

The Future of Demonstration

PASSION

The Future of Demonstration

An art series of 2 seasons and 8 episodes

Based on the leitmotifs **VERMÖGEN** 2017 and **PASSION** 2018

October 20 – 25, 2018 Atelier Augarten, Vienna



PRESS RELEASE Season 2 **PASSION**

The Future of Demonstration

PASSION

Season 2

Season 2 of the art series *The Future of Demonstration* will take place at Atelier Augarten, Vienna, from October 20-25, 2018.

EPISODE 1
Supra-Citizenship
October 20, 20:00

October 21 18:00 TALK

EPISODE 2
What Is to Be Done?
October 22, 20:00

October 23 18:00 TALK

EPISODE 3
Making the Black Box Speak
October 24, 20:00

October 25 14:00 WORKSHOP, 18:00 TALK

October 20 - 25 **Bar*Food*Sound from 18:00**
plus Live-Streams 20., 22., 24.10. 20:00

For **program** updates please see:
www.thefutureofdemonstration.net

After VERMÖGEN 2017, season 2 focuses on the leitmotif **PASSION** and explores the emancipatory potentials driven by emotion, affect, bonding and engagement in an age of data-driven automation.

How can interactions of art, society and technology generate new forms of empowerment? And how can models of agency be positioned against a rampant technocapitalism, which increasingly takes over sovereign powers, and its authoritarian derivatives in politics?

From **October 20 – 25, 2018** artists, researchers, scientists, activists and other experts will come together again to develop new artistic formats and practices in 3 episodes.

We conceive of **demonstration** within the meaning of art as *creating new aesthetic approaches*; of technology as *presenting, improving*; of pedagogy as *explaining, emphasizing*; and of politics as *advocating, standing up for*.

The audience will once again participate in a multifaceted and hybrid mix of **installation, performance, film, intervention, workshop and discourse** as a realm of experience for boundary transcending artistic experiments.

Live-Streaming as art form Each episode is also a film set. Cameras capture the collective activities. A film is directed live by a film/video artist and streamed online as well as broadcasted on the community TV channel OKTO.

The Future of Demonstration, Season 2 **PASSION**

Date: **October 20 – 25, 2018**

Venue: **Atelier Augarten**, Scherzergasse 1A, 1020 Vienna

Idea & artistic concept: Sylvia Eckermann, Gerald Nestler

Artistic direction: Sylvia Eckermann, Gerald Nestler, Maximilian Thoman

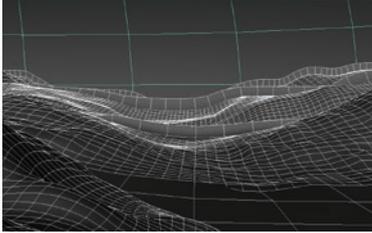
Streaming: Live on OKTO TV and online

Press material: <http://thefutureofdemonstration.net/passion/press.html>

Website: <http://thefutureofdemonstration.net/passion>

Contact: contact@theoriesinmind.net

Below please find program details and information on the episodes and participants.



EPISODE 1

Supra-Citizenship

October 20 8 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS

Domingo Castillo,
Femke Herregraven,
Victoria Ivanova,
Aslak Aamot Kjærulff,
Bogna Konior,
Jonas Lund,
[NAME],
Jamilah Sabur,
Axel Stockburger,
Alex Suárez,
Natalia Zuluaga.

October 21

6pm - 8pm

Supra-Citizenship: Articulations

Seminar with participants
of the episode.

8:10pm - 9pm

Cienfuegos

Sound performance
by Alex Suárez

Supra-Citizenship offers a novel framework for migration by bringing together state actors, existing supra-national bodies, digital platforms and the billions of people on the move across our planet.

