

Trade Test Site presents **Brian Holmes – AESTHETICS OF CRISIS LECTURE & WORKSHOP**, in collaboration with Aarhus University's Aesthetics Seminar series:

TRADE TEST SITE presents a lecture by the cultural critic **BRIAN HOLMES** as part of AARHUS UNIVERSITY'S AESTHETICS SEMINAR series and the MEDIALITY, MATERIALITY, AESTHETIC MEANING research programme. Holmes will give a lecture that builds on his essay "Crisis Theory for Complex Societies", in *Disrupting Business: Art and Activism in Times of Financial Crisis* (edited by Geoff Cox & Tatiana Bazzichelli, and published by Autonomedia, 2013).

LECTURE – AESTHETICS OF CRISIS
Thursday 29. January, 2015 | 16
Kunsthall Aarhus | J.M. Mørks Gade 13

BRIAN HOLMES writes:



"Major shifts in the patterns of capital accumulation come once every forty years or so. But they cast long shadows, on aesthetics as well as technology. Since 1968 we've lived with just about the same imaginary of revolution. And since the neoliberal compromise of the 1980s, we've lived with the proliferating simulacra of that same revolutionary imaginary. How will our societies confront the new set of political and ecological challenges brought on by the tremendous acceleration of the globalized economy? What will the future be made of? For decades those questions were taboo. But when the financial sector suddenly froze in 2008, they began to take on an intense existential reality. The aesthetics of crisis names a vast, fractured, interlinked process of collective invention. It is the response of human beings to the restructuring of capital."

This lecture deals with the subjective experience of crisis and serves as an introduction to a two-day workshop on the transformations of the contemporary world economic system.

BRIAN HOLMES will lead a two-day lecture and discussion workshop on his research into the global economic crisis. The workshop will build on his Aesthetics Seminar lecture as well as previous courses taught at the experimental art center, Mess Hall-Chicago; the Autonomous University of Occupy Berlin; and the Campus Expandido program of the MUAC, the contemporary art museum of Mexico City's National Autonomous University, among other locations.

On the first day, Holmes will outline a theory of the social and cultural changes provoked by major economic crises, and then describe in detail the neoliberal order that emerged from the 1960s and 70s. On the second day, he will analyze the global prolongations and consequences of the 2008 crash and examine various scenarios for a resolution of the ongoing crisis. By focusing on the interrelations between specific technologies, organizational forms, political concepts and artistic images, participants can start to grasp the forces that have made us what we are. Most importantly, they can begin envisioning ways to make history in the present.

WORKSHOP – AESTHETICS OF CRISIS
Friday, 30. January, 2015 | 10-14
Saturday, 31. January, 2015 | 12-16
Kunsthall Aarhus | J.M. Mørks Gade 13

To reserve a place in the 2-day workshop contact either:
Lise Skou [liseskou@gmail.com] or **Ricarda Bross** [participation@kunsthall.dk]

BRIAN HOLMES is a cultural critic, social activist and autonomous researcher, currently living in Chicago. Since the late Nineties he has been analyzing the contradictions of neoliberal globalization, while continuously engaging with artistic projects. His essays are freely available at www.brianholmes.wordpress.com.

Also see: www.southwestcorridor-northwestpassage.org.

TRADE TEST SITE is a mobile cultural platform for the exploration of the intersection of economics and aesthetics. Initiated by Lise Skou (DK) with support from Bonnie Fortune (DK/US).
www.tradetestsite.com



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