

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR**

**ARTWORKS & LANDMARKS**

*Contemporary Arts Practice & Contexts*

*Period: July - August 2013*

**1. General Introduction**

The Seminar *artworks & landmarks* intends to approach the cross-disciplinary / inter-media practices of contemporary artworks, with the intention to breakdown boundaries by studying and interrogating its cultural contexts rather than its disciplinary practices.

The Seminar also intends to provide a critical framework for contemporary practice that is concerned more with ideas of process, mobility, flow, displacement and transmission, than with form, object, materials, and techniques. Therefore its program seeks to provide an understanding that can reflect, position, or map the shifting role of artwork in contemporary culture.

*Artworks & landmarks* is a practice-led and a theoretical research into the circulation, distribution and dispersal of artwork as a cultural subject. Since currently, contemporary art practices are positioned in relation to cultural, political and social contexts, the focus of the seminar program is primarily to analyze and research the strategies that appropriate and shape and thereby inhabit these contexts.

The Seminar's fundamental research questions are:

- what constitutes the artwork (as a dynamic process)?
- how does artwork provide meanings in relation to the contexts that it participates in and moves through?
- how can we generate, understand and curate artwork as a dynamic, fluid, event-based phenomenon?

By implementing different approaches and methodologies of research, the program and planned activities of the Seminar intend to increase the awareness of artwork as an open source for education, as a tool for collaborative and community work, and a tool for conducting field work research.

*Artworks & Landmarks* are the two main subjects that inform and frame the activities, discourse and development process of the Seminar. The overall objective of the seminar is to invite a small group of participants to question and expand the notion of contemporary arts practices related to the concept of displacement in different cultural contexts of the Mediterranean area. The program is based on applied artistic fieldwork research throughout a mobility period in Barcelona, Beirut / Lebanon, and Fara Sabina (Rome).

The first phase will take place in Barcelona in July 2013, where the main aim is to build-up a common ground amongst the participants, in which critical issues and questions can be presented and discussed. This common ground is to be nourished and powered by means of encounters, workshops and discussions with invited speakers, scholars and practitioners with different artistic backgrounds and discourses.

A second phase of mobility is planned to take place in Beirut and Lebanon between end of July and mid-August 2013, on the basis of the educational and artistic work the Theatre group Zoukak and other artists and organizations are developing and implementing in Beirut as well as other parts of Lebanon.

A third phase will be taking place in Fara Sabina (Rome), Italy, hosted by the Theatre Potlatch in mid-August 2013, when there'll be time for internal work and the setting of a public presentation of the individual and collective process taken place during the previous phases of the Seminar.

Throughout the development of the program, the Seminar raises a set of questions regarding the recognition, status, value and contexts of the artwork: where and how does the artwork take place; what are its boundaries; how is it made public?.

Therefore the participants will be requested to:

- undertake practical research work;
- develop a practical and/or written research project capable of application and public showing;
- engage with and articulate the educational and cultural conditions of the locations visited during the mobility period in Lebanon;
- exercise strategic and tactical criteria in engaging with materials, techniques and conventions within their field of practice;
- locate their working process within a broader context, and to understand the historical, critical and theoretical frameworks relevant to their work in particular and to the 'practice' as a whole.

The *artworks & landmarks* program includes:

- an open and extendable partner network which draws on cross-disciplinary expertise in contemporary performance arts;
- a practice-led approach to research that involves a critical and contextualized engagement with contemporary arts practices and theoretical discourses;
- a mobility program;
- an interdisciplinary, collaborative and interrogative approach to contemporary arts practices;
- a general facilitator to coordinate the various elements of the research program and to mentor the participants.

## 2. Glossary

- *Artwork*: this term is used - in its implications of both product and process - to refer to the expanded, cross-disciplinary practices (material and immaterial) that constitute contemporary art.
- *Landmark*: a place of cultural, historical significance. In the case of the Seminar, are those places of social and political significance which denote or mark a beginning or an end of a process and / or a change of direction in the development of such a process.
- *Contemporary*: arts practices affecting the cultural present.
- *Practice*: the application or use of an idea, belief or method as opposed to theories about such application or use. The set of concepts, strategies, processes and materials that constitute the artwork.
- *Context*: the surroundings, circumstances, environment, background or settings which determine, specify, or clarify the meaning of an event.
- *Contextualization*: the use of language and discourse to signal relevant aspects of an interactional or communicative situation.

## 3. General Calendar

(for detailed activity programme write to [info@cra-p.org](mailto:info@cra-p.org))

- **Barcelona - Spain**  
From 1<sup>st</sup>. - 27<sup>th</sup>. July
- **Beirut - Lebanon**  
From 29<sup>th</sup>. July - 11<sup>th</sup>. August
- **Fara Sabina (Rome) - Italy**  
From 12<sup>th</sup>. - 21<sup>st</sup>. August

#### 4. Participation requirements

In order to take part in the Seminar *artworks & landmarks* program the following is requested:

- ✓ a background related to aspects of contemporary arts practice and research: theatre and performance art, choreography and body-based practices; textual practices; video work; documentation and archives; performance studies and critical theory.
- ✓ an interest in cross-disciplinary work and / or contemporary arts practice in other disciplines
- ✓ an interest in cultural contexts and environments and the exploration of strategies of production and dissemination (publication, documentation, etc.)
- ✓ an aptitude for critical engagement and reflection, practical and theoretical research
- ✓ written and spoken English is recommended

For further information please contact to: [info@cra-p.org](mailto:info@cra-p.org)

#### 5. Application & Registration procedures

In order to apply, please send the application form (see Seminar at <http://www.cra-p.org/>), a professional CV and a motivation letter accompanied by any relevant documentation materials to [<info@cra-p.org>](mailto:info@cra-p.org)

- Final date for applications: April 30<sup>th</sup>. 2013;
- For registration: Cra'p will send a registration form to the accepted applicants only, not later than May 13<sup>th</sup>. 2013;
- In order to register, the accepted applicant must transfer 600€ as a Registration Fee to Cra'p bank account, and send by email a copy of the bank transfer document, together with the registration form duly signed by May 20<sup>th</sup>. 2013;
- It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure any legal documents - such as visas, travel and health insurance, etc - in order to participate and travel throughout the Seminar period. Cra'p is at your disposal to facilitate the necessary documents, when requested.

- Important: The Seminar can only accept a maximum of 7 participants.

## 6. Fee payment terms and conditions:

**The Seminar Fee is 1.200€**, that includes all program activities, and the accommodation (not maintenance) in Beirut - Lebanon and Fara Sabina (Rome).

This Fee does not include the travel to and from Beirut and Fara Sabina (Rome), nor the accommodation and maintenance in Barcelona.

- Registration: 600€ must be transferred to Cra'p bank account by May 20<sup>th</sup>. 2013 in order to formalize the participation.
- Final Payment of 600€ must be transferred to Cra'p bank account before June 10<sup>th</sup>. 2013.
- The registration Fee will under no circumstances be returned unless it is a case of 'force majeure'. All the participants, once accepted and registered must commit to the above mentioned dates of payment

## 7. Organization

The Seminar *artworks & landmarks* is organized, produced and coordinated by **Cra'p - pratiques de creació i recerca artística**, Mollet (Barcelona, Spain) <http://www.cra-p.org/>

Concept and direction: Toni Cots

Communication and production: Esther Freixa

Network main organisations:

Barcelona: O.V.N.I. Archives, La Central (bookshop)

Beirut: Zoukak Theatre

Fara Sabina (Rome): Teatro Potlatch