

Press Release

# MAK NITE<sup>©</sup> 09/11

## Program for September 2011

Tuesday, 20 September 2011

**9 p.m. APPARATUS 22 (Bucharest, Romania)**

**Patterns of Aura (15° Synaesthesia)**

**Fashion Performance / Première**

*Patterns of Aura (15° Synaesthesia)* by the multidisciplinary Bucharest-based art and design collective APPARATUS 22 is a fashion presentation, which will celebrate its première at the MAK. APPARATUS 22 uses its concepts and actions to examine the social and political role of fashion, as well as its critical potential. They connect fiction with reality and narration with critical approaches, blur the boundaries between the genders, and utilize knowledge and experience from the fields of art, design, sociology, literature and business.

This group of artists will use their action at the MAK to lay bare the character of the fashion world, which they view to be at once disconcertingly strange and highly seductive. In doing so, they will also shed light on that mysterious phenomenon of the aura which emanates from an individual or an object. *Patterns of Aura (15° Synaesthesia)* represents the group's idealized fashion collection: custom-tailored yet light and transparent, uncompromising and poetic yet not without irony. With 15 looks, choreographed as a mixture between menswear and ladieswear, APPARATUS 22 will portray a kind of "hyper-state of fashion." This presentation plays with the illusion of synesthetic experience—that is, a sensory perception and/or association that can be called up via language alone. "*Patterns of Aura (15° Synaesthesia)* can also be understood as a commentary on our situation in Romania," say the artists. "We have to be inventive in order to realize our ideas and activate collective powers of imagination."

The evening's special guest is the unconventional Romanian musician Sillyconductor, whom APPARATUS 22 has invited to do a live mix.

*In cooperation with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Vienna.  
Special thanks are extended to: KILOBASE BUCHAREST and  
Quartier Général (Paris)*

**Apparatus 22** was founded in late 2010 by Erika Olea (\* 1982, Bucharest), Maria Farcas (\* 1977, Târgu Mureş), Dragos Olea (\* 1979, Bucharest) and Ioana Nemes (\* 1979, Bucharest, † 2011, New York). It was during a research stay in Stockholm (2010) as part of the Swedish Visual Arts Fund's International Programme (IASPIS) that the group was formed by members of the fashion label Rozalb de Mura, which had received the fashion award "Kontakt. Erste Bank Modepreis" (Vienna) in 2006 and participated in events such as the London Fashion Weeks of 2008 and 2009 (with ON|OFF) as well as the 2008 Seoul Fashion Week and the 2011 exhibition *ARRRGH! Monsters and Storytelling in Fashion* at the Benaki Museum in Athens. From the very beginning, the collective has included the Romanian-born artist Olah Gyarfás as a regular guest.

Residencies recently awarded to Apparatus 22 include at the Gyeonggi Creation Center in South Korea (November–December 2011) and at Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart (2012). At the 2011 steirischer herbst festival, APPARATUS 22 will participate with their performance *Morpheus Buyback*. Further exhibitions and projects include *Ersatz Economics*, an entry in the publication *KILOBASE BUCHAREST A–H* (Mousse Publishing, Milan), an experimental commission for the exhibition *Image to Be Projected Until It Vanishes, Desire is War* (Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu, Romania, 2011) and *Situated Knowledge: I follow Rivers of Thoughts* (Romanian Institute for Culture and Humanistic Research, Venice, as a contribution to the 54th Biennale in Venice, September–November 2011).

MAK Columned Main Hall, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna  
Admission € 9.90 with MAK guide / € 7.90 / reduced: € 5.50

**6 p.m.** MAK Lecture Series **CHANGING ARCHITECTURE**

**Kazuyo Sejima / SANAA: "Architecture and Environment"**  
Lecture to be held in English.

MAK Lecture Hall, Weiskirchnerstraße 3, 1010 Vienna  
Admission € 9.90 with MAK guide / € 7.90 / reduced: € 5.50

Tuesday, 27 September

**8 p.m.** **BBM – Ausräumen**

**Machine performance with Janneke Schönenbach, Maarten Kippenbroek, Lars Vaupel and Olaf Arndt (Berlin)**

35 robots are the main protagonists of the machine performance *Ausräumen* [Clearing Away], which the internationally known German artists' group BBM (Beobachter der Bediener von Maschinen [Observers of Operators of Machines]) will be showing at MAK Nite. These fragile apparatuses seem as if custom-made for a role in Jean-Pierre Jeunet's feature film *Micmacs à tire-larigot* (2009). They limp, shuffle, skid and step forward, ever forward. On their march through

Europe, these pitifully weak, wobbly vehicles have already encountered over 15,000 people in places including Paris, Berlin and Cologne. They have even made fearless countryside detours, for example in Belgium and Lower Saxony. One could speak of a victory march, were the topic of these machines not so gloomy: for they speak of displacement and expulsion from their native spaces in places where nobody will speak in their support. These mechanical stutterers borrow their voices from Martin Heidegger, whose essay “Die Kunst und der Raum” [Art and Space] (1969) accompanies this performance’s acoustically.

Heidegger’s term of “utter control” opens the theater of social atrocities: the lame vehicles are kept in check by a mechanical guard and two suitcase bombs as they sing their own song, reminiscent of Nicolaus Hocke’s *Kurtzer Beschreibung der Türkenbelagerung* [Short Description of the Turkish Siege] of Vienna in 1683. The text compiled by BBM reaches its somber nadir when it turns to the idea of a continental expulsion, quoting Anders Behring Breivik’s manifesto “2083. European Declaration of Independence.” The artists pose the question: who would want to live in such a “free” Europe? Free of those who do not enjoy the protection of any interest group, and whose only participation in capitalism is as victims? And, most importantly, also free of those who would think differently—cleaned out and culturally empty, on account of its having been rendered one-dimensional.

Following their performance, the members of BBM will be available for debate and will also tell stories from 22 years of machine work.

### **BBM (Beobachter der Bediener von Maschinen)**

Since 1989, BBM has been working in the fields of art, research and performance. BBM view themselves as a flexible-membership research platform at the interface of art, science and technology. Their working principle is collective: no individual handwritings or artistic personalities are recognizable by the public. Since 1992, the members of BBM have also been curating exhibitions, commissioning works on precisely defined topics, and making their archive available to other artists. Since 1997, they have also been running their own 800 m<sup>2</sup> laboratory for kinetic and media experiments in Hannover. Their best-known project is the theme park *Wissen* [Knowledge] at the Expo 2000, a swarm experiment with 72 robots which, to this day, is viewed as the largest-ever successful attempt at “collective roboting” and was seen by 1.2 million visitors. International performances since 1989 have taken the group to Berlin, Hannover, Karlsruhe, Munich, Kiev, Paris, Vilnius, Budapest, Prague, Maribor and elsewhere.

bbm.de

MAK Columned Main Hall, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

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