

# CV

Katharina Fichtner, curator, editor, founding member of THE OFFICE. From 2003-07, assistant curator and curator at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin. Since 2007, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Canada. Since 2009, THE OFFICE, curatorial collective with Ellen Blumenstein, Maribel Lopez and Kathrin Meyer. Projects include the publication series “The World According to...” (with Iñaki Bonillas, Olaf Nicolai, Dora Garcia and Gert Jan Kocken), the lecture performance program “Perform a Lecture” (with Dan Graham, Eric Bünger, Elli Ga, a.o.) and an ongoing performance series at the Hansaviertel (with Nathalie Djurberg, Carsten Nicolai, Annika Larsson, a.o.). In June/July 2012: collaboration project with Le Bureau/ Paris in Berlin and Paris which will include artists’ performances, workshops, etc.

# THE OFFICE

THE OFFICE seeks to create, facilitate and produce projects of contemporary culture and intends to detect where, how and through whom, art happens today.

THE OFFICE intervenes into the cities' cultural infrastructures to connect and expand existing configurations and to provide a space for discursive activities in constantly changing environments.

THE OFFICE explores a model of collective practice and experimentation for artists, curators, writers and other cultural producers. It is a network for receiving and developing projects, inventing and testing formats. THE OFFICE insists on autonomy while emphasizing collaboration on temporary operations into the arts.

In addition, THE OFFICE functions as a communication device for the projects developed by each of its members.

THE OFFICE is: Ellen Blumenstein, Katharina Fichtner, Fiona Geuss, Maribel López , Kathrin Meyer

[www.theoffice.li](http://www.theoffice.li)

PAST PROJECT

# THE PERFORMANCES

July 2009, Berlin Moabit

THE PERFORMANCES is a series of events that are taking place at a storefront in the neighborhood of Tiergarten throughout July 2009. THE OFFICE has invited artists who are currently living in Berlin or passing through the city to present new or already existing projects sharing a focus on sound/music and language. Every evening has a different format; the site is used differently on each occasion. It becomes a stage, a venue for a lecture, a music hall or a playground.

**Artists (a.o.): Darri Lorenzen, Romana Schmalisch , Angie Reed , Erik Büniger, Miguel Noguera + Black Tulip, Jeremy Shaw , Kerstin Cmelka & Daniel Müller-Friedrichsen , Matt Keegan + Dane Mitchell**



Angie Reed, "International Update"



Darri Lorenzen, "Void Doubt Echo"



Erik Büniger , " Lecture on Schizophonia "



Jeremy Shaw, "Best Minds Part Two"

MAGAZINE

# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO invites an artist to collaborate on a magazine. Using sources other than his/her own work, s/he develops an idea, a concept, a subject or a vision which can only be realized in the form of a print publication. On 64 blank pages, s/he creates a unique project by collecting images, texts, graphics, and/or by inviting artists, friends, family members to contribute.

With THE WORLD ACCORDING TO we provide an open space in which an artist can discover different ways of examining the world that surrounds him/her and to develop new content and unexpected formats.

**Issue # 1: Iñaki Bonillas** (\*1981, Mexiko City) published September 2009

**Issue #2: Olaf Nicolai** (\*1962. Halle/Saale, Lives and works in Berlin), published June 2010

**Issue #3: Dora Garcia** (\*1965 in Valladolid, Spain), published May 2011

**Issue #4: Gert Jan Kocken** (\*1971, Ravenstein, NL), published March 2012



Issue #1-3

Issue #4: **THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GERT JAN KOCKEN**

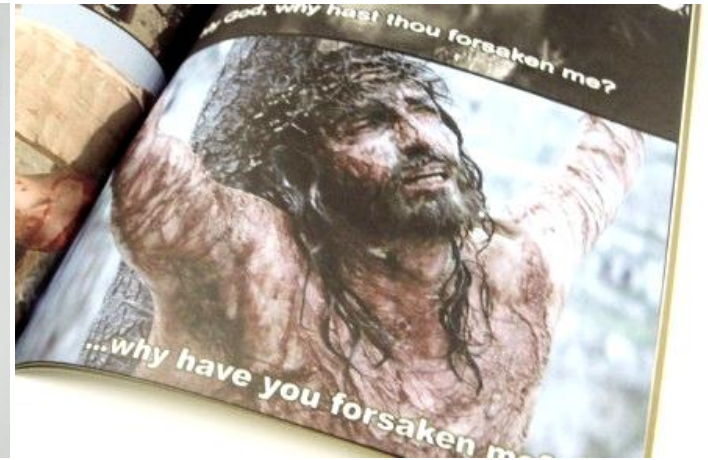
*Editor:* THE OFFICE (Katharina Fichtner), Frank Kalero

*Design:* JealousGUY

*Text:* Gert Jan Kocken, Daniël van der Poel

*Research:* Anna Dasovic

Kindly supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GERT JAN KOCKEN

Lecture Performance, March 2012, Salon Populaire, Berlin



For this lecture performance and the magazine the artist Gert Jan Kocken, who currently holds a residency at the Rijksakademie, uncovered the research processes that precede his actual artistic work of large scale photography. Based on a collection of thousands of images, Gert Jan illustrated religion's problematic relationship with images. Meandering through time, somewhere between iconoclasm and iconophilism, he will present his manifold findings, and demonstrate how images have been deployed to tell the story of the world, from its creation to the present day.