Citizenship can no longer be maintained by an exclusive contract between the subject and the nation-state. The fragility of this contract is exposed as an increasing number of people are forced to emigrate from areas ravaged by wars, natural disasters and economic strife. Meanwhile, as emphasized by Benjamin Bratton, the author of *The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty* (2016), the emergence of new global actors and forms of utilizing citizenship has charted a global landscape within which digital platforms are increasingly acting like sovereigns that govern over their users while nation-states are increasingly functioning like platforms that offer services to their customer-citizens.

The notion of citizenship that is based on rooted belonging, locality-tied civil participation and fiscal responsibility to one's nation-state has been irredeemably fragmented. On the one hand, citizenship has been financialized as a means of attracting capital and investment while being divorced from fiscal residency through tax breaks, offshores and e-residency for businesses, and on the other hand, it has been splintered by various forms of digital belonging such as participation in online communities.

In such a world defined by flux and complex technological and social relations, it is crucial to let go of that which no longer serves this reality while at the same time not throwing out the baby with the wash water. **Supra-Citizenship** integrates the institutional experience and knowledge of established organizational forms as offered by existing state and supra-national mechanisms with the resources and capabilities of technological platforms, and an updated understanding of human rights for the 21st century.

The episode is as a demo of Supra-Citizenship. It mobilizes a networked vision for citizenship in service of everybody's right to adapt.

The Future of Demonstration

PASSION

 Season 2

EPISODE 2

What Is to Be Done?

October 22 8 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS

Cultural Intelligence Collective (CIC):
a cultural intelligence project in
collaboration with
Critical Art Ensemble (CAE).

CIC 2018:

Steve Barnes

Konrad Becker

Laurus Edelbacher

Steven Kurtz

Anastasya Voloshina

Ruth Zimmermann

<http://culturalintelligence.zone/>

Special Guest Appearances

Ca.tter

DJ Nigga Fox

Dominique Raffa

Stacey Robinson

Alexander Schelle

Video Stream: Georg Schütz

Interpreter: Antonina Marhold

October 23 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

CIC talk on "What Is to Be Done?"

Konrad Becker, Critical Art Ensemble,
El Iblis Shah and Felix Stalder
discuss ghosts, truth projection and
human sacrifice.

Machine codes, directives, and algorithms increasingly infiltrate and compromise the boundaries of the flesh and the horizons of consciousness. They reconfigure and automate once-willful decisions and colonize the imagination in order to guide its visions of the future. In conjunction, a profound erosion of certainty leads to perceived and real existential threats that radically reorganize real and virtual territories, with reactionary regimes making headway.

What Is to Be Done? investigates the logic of systems that frame and alter perception and control navigation in mediated worlds. We explore strange scripts that have a life of their own—those that control the gateways through which demented ghosts, nudged to death in digital behavioral experiments, wander at their own peril.

How does one remove the occult protections of systems of control that affect the construction of pathways of thought, personal behavior, and social interaction? What might happen if one refuses to take the paths of least resistance, and instead probe for obscure cognitive spells in a nervous system without end?

This collaborative project analyzes informational structures and their directives in terms of their impact on human agency in social, political, and economic interaction. Using techniques of shared cultural intelligence practices, this initiative explores operative spaces and actionable models of "What Is to Be Done."

Cultural Intelligence Collective (CIC) is a transdisciplinary association exploring collaborative practices that develop and intensify critical cultural intelligence. CIC researches and uncovers hidden network systems in order to reveal their means and methods for colonizing the future. Moreover, the group pursues multidimensional investigations into deep information vectors, using any media necessary to best engage the social, political, and economic implications of digital technology.



EPISODE 3

Making the Black Box Speak.

Towards a renegade aesthetics of resolution

October 24 8 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS

Haim Bodek
Sylvia Eckermann
Maya Indira Ganesh
Florentina Holzinger
Volkmar Klien
Gerald Nestler
Peng! Collective
Denis "Jaromil" Roio
Soulcat E-Phife
Technopolitics research group
UBERMORGEN feat.
Zenker & Stefan Endres
Vocal Ensemble: Christine Gnigler,
Lorina Vallaster, Joachim Rigler
Data bodis: Jon Eckermann,
Elisa Winkler

Special Guest Appearance:
Frank Pasquale

**October 25 TALK
6-7:50 p. m.**

RENEGADE ACTIVISM.

