao: Consonni, pp. 110 -119

Articles

Olmo, Saioa, 2015, [Políticas de la Atención](#), on: *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo, Saioa, 2014, [Playing at Disobedience in an Obedient "Living Room"](#), on: *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo, Saioa, 2013, [Coreografías Comportamentales](#), on: *Efímera Magazine*, 4 (5), pp. 42-45

Olmo, Saioa. 2013, [Thinking on the Move and in Company: "The Walking Reading Group on Participation"](#), on: *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo, Saioa, 2010, , on: *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo, Saioa, 2010, [Máquinas Simbólicas para Sistemas Estropeados](#), on: *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo, Saioa, 2010, [Sistemas de Sumisión Interiorizados](#), on: *A*Desk Magazine*

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Olmo, Saioa, 2009, [Arte de conducta](#), on: *Mugalari, Gara*

Olmo, Saioa, 2009, [El Arte de Souvenirizar la Realidad](#), on: *Mugalari, Gara*

Interviews

Olmo, Saioa, 2012, [An Interview with Felipe González Gil of Zemos98, Regarding the Festival: copylove, commons, love and the remix](#), on: *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo Saioa, 2012, [Interview with Artur Żmijewski, curator of the 7th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art](#), on *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo, Saioa, 2012, Interview with Roger Bernat about his play "Vote pending", on *A*Desk Magazine*

Olmo, Saioa, 2010, [Interview with Idoia Zabaleta y Antonio Tagliarini, Coreógrafos](#), on: *Mugalari, Gara*