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The collapse of the investment bank Lehman Brothers, the cost explosion of the Elbe Philharmonic Hall in Hamburg, the egocentric escapades of Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi or the mystified sale of Damien Hirst's diamond skull: these are just a few examples of our overheated cultural, economic, political and social system. We cannot but be aware today that neoliberalism, till recently praised as the engine of universal wealth and prosperity, is a pure ideology of justification, a tool to concentrate more and more wealth at the top. Years of neoliberalism have plunged us into a deep crisis, and everywhere people are trying desperately to hold on to a status quo that, in the face of generalized government paralysis and unwillingness to confront the causes of the crisis head on, is rapidly dissolving under their feet. The old adage, Less is More, is no more... in part because less is getting less and less.

The Age of Less-Nostalgia, a two-day symposium that brings together the fields of visual art, design, architecture and theory, aims to discuss existing or past values in relation to possibly new behaviours that have emerged within the framework of, and in response to, the financial crisis. In particular, our focus will be on questioning how the so-called "creative industry" is dealing with and reacting to the present situation.

Collaboratively conceived by Moritz Küng and Anne-Claire Schmitz

## Lectures:

### **Friday, March 1st**

- 15:30: Welcome introduction by Moritz Küng & Anne-Claire Schmitz
- 16:00: *Left-Wing Melancholy: Rancière on the Politics of Critique* by Emiliano Battista
- 17:00: *Diane, Ad and Tupperware* an autobiographical lecture by Pierre Leguillon
- 18:00: *Against the grain?* by Catherine David
- 19:00: Q & A guests and audience
- 19:30: eat & drink buffet at La Loge (open to all)

### **Saturday, March 2nd**

- 12:00: lunch buffet at La Loge (open to all)
- 13:00: *Reset* by Manfred Pernice
- 14:00: *Making furniture with people in risk of exclusion* by Curro Claret
- 15:00: break tea time
- 15:30: *Reduce Reuse Recycle* by Muck Petzet
- 16:30: Conversation with Thea Djordjadze
- 17:30: *The Prospects of Retro-Futurism* by Elie During
- 18:30: Q & A guests and audience
- 19:00: drinks

## Exhibition:

### **Friday & Saturday**

12h00-20h00

*The Good Life* by Jasper Morrison

## Participants

**Emiliano Battista** (BRA, °1973, lives in Brussels) is an independent researcher and the translator of Jacques Rancière's *Althusser's Lesson* (Continuum 2011) and *Film Fables* (Berg 2005), as well as of essays by Jean-Michel Rabaté, Erik Porge, Raoul Vaneigem, and others. He is also the editor, with Vanessa Brito, of *Becoming Major/Becoming Minor* (Jan van Eyck 2011), a collection of essays on the work of Gilles Deleuze. He was a researcher in the Theory department of the Jan van Eyck Academie, where he led a research project on the role of the aesthetic in Rancière's work, particularly in his polemic with Badiou and Lyotard. He is currently at work on two book projects, with Daan van Golden and Herman Asselberghs, as well as on editing and translating a selection of Rancière interviews.

**Curro Claret** (ES, °1968, lives in Barcelona) is a designer who studied at London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design and Barcelona's Escuela Superior de Diseño Elisava, where he's also teaching. He worked both in architecture and design studios as well as on a freelance basis. He collaborated among others with companies or organisations as: Alis, Ayuntamiento de Barcelona, Balvi, Barcelona Tecnología, Camper, COAC Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de Cataluña, Massimo Dutti, Fad, Formica, galería H2o, Departament de Medi Ambient Generalitat de Catalunya, Centre d'Art la Panera, and for private commissions. In 2010 he started the furniture collection *Taburet 300* in collaboration with Arrels foundation - an organization that supports homeless people in chronic stages of exclusion. Since then it has been developed from a few stools on a first step to a recently interior design intervention in a Camper shoe shop of Barcelona. Curro Claret was awarded in 2011 with the second price for 'Best Recycled Product' by the European Association of Plastics Recycling and Recovery Organisations, in 2009 with the Premi Disseny per al Reciclatge, Generalitat de Catalunya.