Forms of resistance in the algorithmic condition

Frank Pasquale & Denis "Jaromil" Roio
Maya Ganesh & Alistair Alexander
Haim Bodek & Gerald Nestler
Moderation: Ina Zwerger

Special Project: Oct 24-25

The Glass Room Experience by The
Tactical Technology Collective, Berlin.

For the first time in Austria, the public
will have the opportunity to participate
in Tactical Tech's

Glass Room Experience and become
Data Detox Kit experts in two
workshops (Oct 25.18, rsvp).

Visibility and knowledge are based on access to information. We usually consider this as either a question of collecting new or examining existing data. However, the term 'black box society' (Frank Pasquale) points to a situation in which data are deliberately concealed: manufacturing information asymmetry – imbalances of power mainly due to misinformation, concealment or fraud – has become an effective tool for gaining competitive advantage across all levels of life.

Hence, the logics of technocapitalism signify a crisis of the body politic – they not only restrain agency but carve out new forms of exploitation and segregation. As power increasingly shifts from representative to performative speech, it reorganizes the strata of society by creating class divisions that affect bodies, minds and affiliations along quite different lines as how class has been contextualized historically.

Making the Black Box Speak addresses these issues by focusing on *resolution*.

The term's semiotic wealth – ranging from perception and cognition to knowledge production and joint decision-making – evokes an ecology in which all bodies can communicate, but also reveals how automated control predicts, curtails and exploits common potentials.

Producing *resolution* against the black box is barely accessible to direct action or critique. Therefore, we aim at a different strategy: forming alliances with those that make the black box speak from inside. Episode 3 revolves around the precarious figure of the *renegade* – a traitor to her system (such as a whistleblower or a dissident) but an educator for the public at large. A revolutionary figure of our time, her disclosures constitute crucial intelligence against the social noise of black box asymmetry.

Making the Black Box Speak probes forms of resistance (epistemic, social and affective) and solidarity (how to share which risks) that cut through the black box. What is at stake here is deeply performative, material and bodied. The question Episode 3 therefore endeavors is how we can leverage the rich body of *resolution* for a plasticity that can resolve what is disrupted and marginalized.

Making the Black Box Speak is a call to move from established critical frameworks of art and other fields of research towards the insurrections of *renegade activism*.

The Future of Demonstration

PASSION Season 2

Additional program

October 20–25, 2018

OKTO TV live

In addition to the live film broadcasts of the evening events, OKTO TV will stream the seminar program on Day 2 of each episode.

<https://okto.tv>

October 24–25, 2018

THE GLASS ROOM EXPERIENCE

by The Tactical Technology Collective, Berlin, within the framework of episode 3.

The Glass Room Experience and its **Data Detox Kit** will be presented for the first time in Austria. <https://tacticaltech.org/pages/the-glass-room-experience/>

Exhibition Opening: Oct 24 18:00

WORKSHOPS: Oct 25

14:00 - 15:00 Making Choices in your Digital Life

16:30 - 17:30 Investigating Metadata

October 19–25, 2018

Light installation UNIQA Tower

The light installation **Escalator** by Sylvia Eckermann for the LED facade of the UNIQA headquarters in Vienna's city center will be the widely visible landmark of **The Future of Demonstration, Season 2: PASSION**.

UNIQA Tower, Untere Donaustraße 21, 1020 Vienna.

