

PILOT:3

PRESS RELEASE

May 2007

Venue: Monastery of St Damien and St Cosimo, La Giudecca, Venice
Date: Friday 8 June, 4-6pm
Reception: Friday 8 June, 6-8pm
Vaporetta: #41, #42, #82, #N to Palanca

PILOT:3 – *PoCA Panel Discussion in Venice*

As part of the preview for the third edition of PILOT: during the opening week of the Venice Biennale, we are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a panel discussion in collaboration with PoCA, the Political Currency of Art research group.

This event will take place in the stunning cloisters of the Monastery of St Damien and St Cosimo, La Giudecca, by invitation of Fondazione Bevilacqua la Masa, Venice.

Before the PILOT:3 book launch and party on the **8th June**, we will be hosting this panel discussion **from 4-6pm**.

We are thrilled to announce our line-up of distinguished guest speakers:

Saskia Sassen	Centennial Professor, Dept. of Sociology, London School of Economics
Charles Esche	Director of The Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven and Co-editor of AFTERALL magazine
Andrea Phillips	Assistant Director MFA Curating, Goldsmiths College, London
Suhail Malik	Course Leader Postgraduate Fine Art Critical Studies, Goldsmiths College, London
Amanda Beech	Course Director MA Critical Writing & Curatorial Practice, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges of Art, University of the Arts, London

The discussion will be chaired by **Matthew Poole**, Co-founder of PILOT:

The discussion will focus on the historical trajectory of the Venice Biennale and its changing role within the shifting socio-political context of the city, as well as looking to issues within the art world in general regarding the role of art fairs and biennials within economic systems and the agents of globalization.

For further information and/or to book seating at this event please email Matthew Poole:
matthew@pilotlondon.org

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Saskia Sassen is Ralph Lewis Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, and Centennial Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics. Her books have been translated into thirteen languages. She has served as co-director of the Economy Section of the Global Chicago Project, a Member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Urban Data Sets, a Member of the Council of Foreign Relations, and Chair of the newly formed Information Technology, International Cooperation and Global Security Committee of the SSRC.

Charles Esche is Director of The Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Senior Research Fellow at Central St. Martin's College of Art & Design, and co-founder and co-editor of AFTERALL publications. In 2005 he Co-curated the Istanbul Biennial (with Vasif Kortun, Esra Sarigedik Öktem, November Paynter), and in 2002 was Co-curator of the Gwangju Biennale, Republic of Korea (with Hou Hanru and Song Wan Kyung). His books include *Modest Proposals*, collected essays, 2005, and the forthcoming title *Experimental Institutionalism*.

Andrea Phillips is Assistant Director MFA Curating, Goldsmiths College, London. She is Director of the AHRC funded Curating Architecture, a research initiative set up to investigate the relationship between art, architectures and shifting politics of space. She is also a Director of the Political Currency of Art Research Group. Phillips is author of numerous catalogue and monograph essays and writes and lectures internationally. She is a Contributing Editor of Performance Research (RKP 1996).

Suhail Malik is Critical Studies Course Leader for Postgraduate Fine Art in the Department of Visual Arts at Goldsmiths where he is also a Director of the Political Currency of Art Research Group. Malik has written catalogue essays for major shows by the Chapman brothers, Nigel Cooke, Aya Ben Ron and Ian Monroe amongst others. He has also written on the market and critical conditions of contemporary art, and on current technical and political theory. He was closely involved in co-organizing The Showroom 2006 conference 'Artists-Culture and the Spirit of Capitalism'.

Amanda Beech is an artist, writer, and curator. She is Course Director of the MA Critical Writing & Curatorial Practice, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges of Art, University of the Arts, London. She is also a Director of the Political Currency of Art Research Group. Her recent work includes, *Falk*, solo exhibition at MOT international, London, Dec 2006 (cat), *One Way Street*, Group exhibition, Sheppard Gallery, Reno, Nevada, USA and KX Gallery Hamburg, Germany, 2007; *Ubiquitous Media*, conference panel and video screening at Tokyo University, Japan, July 2007 and *State Line*, video screening at the Serpentine Gallery London, Project Space, July 2007.

The Political Currency of Art (PoCA) Research Group, based at Goldsmiths College, London, conducts research on the assimilation of critical and counter-hegemonic contemporary art practices to the interests of dominant cultural, state and financial institutions.

The operating assumption generating PoCA's research is the condition in which contemporary dominant sociocultural ambitions are no longer organised around normative or majoritarian standards but emphasise individualism, creativity, innovation, difference and questioning - key characteristics of what we have historically understood to be the condition of criticality in art.

The project looks to understand what happens to art, what critical art can do, how its operation is to be understood, and what critique now is, in this condition when critical art becomes emblematic of what is valued in societies such as liberal-democracies and the institutions and ideologies that promote it.

Matthew Poole is a freelance curator and lecturer. He is a Co-founder and current Co-Director of PILOT: He is Director of the MA Gallery Studies & Critical Curating in the Department of Art History & Theory at The University of Essex, and will be Programme Director of the department's new Centre for Curatorial Studies when it begins its activities in July 2007.

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