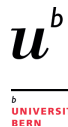


There is talk of an unprecedented culture of protest emerging on a global scale, of new forms of disobedience and indignation. This new culture of protest frequently resorts to strategies coming from the field of art (performance, happenings, etc.), which has resulted in a growing interest of political theory in contemporary artistic strategies. At the same time, a surprising re-politicization of debates in art discourses can be observed, especially as more and more explicitly political functions are assigned to current artistic practice. Beyond a politicization of art and an aesthetization of politics, this event seeks to focus attention and problematize a neuralgic concept highly discussed and addressed in recent decades, but which has rarely become the subject of its own resistance.

"Resistance" is first and foremost a term that comes from physics, by designating a property of disposition. To its original meaning, a moral category has always been added: what actively resists opposes a natural course of things and develops an opposing force that is normatively occupied. Therefore, its Latin root, *resistentia*, not only refers to something that remains constant (*sistere*), but increases this consistency in perseverance (the prefix *re-* means the intensification of action). Already in modern times we experience the assimilation and instrumentalization of the concept of resistance through the various revolutions in the 18th century, along the successive anti-colonial struggles since the beginning of 19th century, as well as in the discussion of a "right to resistance", inaugurated by Henry David Thoreau.

Facing a general discourse of resistance so fashionable today, resulting from the logics of late Capitalism, capable of neutralizing all kind of counter-force by their integration within the system, it is necessary to ask ourselves: how does the critical potential to say 'no' participates on the questioning rather than in the consolidation of an official discourse of resistance in which art is also responsible? Struggling between a rhetoric of 'no' and one of a 'no' to rhetoric, both the artistic and the political fields are equally spaces for debate. Nonetheless, it remains important to specify more precisely what their respective critical forces and agonality consist of. In this sense, the event aims to contribute to a better understanding of the different logics of resistance and to a critical look at the complex relationship between aesthetics and politics today.

With the generous support of:



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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE HUMANITIES



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REITSCHULE  
BERN

Organized by:

Sara Alonso Gómez  
Isabel Piniella  
Elena Rosaura

# NO Rhetoric(s)

## Versions and Subversions of Resistance in Contemporary Global Art

September 13th - 14th, 2019

University of Bern  
University of Zurich



NO, GLOBAL TOUR (IRELAND)  
Several locations, Ireland, October 2017.  
Photograph by Brian Hanlon.  
Courtesy a/political - Estudio Santiago Sierra.

# PROGRAM

Friday, September 13th

University of Bern

Fabrikstrasse 2 E, Room vR 003

- 13:30 Welcome and introduction
- 14:00 Keynote Lecture by **Nadia Radwan** (University of Bern): *Concealed Visibilities: Sameness and Resistance in Contemporary Art*
- 15:10 **Ayşe Zeynep Pamuk Suleri** (University of Zurich): *Silence as resistance: absence, forgetting and remembering in contemporary art from Turkey*
- 15:50 **Juan José Santos** (Autonomous University of Madrid): *The Resistant Body*
- 16:30 Coffee break
- 16:45 **Serjara Aleman** (University of Lausanne): *Emancipatory Art? 'Women Taking the Streets': Urban Art and Community Activism in Lima, Peru*
- 17:25 **Megan McShane** (Fulbright): *Adela Jusic: Transnational Avant-Garde Issues in the Former Yugoslavia and Contemporary Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- 18:15 Dinner and transfer to Reitschule (Neubrückstr. 8)
- 20:00 Artist presentation by **Kendell Geers** at **Reitschule**

Saturday, September 14th

University of Zurich

Rämistrasse 59, Room RAA-E-30

- 10:30 Keynote Lecture by **Jaime Vindel** (Complutense University of Madrid): *What is art able to?: Politicized art between institutional criticism and instituting power*
- 11:40 **Annatina Aerne** (University of St. Gallen): *Palm tree whispers and mountain escapes: Artistic strategies against environmental overuse in Latin American contemporary art*
- 12:20 **Fiona Siegenthaler** (University of Basel): *Resistance, Adaptation and Co-optation: Artists between 'no' to rhetoric and the rhetoric of 'no' in Africa and beyond*
- 13:00 Lunch break
- 14:30 Keynote Lecture by **Oliver Marchart** (University of Vienna): *Agitating, Propagating, Organizing: Activist Art and the Spontaneous Ideology of the Art Field*
- 15:40 **Katharina Brandl** (University of Basel): *Rhetorics of Realism? Contemporary Gaming Cultures and Socially Engaged Art Practices*
- 16:20 **Charlotte Matter** (University of Zurich): *"What's to Be Done About Art?" Strategies of Refusal around 1968*
- 17:00 Transfer to la\_cápsula (Stauffacherstr. 119)
- 18:00 Artist presentation by **Nancy Garín** at **la\_cápsula**
- 20:00 Dinner