



FORART LECTURE 2018

McKenzie Wark - Molecular Red

Friday, August 31, 6-8 pm
Litteraturhuset, Amalie Skram

FORART SEMINAR 2018

These are Situationist Times

Saturday, September 1, 1 pm
Torpedo, Rostockgata 28

FORART LECTURE

For the 2018 FORART lecture, McKenzie Wark (New School of Social Research, New York), revisits economist and philosopher Alexander Bogdanov's early 20th century theories on climate change in order to rethink labor with nature in the age of the anthropocene. The Friday lecture is followed by a Saturday seminar on the art and politics of *The Situationist Times*.

Molecular Red: Theory for the Anthropocene: Reorienting thinking for the Anthropocene may be a more profound problem than we like to admit. There is no historical memory of having to revise worldviews to meet a change in geological time. And since the problems the Anthropocene presents such as climate change and ocean acidification are pressing, there is not time to embark on a long research program. However it may be of some use to take a step back into the archive, to find useful intellectual resources, in order to take two steps forward. In *Molecular Red*, I start with Alexander Bogdanov. He was Lenin's rival for the leadership of the Bolsheviks, before Lenin had him expelled from the faction. He was an organiser, theorist, scientist and the author of science fiction. He got the principles of climate change more or less right, twice. From Bogdanov, *Molecular Red* takes us on a journey through the archive, finding unlikely sources who took seriously the problem of organizing our labors in and against nature for long term survival.

McKenzie (Ken) Wark is Professor of Culture and Media in Liberal Studies at The New School for Social Research. His research interests are media theory, new media, critical theory, cinema, music, and visual art. His publications include *Virtual Geography: Living with Global Media Events*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994, *A Hacker Manifesto*, Harvard University Press, 2004, *Gamer Theory*, Harvard University Press, 2007, *50 Years of Recuperation: The Situationist International 1957-2007*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2008. *The Beach Beneath the Street: The Everyday Life and Glorious Times of the Situationist International*, London: Verso, 2011. *The Spectacle of Disintegration: Situationist Passages out of the Twentieth Century*, London: Verso, 2013. *Molecular Red: Theory for the Anthropocene*, London: Verso, 2015, and *General Intellects: Twenty-One Thinkers for the Twenty First Century*, London: Verso, 2017.

He has also published the *Molecular Red Reader*, a companion volume to *Molecular Red* (London: Verso, 2015), and has co-written *Excommunication: Three Inquiries in Media and Mediation* with Alexander R. Galloway and Eugene Thacker (University of Chicago Press, 2013). His correspondence with Kathy Acker, *I'm Very Into You. Correspondence 1995-1996*, was published by Semiotexte in 2015.



FORART SEMINAR

These are Situationist Times

In this roundtable session, McKenzie Wark will be joined by Ellef Prestsæter and other participants to discuss the legacy and relevance of the magazine *The Situationist Times*, a magazine edited and published by the Dutch artist Jacqueline de Jong in the years 1962–1967. In its multilingual, trans-disciplinary and cross-cultural exuberance, *The Situationist Times* became one of the most exciting and playful magazines of the 1960s. Throughout its six remarkably diverse issues, it challenged not only the notion of what it means to be a situationist, but also traditional understandings of culture more broadly and of the way culture is created, formatted and shared. All reproduction, deformation, modification, derivation and transformation of *The Situationist Times* is permitted.

Participants:

Ellef Prestsæter is a PhD fellow in art history at the University of Oslo and of the curators of *The Situationist Times: Same Player Shoots Again*, which is on view at Torpedo until September 2, 2018

FORART– Institute for Research within International Contemporary Art is an independent foundation established in 1989 to support research projects within contemporary art. FORART focuses on new phenomena within this genre and is involved in interdisciplinary research that is carried out by prominent experts. Documentation and distribution of research results is an important part of the institute's activity.

Both events are free and open for everyone