**Catherine David** (FR, °1954, lives in Paris) - is an art historian and curator. She studied Linguistics and History of Art at the Université de la Sorbonne-Paris III and Ecole du Louvre in Paris. From 1982 to 1990 she was Curator at the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou and from 1990 to 1994 at Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, both in Paris, where she organized several monographs and group exhibitions including: Lothar Baumgarten; Reinhard Mucha; *Passages de L'Image*; Stan Douglas: *Monodramas and Television Spots*; *Desordres*; Chohreh Feyzdjou; Thomas Hirshorn; Suzanne Lafont; Marcel Broodthaers; Helio Oiticica; Robert Gober; Gilberto Zorio; Jeff Wall and Chantal Ackerman: *D'Est*, among others. From 1994 to 1997 David served as Artistic Director for *documenta X* in Kassel, Germany, and from 1998 on is director of the long-term project *Contemporary Arab Representations (Beirut/Cairo/Iraqi Equation)* produced by Tàpies Foundation in Barcelona and shown in Barcelona / Tàpies Foundation, Berlin / KW and Umëa / Bild Museet. In 2000 she organized *The State of Things* for Kunst Werke, Berlin. Between 2002 and 2004 David was Director of Witte de With Rotterdam in the Netherlands. In 2004-2005 she was Rudolf Arnim Guest professor at Humboldt University, Berlin. In 2005-2006 she was Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. In 2007 she organised the monograph exhibition of Bahman Jalali at Tàpies Foundation in Barcelona and the interdisciplinary event: *Di/Visions: Culture and Politics of the Middle East* at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. In 2008 she received the Bard Award for curatorial excellence in New York. In 2009 she was curator of the ADACH (Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage) pavilion at Venice Biennial. In March 2011 She organised Hassan Sharif's exhibition *Experiments & Objects 1979-2011* at the ADACH Exhibition hall in Abu Dhabi and has launched the first monographic book on the artist (published by Cantz /ADACH) in Venice Biennale in June 2011. Recently, in 2012, she organised *Blind Spot* at HKW Berlin, *Mutatis Mutandis* at Secession, Vienna and *Marwan & Abdelrahman Munif: Correspondance 1991-2004* in Beirut.

**Thea Djordjadze** (GE, °1971, lives in Berlin) – is a sculptor making mainly use of 'poor', perishable or brittle materials such as clay, plaster, ceramic, cardboard or raw wood.

She studied at the Academy of Arts in Tbilisi from 1988 to 1993. The academy closed in 1993 due to the Georgian civil war. Djordjadze moved to Amsterdam to study at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy. After a year she moved to Düsseldorf, where she studied at the Staatliche Kunstakademie until 2001. Selected solo exhibitions: *Our Full*, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö (2013), *The Common Guild*, Glasgow (2011), *westlondonprojects*, London (2009–2010), *Kunsthalle Basel* (2009), *Kunstverein Nurnberg* (2008). Selected group exhibitions: *DOCUMENTA* (13), Kassel (2012), *Carré d'Art*, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nîmes (2011), *Sculpture Centre*, New York (2011), *Hayward Gallery*, London (2010), *Centre Georges Pompidou*, Paris (2010), *Barbican*, London (2008), *the BB5 – 5th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art* (2008), *Venice Biennale* (2003).

**Elie During** (FR, °1972, lives in Paris) – is Associate Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department at University of Paris – Ouest Nanterre. He also teaches at the École des Beaux-Arts of Paris. His current research focuses on the philosophical implications of the space-time concept, at the crossroad of several fields: aesthetics, metaphysics and philosophy of science. He contributed to the critical edition of Henri Bergson's complete works (*Durée et Simultanéité* [Duration and Simultaneity], PUF, 2009, and *Memory of the Present* [Le souvenir du présent], PUF, 2012). He is the author of *Faux Raccords* (Actes Sud, 2010) and of two forthcoming books: *Bergson et Einstein: la querelle du temps* (PUF, 2013), and *Temps flottants* (Bayard, 2013). He co-edited several volumes on contemporary art: *De l'expérimental dans l'art* (Les Presses du Réel, 2009), *À quoi pense l'art contemporain ?* (Critique, n°759-760, 2010), *Qu'est-ce que le curating?* (Manuella Editions, 2012, in collaboration with Hans-Ulrich Obrist, Donatien Grau, Dominique Gonzales-Foerster).

**Moritz Küng** (CH, °1961, lives in Barcelona) – is an exhibition curator and book editor working at the intersection between art and architecture. He studied architectural design at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam and art history at the University in Brussels. He was twice curator of the Belgium pavilion, at the Sao Paulo Art Biennial (2002) and the Venice Architecture Biennial (2008). In 2010 he was a member of the jury for the Golden Lions at the 12th Architecture Biennial in Venice. Most recent projects include solo shows with artists like Peter Downsbrough, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Bas Princen, Cerith Wyn Evans and Heimo Zobernig, and architects like Christian Kerez, David Kohn, Office KGDVS, R&Sie – François Roche and SANAA. Recent group shows are *The Umbrella Corner*, *ProjecteSD*, Barcelona (2012–13), *The fifth column*, *Secession*, Vienna (2011) or *2 1/2 dimensional: Filmfeaturing Architecture*, deSingel, Antwerp (2010).

