



**MAK**

Press Release

## **FOGO ISLAND DIALOGUES at the MAK**

For VIENNA ART WEEK 2013, the MAK will be featuring the theme of *Culture as Destination* in cooperation with Fogo Island Arts (CA)

The 2013 VIENNA ART WEEK will see the MAK join the Canadian institution Fogo Island Arts to present the *Fogo Island Dialogues* in Vienna. This international, interdisciplinary series of conferences brings together arts professionals, economists, geographers, planners and architects, and will use its Viennese edition, entitled *Culture as Destination*, to examine the digital as a destination and as a form of knowledge consumption. The event will begin with keynote lectures by Marcus Verhagen (art historian and art critic, London), and Pedro Gadanho (Curator of Contemporary Architecture, MoMA, New York) on Sunday, 17 November 2013 at 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. On Tuesday, 19 November 2013 from 3 to 8 p.m., the conference will continue with lectures and discussions—including with Nigel Clark (Chair of Social Sustainability, Lancaster University, Lancaster), Nikolaus Hirsch (architect and curator; Frankfurt), and Maria Lind (Director, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm) in the MAK Columned Main Hall.

The first edition of the *Fogo Island Dialogues*, an initiative of Fogo Island Arts, a contemporary art institution located on Fogo Island, off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, was participated in by 25 professionals from the social sciences and arts; they came together in Fogo from 19 to 21 July 2013 to discuss the notion of belonging to a place. Following its second edition at the MAK, *Dialogues* is to be continued in 2014 at various international institutions.

Each edition of the *Dialogues* focuses on how art can influence social change, exploring the role that art and artists can play in such initiatives. While the topics addressed by invited speakers are international, the discussions always refer to the example of Fogo Island, the current site of an ambitious rural renewal project, as inspiration and catalyst for the exploration and understanding of other locations. Using the idea of an island as a metaphor for any rural locale, the concept of the island-as-laboratory is tested through dialogue.

*Fogo Island Dialogues: Culture as Destination* at the MAK invites the audience to contemplate the digital as a place that challenges the consumption of knowledge and adds a new layer of complexity to the status quo. A particular focus is placed on the tensions that digital culture creates with the physically rooted world that sees things produced, and objects, people, and places engaged with. Through this framework, *Culture as Des-*

*destination* examines the digital as a destination, and by extension, one associated with the notion of the “Museum without Walls.” How can this museum act as a destination when it specifically espouses movement, flux, and, ultimately, disavows the destination as such?

The curators of the *Fogo Island Dialogues* are Amira Gad (Managing Curator, Witte de With; Rotterdam), Gareth Long (artist; London/Vienna), and Nicolaus Schafhausen (Director, Kunsthalle Wien and advisor to Fogo Island Arts / Shorefast Foundation; Vienna). The second edition of this series of discussions on *Culture as Destination*, to be held at the MAK, has been developed in cooperation with Simon Rees (Curator, MAK; Vienna) and Christoph Thun-Hohenstein (Director, MAK; Vienna).

*Fogo Island Arts* was founded in 2008 as an international cultural institution offering a residency-based contemporary art venue for artists, filmmakers, writers, curators, designers, and thinkers from around the world. With the opening of the Fogo Island Inn in May 2013, Fogo Island Arts expanded its programs to include exhibitions at the Inn, publications produced in collaboration with international publishing houses, and partnerships with public institutions globally. These initiatives are part of a social enterprise-based business model that will support the economic viability of the Fogo Island Inn and the growth of sustainable tourism on Fogo Island.

Further information at: [www.fogoislandarts.ca](http://www.fogoislandarts.ca)

**The program of *Fogo Island Dialogues: Culture as Destination*  
as part of VIENNA ART WEEK 2013 at the MAK:**

**Sun, 17 November 2013, 4 p.m.**

**LECTURE**

(held in English)

4 p.m.

**Welcome** by Christoph Thun-Hohenstein and Nicolaus Schafhausen

4:30 p.m.

**Lecture** by Marcus Verhagen

**Tourists Not Allowed! Real Travelers Only**

5:30 till 6 p.m.

**Lecture** by Pedro Gadanho

**Tue, 19 November 2013, 3–8 p.m.**  
**LECTURES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS**  
(held in English)

3 p.m.  
**Welcome** by Nicolaus Schafhausen and Simon Rees

3:15 till 4 p.m.  
**Presentation** by Jack Stanley  
**From Away: Fogo Island Arts in Vienna**

4 till 5 p.m.  
**Dialogues I: Designing a Culture** by Nigel Clark  
**Conversation** between Tulga Beyerle, Pedro Gadanho and Nigel Clark, moderated by Simon Rees

Break

5:30 till 6:30 p.m.  
**Dialogues II: Institutions and Relative Peripheries**  
**Presentations** by Nikolaus Hirsch and Maria Lind  
**Conversation** between Nikolaus Hirsch and Maria Lind, moderated by Vanessa Joan Müller

6:30 till 8 p.m.  
**Dialogues III**  
**Closing roundtable discussion** moderated by Gareth Long and Amira Gad

8 p.m.  
**Public Reception**

9 p.m.  
**MAK NITE Lab**  
1982 (Charles Derenne; Paris/F)  
OUR UNIVERSE UNFOLDS NEW WONDERS  
Live concert / AV Performance

## Participants

**Tulga Beyerle** (Co-Founder of Vienna Design Week, independent curator and writer, Vienna), **Nigel Clark** (Chair of Social Sustainability at Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster), **Amira Gad** (Managing curator at Witte de With, Rotterdam), **Pedro Gadanho** (Curator of Contemporary Architecture at MoMA, New York), **Nikolaus Hirsch** (Curator and architect, Frankfurt am Main), **Maria Lind** (Director of Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm, independent curator and writer, Stockholm), **Gareth Long** (Artist, London/Vienna), **Vanessa Joan Müller** (Dramaturg at Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna), **Simon Rees** (Curator at MAK, Vienna), **Nicolaus Schafhausen** (Director of Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Advisor of Shorefast Foundation / Fogo Island Arts), **Jack Stanley** (Director of Programs at Fogo Island Arts, Fogo) and **Marcus Verhagen** (Art historian and critic, London).

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Further information on the *Fogo Island Dialogues* is available from Rosemary Heather ([rosemaryheather@fogoislandarts.ca](mailto:rosemaryheather@fogoislandarts.ca)).

Vienna, 18 November 2013