

Press Release

**MAK NITE Lab 1/15
March 2015**

Tuesday, 24 March 2015

MAK NITE Lab

7–9 p.m.

**Denn die Maschine schaut uns nicht einfach zu,
wie wir unsere ‘Alternativen’ organisieren
[Since the machine will not simply watch us as
we organize our ‘alternatives’]**

A roundtable discussion with author p. m. (Zurich),
Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (STEALTH.unlimited,
Rotterdam/Belgrade), and Stefan Gruber
(STUDIOGRUBER , Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna)

Under the title *“Denn die Maschine schaut uns nicht einfach zu, wie wir unsere ‘Alternativen’ organisieren”* [*“Since the machine will not simply watch us as we organize our ‘alternatives’”*] (from p. m., *bolo’bolo*, Zurich, 1983), a discussion will be held on the relationship between utopias and social change “from below” as part of the MAK NITE Lab.

Can bottom-up initiatives trigger and lead to systemic change? And what role might narrative fiction play on this path? In 1983, author p. m. composed a “bizarre, satirical and deadly serious proposal for collective living”—a life in self-governing neighborhoods (*bolo’bolos*) that would help us overcome the planetary work machine. *bolo’bolo* was translated into numerous languages and soon entered the classic cannon of “utopias.”

While p. m. takes on the challenges of utopias, the book remains rooted in the here and now, convinced that change is possible and action necessary. Its ideas have become increasingly relevant in the context of current discussions on the commons.

The MAK NITE Lab with p. m. will explore how the ideas elaborated in *bolo'bolo* can actually transform institutions and become reality. p. m. focuses on these questions in one of his recent books as well as in his role as board member of the initiative *Neustart Schweiz*. The discussion will also cover the author's experience in the creation of Zurich's large and ambitious housing co-op *KraftWerk 1*, a model project that is currently deploying several offshoots. Based on these experiences, how would *bolo'bolo* be written thirty years later?

The MAK NITE Lab explores possible relations between fiction and everyday struggles in citizens' initiatives. Can narrative fiction contribute to overcoming the historically burdened notion of utopia and help us construct a horizon for working toward an alternate future?

The MAK NITE Lab with p. m. is part of an ongoing project by STEALTH.unlimited and Stefan Gruber that speculates on an alternate future for Vienna that emerges from bottom-up citizens' initiatives. The project is the fourth event in a series that is guest-curated by Maria Lind, director of Tensta Konsthall in Stockholm, in connection with her group exhibition *Future Light* for the VIENNA BIENNALE 2015.

The series began with a talk by Brian Kuan Wood ("Is it Love?", e-flux journal, 2009) and a film screening by Marysia Lewandowska (Museum Futures, 2008) in April 2014. The second MAK NITE Lab in this series in November 2014 featured a talk by Fernando García-Dory entitled *On art, agriculture, and the countryside: possible futures of existing initiatives in the fields*. Most recently, at the MAK NITE Lab in December 2014 organized by STEALTH.unlimited and Stefan Gruber, possible effects of the crisis of the welfare state on the future of Vienna were discussed. An additional MAK NITE Lab in this series will take place on 14 April 2015.

Guest Curator: **Maria Lind**, Director, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm
Curator: **Marlies Wirth**

MAK Kaminzimmer, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna



MAK Press and
Public Relations

Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Leitung)
Sandra Hell-Ghignone
Veronika Träger
Lara Steinhäüßer
T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212
presse@MAK.at, www.MAK.at

Vienna, 18 March 2015