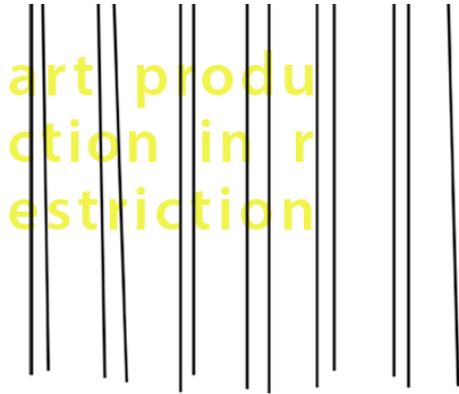


# Art Production in Restriction. Possibilities of Transformative Art Production and Coalition-Building

Seminar, 4-7 September 2015,  
Nova Hotel, Cicignons plass, Trondheim, Norway



Since the neoliberal attack on public institutions of art and art education, artistic work has become an entrepreneurial activity within a restrictive framework conditioned by the expanding art market and hegemonic political agendas prescribing the usefulness of art. The division of labor in the creative and knowledge industries has formed huge masses of artists that serve as a “reserve army” for cheap creative labor.

In recent years artists have organized themselves in new ways, developing strategies to agitate for better labor conditions and certain standards of payment for artistic work.

Major discussions dealing with the conditions of artistic production address the precarity that artistic labor has in common with other branches of “immaterial” and reproductive, or “invisible”, labor. In this context, artistic work is seen as a model for highly-exploitative working relations in late capitalism. To understand what kind of precarity is at stake one needs to take into account the whole process of production and the position of the artist within it.

Obviously, we should distinguish between the precarity of Thai berry pickers working in the forests of Finland and Norway and the position of artists that, believing in the idea of liberated work, have to labor under precarious conditions. Less obvious, but no less real, are the different levels of precarity due to the social stratification of the art world. This encompasses artists producing pieces for the art market, artists working in art management and administration, and community and non-profit-oriented art practices.

In examining these differences and contradictions, with conditions varying considerably between the peripheries and centers of capital, between the global South and North, can the general precarity of art production be seen to function as a common denominator in artists' struggles for better working conditions? Or, do we need a different political basis for coalition-building that would be realized in a different model of production? How can this different production model support coalition-building? In such a setting, can the autonomy of artistic production become an emancipatory force, or should artists join social movements and political parties of the new left that aim for non-capitalist transformation?

These and other questions will be investigated in order to prepare a joint declaration of art workers.

**Participants:**

Noah Fischer, Occupy Museums (New York)  
Airi Triisberg (Tallinn)  
Kuba Szreder (London)  
Jean-Baptiste Naudy, Ateliers Populaires de Paris (Paris)  
Mourad El Garouge, Ateliers Populaires de Paris (Paris)  
Minna Henriksson (Helsinki)  
Jochen Becker, metroZones (Berlin)  
Corina L Apostol, ArtLeaks (Bucharest)  
Lise Soskolne, W.A.G.E. (New York)  
Jelena Vesić (Belgrade)  
Marina Vishmidt (London)  
Gregory Sholette (New York)  
Lise Skou (Aarhus)  
Marita Muukkonen, Perpetuum Mobile (Helsinki)  
Ivor Stodolsky, Perpetuum Mobile (Berlin)  
Danilo Prnjat, Dematerijalizacija umetnosti (Belgrade)  
Jesper Alvær (Oslo)  
Sissel M Bergh, Trondelag Bildende Kunstnere (Trondheim)  
Marius Lervåg Aasprong (Trondheim)  
Raluca Voinea, ArtLeaks (Bucharest)

**Organizers of the seminar:**

Vladan Jeremić, ArtLeaks (Belgrade)  
Rena Rädle (Belgrade)

Anne-Gro Erikstad, LevArt (Levanger)

<http://levart.no/>

<http://transformativeartproduction.net/>

**Preparation Phase and Online Compendium**

<http://transformativeartproduction.net>

During the preparation phase all participants of the seminar can send in their working papers. We think here of already existing own texts, manifests and programs. Besides, other related publications and materials will be shared. The working papers and the collection of related materials will be published as accompanying compendium on the website of the seminar. This way, all participants will be introduced to the positions and programs of all groups and practitioners before the seminar starts and we will avoid the typical frontal presentations with lectures or keynote speakers.

## ARRIVAL

Please note that for transport from and to the airport we only can refund the price of public transport (bus or train), **we can't refund taxi**. Have in mind to **keep your tickets to refund your travel costs**.