LIVE-PUBLISHING AS PUBLIC-MAKING

continent. maps a topology of unstable confluences and ranges across new thinking, traversing interstices and alternate directions in culture, theory, biopolitics and art.

continent. offers **The Future of Demonstration** and its episodes a para-academic platform for thinking through media which will result in a special issue of its online magazine. <http://continentcontinent.cc/>

The Future of Demonstration is an art series with 2 seasons and 8 episodes. It engages with the radical changes we are facing globally today in the ecological, political, economic and cultural spheres.

Based on the leitmotifs **VERMÖGEN** 2017 and **PASSION** 2018, the art series explores the technopolitical, pedagogical and aesthetic potentials of **demonstration** as means to imagine, collect, share and manifest narratives, techniques and affiliations of resistance.

CONCEPT BRIEF

The Future of Demonstration, Season 2, 2018 explores the notion of **PASSION**.

While each episode develops its own perspective, they together form a contextual network of relations, meanings, materials and practices.

The spheres of action are shifting. Algorithmic automation informs almost every realm of life today and our reality increasingly coincides with data-driven models applied to anticipate, simulate and escalate that reality.

As the language of power turns from representational to performative speech, critical analysis turns from voicing judgment and dissent to fueling real-time data prognostics and evaluation. The power of critique has become a resource for postdemocratic information asymmetries and neoliberal disruption schemes.

The art series challenges the comprehensive models of hypercompetitive simulation by probing the emancipatory potentials of current counter-narratives.

The Future of Demonstration brings together artists, activists, architects, filmmakers, theorists, scientists and other experts. In postdisciplinary alliances they prototype infrastructural transformations, cultural intelligence practices, investigative aesthetics, speculative-deviant perceptions, cryptohacks, algo space interventions and other performative tools that oppose the pervasive asymmetry at the core of proprietary black box power.

Scrutinizing the consequences of events, pushing ideas to their extremes, creating intense fabulations of potential realities and engaging in *renegade agency* are our artistic devices to transgress critique towards new forms of insurrection. Such risk sharing practices offer optionalities that open realities instead of regulatively closing the one, calculated reality.

VERMÖGEN 2017 and **PASSION** 2018 are not just the leitmotifs of the art series. They also stand for the emancipatory desire and energy of this collective experiment on technopolitical resolution.

The Future of Demonstration is an invitation to participants and audience alike to join in making **demonstrations** that respond to the question: "what is do be done?"

The Future of Demonstration

PASSION

Season 2

We reject the conventional division of art and discourse in the exhibition, the conference and the catalogue. Instead, we focus on formats, materialities and intensities for postdisciplinary artistic practices.

Art, theory, science, technology and activism are not dissociated realms but vital contributors to the speculative explorations of complex entanglements. The art series aims at redefining terms, transforming processes and transvaluing technological as well as ideological resources by intersecting social, technological, and biological material, epistemes, phenomena and cultures.

FORMAT

The episodes consist of:

Artistic format

Choreographed events in which installation, performance, audiovisual and digital works, text, speech and conversation flow into one another.

Film format

Streaming as art form. Live-broadcasts on OKTO TV and on the internet accompany the artistic format. As independent works of art, the films stay online as a web series.

Discursive format

Lectures, panel discussions, workshops, screenings and other discursive, artistic, performative formats enlarge upon the topics presented in the previous evening.

The Future of Demonstration borrows its format from popular television series. Each season of the art series addresses its leitmotif as if it were through a prism, dividing it into its episodes, once again linking them in various traversing relationships to one another.

The two seasons and their episodes are based on thematic clusters derived from the leitmotifs **VERMÖGEN** 2017 and **PASSION** 2018.

Each episode is a platform where art, architecture, film, theory, science and other forms of expertise meet and intersect performatively.

The episodes are at the same time artistic environment, installation setting, performance space, film set, workshop and discursive gathering.

Each episode evolves from a series of conversations, interventions and discourses on art, technology, media, philosophy, politics, ecology, economy, the sciences and other fields in relation to the leitmotif. In addition to these internal conversations, we support the exchange between the collectives to generate synergies between the episodes.