**Pierre Leguillon** (FR, °1969, lives in Brussels) is an artist, known for his accumulative slide shows, performances and exhibitions dealing with reception and art history. The content of the non-narrative slideshows often possesses a disarming wit and elusiveness. From 1991–1996 he has published as well the 'one page' journal *Sommaire*. Recent solo exhibitions and performances include: *La grande évasion*, Musée de la Danse, Rennes (2012); *Mamco*, Genève (2010), *Pierre Leguillon features: Diane Arbus, a Printed Retrospective, 1960–1971*, Kadist Art Foundation, Paris ; *Centre Régional de la Photographie* in Douchy-les-Mines ; *Moderna Muuseet* in Malmö ; *De Hallen* in Haarlem ; *CCA* in Vilnius and *Mercer Union*, Toronto (2009–2012), *Diaporama/Vestiaire*, Musée du Louvre, Paris ; *Artists Space*, New York et.al (2006–2009); *La Promesse de l'écran*, Capc, Musée d'Art contemporain, Bordeaux (2008–2010), *Non-Happening after Ad Reinhardt*, Raven Row, London ; *Murray Guy*, New York (2011). Recent group exhibitions include: *Le Nouveau festival*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2009), *Rennes Biennial* (2012), *I Proclaim, you Proclaim, We Proclaim*, Stroom, Den Haag (2012), *The Umbrella Corner*, *ProjecteSD*, Barcelona. He is represented in Brussels by Motive Gallery.

**Manfred Pernice** (DE, °1963, lives in Berlin) is an artist who employs the most simple and unpretentious, often reused materials to create hybrids between a sculpture, a functional object, architecture and a display. His works haven't a strict contour, appear often with a certain patina and a nostalgic sense of colour, evoking an innocent past or a certain social and aesthetical environment. He works against the currently predominating linearity and develops anti-forms with varying identities and functions. He had recent solo shows at the DCA Dundee Contemporary Arts in Scotland; the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein in Berlin and the S.M.A.K in Ghent (all 2011), Secession in Vienna (2010). Group exhibitions include: the Sao Paulo Biennial (2011), The New Décor, Hayward Gallery, London (2010), Le Festival, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2009), Skulptur.Projekte in Münster (2007), Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st. Century, New Museum, N.Y. (2007), or documenta 11 in Kassel (2002).

**Muck Petzet** (DE, °1964, lives in Munich) – is an architect and was General Commissioner of the German Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennial in 2012.

With his exhibition Reduce Reduce Recycle he has introduced a new system of values in the context of architecture. After studying in Munich and Berlin, he initially worked with Herzog & de Meuron in Basel. He has had his own office in Munich since 1993 and runs it since 2012 in partnership with Andreas Ferstl. His many years of practical engagement with conversion strategies forms the foundation for his theoretical work. He has, for instance, carried out exemplary conversion projects in the shrinking cities of Hoyerswerda and Leinefelde.

He is currently teaching 'architecture as resource' at the TU Munich.

#### Broadcasting

La Loge is broadcasting all its lectures and events live from its webpage (except when noted).

On the occasion of 'The Age of Less: Nostalgia?' our program will also be broadcasted live from the website of This is Tomorrow: <http://www.thisistomorrow.info/>

This is tomorrow is an online contemporary art magazine aiming to become a comprehensive archive of contemporary art, providing those restricted by place or time with the chance to visit some of the most innovative and culturally significant exhibitions around the world.

#### About La Loge

La Loge is a space where ideas, discussion and presentation coexist.

It invites contemporary artists to develop projects engaged with questions of space, habitat and use and brings together a variety of contemporary practices through series of discursive events.

#### **Season 1**

*Parque do Flamengo*, a project by Sophie Nys

7 September – 3 November 2012

*Nature non-stop*, a lecture by Kersten Geers

19 September 2012

*Savage Lava Jungles*, a lecture by Pablo León de la Barra

4 October 2012

*Wandering the world in search of plants*, a lecture by Denis Diagre

25 October 2012

*The Ceremony and The Spirit*, a collaborative project by Roe Ethridge & Zin Taylor

16 November 2012 – 26 January 2013

*Fetish and Figure*, a film program curated by Martha Kirszenbaum

15 December 2012

*Withdrawn architectures: Masonic temples & brothels*, a talk by William Pesson

16 January 2013

*The Age of Less: Nostalgia*, international two-day symposium, collaboratively conceived with Moritz Küng.

1st and 2nd March 2013

*Six Possibilities for a Sculpture*, a group show curated by Zoë Gray, featuring Caroline Achaintre, Hedwig Houben, Emmanuelle Lainé, Robert Orchardson, Jennifer Tee

11 April – 29 June 2013

La Loge is a privately funded non-profit organisation.

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