

Opening: 10 FEB 2017, 6–9pm
Exhibition: 10 FEB–12 MAR 2017
Opening times: Sundays 1–6pm and by appointment
Finissage: 12 MAR 2017, 1–6pm

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personal matter:

„...why not hug the strangers.“ (ODG/JSO)

„Without intuition a man is in the dark,“ said a paper teabag slip two days ago. I detach the message and place it on the kitchen table on the side where Ollie usually sits, to annoy him the moment he sits down to have his morning coffee. Anyway good that there are men and women and good that we actually have more in common than difference.

It is a beautiful morning and I am sitting here writing the text for a group exhibition I am putting together for a slot that popped open due to damp conditions in the gallery and the valuable sensitivities of the things currently on display. The decision was made to shorten the duration of the show in order to prevent damage. This point in time happens to coincide with the departure of my friend and fellow artist Oliver Griffin who had successfully taken over the direction of the project for the past 11 months.

As I am taking over the affairs again and also because we are just beyond the middle of our 5 year path, I thought it would be good to reflect upon what we had achieved so far and to adjust what we are aiming for; antagonistic Gestures are a phenomena that one witnesses in the course of current events. It is a broadly coined term that is trying to capture the movements and schemes countering the status quo. A reacting force against... The question asked would be in what way can art be a means to what needs to be expressed, and foster a true antagonism to the current movements we are all aware of: manipulation and propaganda, effectively shifting crowds, etc. To burst open digital bubbles we are trapped in for instance, to understand and overcome the structures behind the algorithmic curtain and simultaneously use the virtual curiosities for our own means and ease up on participating in real life once more and to evolve into what... whatever is good for all of us. An alternative to be frank.

Aesthetically this is the task of every generation, although surprisingly I read the other day that we are still in post–modernism (if we were ever modern in the first place). However the last stages of capitalism or even its aftermath have reached a level of a tragic comedy. And we are in the midst of change and in charge of what is happening to overcome the swoon and act within the network, which is by any means conscious, responsible and sustainable. I truly believe we are all in a collective consciousness. Maybe it is more simple than we think.

I've always loved the idea that the one book that Flusser intended to write and didn't manage before he died, was entitled *Menschwerdung* (becoming human) which basically contains the concept in its own title – that we have not fulfilled our humanity. We need to create at this point in time an awareness and conscious discussions, in the here and now, rather than sorrowfully regret what some people have achieved by manipulation and simple strategies of stirring up fear and hate amongst ourselves.

The exhibition will revisit some of our initial ideas and whilst displaying the works of people that have participated so far as well as new artists with whom we are intending to collaborate in the future. Its point of departure will be the story of the boat, what has happened with it after the end of our initial exhibition *Boot* and a documentation of this venture until the day of its loss. All artists participating are invited to subject new and old works that loosely fit this objective. This text may be the abstract of it all.

I am very happy for all the spontaneous acceptance and have to say that that I am very thankful that you have all helped and supported the project from its beginning to the current day.

Let's set sails and continue the course, off course ;-)

You are the partisans, without you it wouldn't be possible.

Thank you very much,
Jonathan Schmidt–Ott