While each episode takes center stage for two days, its material and artistic setting is present for the entire season and thus contributes to a variable, communicative and vibrant exhibition format.

A live-stream/broadcast accompanies each episode's evening event. Each film is an artistic work in its own right that experiments with streaming as an art form. Each film is developed and produced by a film/video artist in collaboration with the episode team, film professionals and OKTO TV, a Vienna-based non-profit community TV station. For the time after the art series, OKTO TV provides a video channel to showcase the films – instead of a conventional form of documentation, **The Future of Demonstration** lives on as a web series.

Season 2 Leitmotif **PASSION**

The leitmotif of season 2, **PASSION**, builds on and expands the leitmotif of season 1. After engaging with VERMÖGEN and a new artistic culture in 2017, we are exploring what **PASSION** can and achieve in a (bio)technopolitical age in which the scales of ecology, society and class are radically transformed.

According to Immanuel Kant, *Vermögen* is based on cognition, the feeling of pleasure and displeasure and the capacity to desire. In this way, we view **PASSION** as an emphatic *Vermögen* that can reproduce itself. If *Vermögen* is “interiorized culture” (Pierre Bourdieu) then to question power implies exploring how **PASSION** can transform cultural capital towards *Vermögen* as common wealth.

Here, the immanent qualities of **PASSION** play a vital role. As an active force brimming with diversity and heterogeneity, it opens passages for reorienting ego-centricity and thus the core of the capitalist appreciation regime. **PASSION**, we argue, is a potential catalyst in metamorphosing the regime of self-interest into a desire for embracing communicative participation in hybrid entanglements.

Imagination links us to others including non-humans: our capacity to see ourselves in others, to imagine ourselves as others, to reinvent ourselves by becoming other. Against the backdrop of a (bio)technologically transformed life-world, in which “self” and “other” will be shaped in ever more complex and interwoven differentiations, such emancipatory *magic* emerges as a medium, a nutrient solution for all those who embrace the risk of being other: **PASSION** for alterity that recognizes and adapts bodies and minds to one another might becomes the epitome of future *Vermögen*.

But exploring such a utopian premise first implies a close examination of the status quo. The crises that involve humans and non-humans, cultures and natures, are ever more engulfing. Information asymmetry – a term that amounts to division, enclosure, segregation and fraud – reigns corporate and political networks. A massive divide cuts across the informational matrix: knowledge – or, with Kant, “cognition” – succumbs to a proprietary right for leveraging power in hypercompetitive and volatile environments. In our derivative condition, *noise is the master of information*.

Season 2 counters these schemes by exploring opportunities and occasions that support the rise of new forms of insurrection, both on a collective level and in the sphere of individual agency. What we conceive of as *renegade activism* is an agency that stands against injustice both in one’s vicinity and on a systemic level; that manifests by acts of civil courage, whistleblowing and other forms of resistance; and that appears, amongst others, in forums that encourage “speaking up,” in tactics that “make the black box speak,” and in new infrastructures that subvert the hegemonic order.

The Future of Demonstration attempts to reorient the precarious state of being at risk – the pure negativity of neoliberal self-interest – by embracing and sharing risk together. Thus, it reconceives solidarity in the sense of multiple forms of emphatic *Vermögen* that emerge vis-a-vis and against the different forms of injustice. The question that arises here is whether **PASSION** can manifest, exceed and subvert the derivative economy of relationships that conditions the future-at-present by quantified and automated expectations of risk and return?

What would relationships look like that embrace non-human **PASSION**, allowing us to feel and act along with it? And how can non-human others co-create as mediators, moderators and producers, instead of serving antiquated power fantasies in politics and the economy?

Season 2: PASSION challenges and opposes the powers to be by engaging in imaginations and conceptions that are saturated with a concrete utopia: that passionate dedication can realize a commonality in which *Vermögen* corresponds to “the absolute wealth of potentiality” (Whitehead).