A SERIES OF EVENTS IN SIX PARTS

# PERFORM A LECTURE!

May-December 2010

Perform a Lecture! is a project in six parts that seeks to explore the genre of 'lecture performance' both practically and discursively. Developed in the 1960s as a subgenre of performance, lecture performances have been present in contemporary art for years. Perform a Lecture! brings together performances by internationally renowned and emerging artists, and approaches the genre, its history and recent developments in a series of conversations between art historians, curators, philosophers, artists and the audience. The presentations are organized in collaboration with various institutions in Berlin.

Perform a Lecture! seeks to reflect on the timeliness of the format and the 'politics' of the medium. Located between speech and action, between reflection and production, the lecture performance lies in a 'grey area, essentially thematizing relations between art and knowledge or research, and art and its dissemination. Lecture performances potentially open up a discursive field on which to address issues such as recent shifts in the conception and understanding of the artwork on the one hand and the art context ('third wave of institutional critique') on the other.

**Artists: Dan Graham, Nicolas Guagnini, Pedro Neves Marques, Ellie Ga, Erik Bünger, Olivia Plender/Romeo Gongora, Will Holder.**

Perform a Lecture! was organized in collaboration with the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Stuttgart, Lehrstuhl für Ästhetik, Kunstvermittlung und psychoanalytische Kulturtheorie; Sonderforschungsbereich 626, Freie Universität Berlin; Tiergarten 1 (Eternithaus); Radialsystem V – New Space for the Arts in Berlin; .HBC Berlin; ICI Berlin; Salon



Dan Graham/Nicolas Guagnini, *Tourguide – A Platonic Dialogue Through the City*



Ellie Ga: *The Fortunetellers Part 1 + The Fortunetellers: Arctic Circles*



Erik Bünger: *The Third Man*  
Followed by conversation with Christoph Gurk



Olivia Plender / Romeo Gongora: *Family to Nation*



ONGOING SERIES

# PERFORMANCES IN HANSAVIERTEL

PERFORMANCES IN HANSAVIERTEL is a series of performances based on sound and spoken word, irregularly organized by THE OFFICE. The events take place at TIERGARTEN EINS in Berlin's neighborhood of Hansaviertel.

THE OFFICE invites artists and other cultural producers to develop a site specific project for the particular acoustics at the ground floor of Eternithaus. The building was constructed by the architect Paul Baumgarten in 1957 for IBA, the International Construction Fair. The city of Berlin has invited numerous, highly prestigious architects such as Walter Gropius, Oscar Niemeyer, Bruno Taut, and others, built a new urban plan according to how they imagined the modern city of the future.

Participating artists so far: **Nathalie Djurberg + Hans Berg, Florian Dombois, Carsten Nicolai, Annika Larsson and Dani Gal.**



Eternithaus, Hansaviertel, venue of the performance series



Performance Annika Larsson



UPCOMING

# COLLABORATION WITH LE BUREAU/

***...and they installed the office in the tavern.***

The Office and Le Bureau/ are meeting.



“[...] il peut arriver par hasard qu’un bureau décide ceci, l’autre cela; ils s’ignorent entre eux, le contrôle supérieur est bien des plus précis mais, de par sa nature, il arrive trop tard et c’est ainsi que peut naître parfois une légère confusion.” Franz Kafka, *The Castle*

As part of the Berlin/Paris gallery exchange, The Office (Berlin) and Le Bureau/ (Paris) implement a program of artistic interventions which unfold in the public space of a café (“Drei Schwestern” at Kunsthaus Kreuzberg in Berlin, and “Le bar du foyer historique” at La Gaité lyrique in Paris).

Like in Kafka’s *The Castle*, The Office and Le Bureau/ install themselves in an already existing social space to follow their professional interests. Throughout the course of one day, following a straight schedule, artists contribute performances, conversations, games, workshops, videos, using the structure of these cafés with bar, tables and chairs. Visitors can get involved in a diversity of programs, or follow their own business.

**Participating Artists:** Nicolas Boulard, Alejandro Cesarco, Daniel Cockburn, Amélie Deschamps, Alicia Frankovich, Patrycja German, Alexis Guillier & Sébastien Rémy, Assaf Gruber, Hadley&Maxwell, Olivia Plender, Marlies Pöschl, The Big Conversation Space (Clémence de Montgolfier & Niki Korth).