

MANIFESTA 11

Press Release
Zurich, 16 march 2016

A New Trade for Zurich: *The Cabaret der Künstler – Zunfthaus Voltaire*

In conjunction with the international biennial for contemporary art, the Manifesta 11 in Zurich, Zurich's 27th trade, the guild of artists, was founded on 16 March 2016 on Helvetiaplatz in Zurich. For this purpose, the entire building at Spiegelgasse 1 in the Zurich district of Niederdorf will be converted into a guild house from June 2016. On the outside, a plastic bay window will represent the transformation of the historic building from which the Dada art movement emerged 100 years ago. The building's interior, in keeping with the motto of the biennial, will be turned into a working world along the lines of an office building. Anyone who wants to become a member of the guild of artists must put on a performance. Artists are invited to submit their proposals for performances on the Manifesta 11 website.

For its 11th edition in Zurich, Manifesta has made the world of professions its subject matter. The traditional guilds of Zurich provided the inspiration for the curatorial concept by Christian Jankowski - an artist and curator of Manifesta 11 himself. Under the title «What People Do For Money: Some Joint Ventures», artists from all over the world work together with professionals from Zurich, which are called «Hosts». Accordingly, applicants for the guild of artists are called on to prepare their performances in collaboration with non-artists. Non-artists can also include professionals from the art world, such as curators, gallery owners or auctioneers for example.

Admission to the *Cabaret der Künstler – Zunfthaus Voltaire* is reserved for guild members only. Also the Manifesta ticket is not valid here. The only condition for entry is the performance. And as in all guilds, there will also be a Guild Master in the *Cabaret der Künstler – Zunfthaus Voltaire*. Jankowski has appointed the artist Manuel Scheiwiller for this position. Scheiwiller has already initiated other collaboration platforms, such as Pcmc-bay with Anna Holtz, Lucia Elena Prusa and Simon Speiser, Insomnia with Basil Schu in Kunsthalle Wien or the Young boy dancing group. Furthermore, in partnership with Tomislav Feller, he runs Contemporary cruising, an online archive and magazine for performance art. «Our guild is open to everyone, who contributes a performance. It is not an exclusive circle, you're born into like with the other Zurich Guilds», Scheiwiller explains.

Jankowski and Scheiwiller will be responsible for selecting the proposals and will work together with the co-ordinator who will orchestrate the programme of performances. The team will be supported by a select committee of artists.

The conversion of the Cabaret Voltaire into a guild house will take place with the guidance of ETH Prof. Dr. Alex Lehnerer, Savvas Ciriacidis and his team. «We will

liberate the space from its symbolic, historic charge by breaking or cutting it up and normalising it with mundane, everyday objects from the working world. You will always be in the famous cabaret hall but you will also be everywhere else, too», as ETH Prof. Lehnerer puts it.

The young guild is in need of aid. Simoultaneously with the projects' Open Call on the 21st of March, Manifesta 11 will launch a crowdfunding campaign for the funding of the performance program the *Cabaret der Künstler – Zunfthaus Voltaire*

Open Call for Artist's and Non-Artists

Downlaod on www.manifesta11.org

Manifesta 11 Zürich 11.6.–18.9.2016

www.manifesta11.org / www.manifesta.org

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About Manifesta

Manifesta was conceived in the early 1990s as a nomadic, European biennial of contemporary art, responding to the new social, cultural and political reality that emerged in the aftermath of the Cold War. Following a desire to explore the psychological and geographical territory of Europe and to provide a dynamic platform for cultural exchange throughout the region, it takes place every two years in a different European city. Along with the Venice Biennale and documenta in Kassel, Manifesta is one of the foremost art events in Europe.

Since 1996, Manifesta has taken place in Rotterdam, Luxembourg, Ljubljana, Frankfurt, Donostia/San Sebastián, Trentino–South Tyrol, Murcia, Genk and most recently St. Petersburg. Over the course of ten biennials and twenty years, more than 2.5 million people have visited Manifesta's events and participated in its programs. It has successfully presented artists, curators and young professionals from as many as forty different countries, and in each edition continues to innovate and reimagine contemporary art practice.

The eleventh edition will be hosted by the city of Zurich and will run from 11 June until 18 September 2016. It will be curated by Christian Jankowski. Under the title *What People Do for Money: Some Joint Ventures*, artists will be brought together with representatives from various Zurich-based professions.

About ETH Assistant Professor Prof. Dr. Alex Lehnerer www.lehnerer.arch.ethz.ch

The assistant professor for architecture and urban construction, Prof. Dr. Alex Lehnerer, is taking part in Manifesta 11 in 2016 in conjunction with the conversion of Cabaret Voltaire into a Guild House of the Artists. „Our motivation is to understand architecture as a cultural practice and understand it as a social medium „, says Lehnerer. Re-interpreting what already exists transforms Cabaret Voltaire into a performative venue at the Biennial and allows us to explore experimentally, along with students of the ETH, conceptually speculative design work using a concrete project that is to be realised. Prof. Dr. Alex Lehnerer and Savvas Ciriacidis run the architecture bureau CiriacidisLehnerer in Zurich.