The Future of Demonstration

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Season 2

The Future of Demonstration works with a variety of Viennese and international groups and institutions. The art series brings together artists and experts to explore postdisciplinary forms of cooperation and practice.

The Future of Demonstration is made possible by a network of supporters and cooperation partners.

COOPERATION PARTNERS Wien

Burghauptmannschaft Österreich (Atelier Augarten)

OKTO. Community TV

Stromschiene. Alte Schmiede Kunstverein Wien

University of Applied Arts Vienna, Digital Art

COOPERATION PARTNERS international

Art Center / South Florida, Miami

Cultural Intelligence Collective (CIC)

Tactical Technology Collective, Berlin

Technopolitics Research Group, Wien

MEDIA PARTNERS

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continent. platform for thinking through media

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The Future of Demonstration

PASSION Season 2

CREDITS

Idea and artistic concept

Sylvia Eckermann, Gerald Nestler

Artistic directors

**Sylvia Eckermann, Gerald Nestler,
Maximilian Thoman**

CONTACT

TIM. theories in mind
postdigital art lab

Neulinggasse 9, 1030 Vienna, AT

thefutureofdemonstration.net

contact@theoriesinmind.net

Sylvia Eckermann www.syl-eckermann.net

Eckermann is an artist based in Vienna (AT). Her work focuses on a discursive engagement with form and media that culminates in critical artistic reflections on our entanglement as individuals in current socio-economic situations. She works with various media including digital and physical environments, installations, videos, objects, and sculptures. She is the first recipient of the City of Vienna Award for Media Art (2014) and was recently awarded the Austrian State Prize for Media Art (2018).

Gerald Nestler www.geraldnestler.net

Nestler is an artist and author who explores the "derivative condition" of contemporary social relations and its models, technologies, processes, narratives and fictions. In his artistic practice he combines theory and conversation with video, installation, performance, text, sound and speech. As a writer and editor, his recent publications include the special issue of *Finance and Society* on Art and Finance (ed. with Suhail Malik, 2016) and an essay for the *Routledge Handbook to Critical Finance Studies* (with Victoria Ivanova, forthcoming). He holds a PhD from the Centre for Research Architecture, Department of Visual Cultures, Goldsmith, University of London.

Maximilian Thoman www.mkt.at

Thoman lives and studies in Innsbruck and Vienna. He is the artistic head of the media arts association mkt – Büro für intermedialen Kommunikationstransfer and is a member of the committee of p.m.k – platform mobile cultural initiatives. Besides his curatorial practice in exhibition projects and lecture series he is an editorial board member of the online journal *continent*.

The Future of Demonstration

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Season 2

A brief review of

Season 1 VERMÖGEN

Oct 31 – Nov 11, 2017, at Reaktor, Vienna, online and on the OKTO TV channel.
<http://thefutureofdemonstration.net/vermoegen/>

About **2.000 visitors** of different social and age groups.

Over **3.000 plays** of the films/streams on www.thefutureofdemonstration.net (without OKTO TV audience). Continued broadcasts on OKTO TV.

Reviews in art magazines like:

springerin, Parnass, Kunstforum International.

Interviews in „Die Presse“ newspaper and the art blog „PW-Magazine“.

Ö1 Radiokolleg radio feature on „Vermögen“.

Ö1 Morgenjournal news report (Oct 31, 2017)



Light installation at the Uniqa Tower, 2017

VERMÖGEN

Idea/concept/realization: Sylvia Eckermann

The complex of meanings that constitutes the term *VERMÖGEN* far exceeds the usual connotations of wealth, property and power. Its manifold semantic levels imply social, individual and technological potentials that resist capitalist attributions.

Eckermann transformed the UNIQA tower's nightly illumination into a brain-like structure made of pulsating neurons and synapses, thus referring to immaterial forms of *VERMÖGEN* and their capacity for sociopolitical agency (*WIR VERMÖGEN WAS!*).