You will arrive at the **airport of Trondheim, Vaernes**. The airport is connected with Trondheim by buses that go every 10 minutes. The bus ride takes about 30 minutes. You can buy your ticket in the bus with credit card or with Norwegian Crowns. You can **change money** at a currency exchange machine at the airport. The price is around 130 NOK with Flybussen and 140 NOK with Vaernes ekspressen. Depending on the line you choose you get off in Trondheim at Søndre gate or at Radisson Blu Royal Garden.

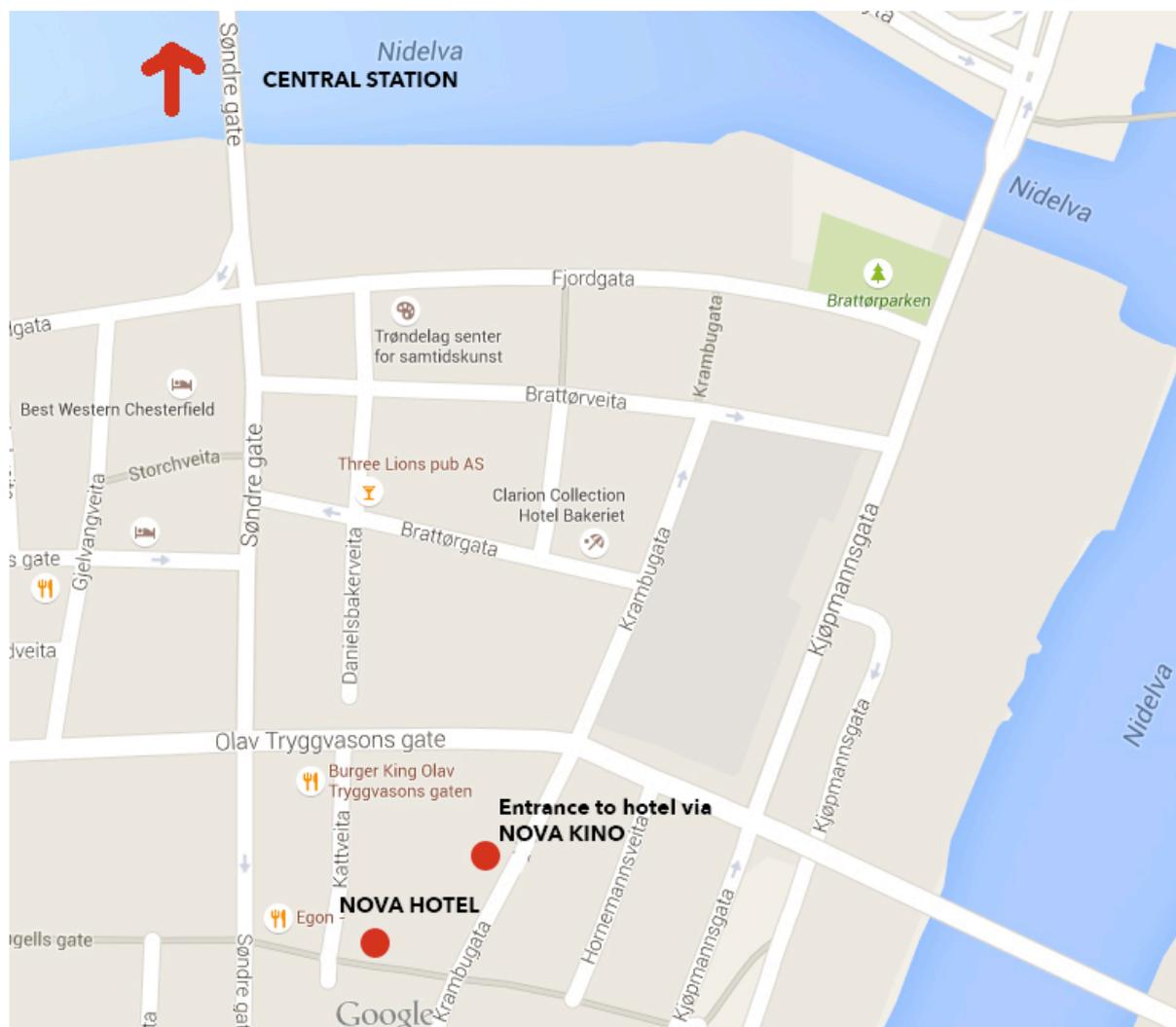
We'll be accommodated at **Nova Hotel** in the center of Trondheim. Hotel Nova is a conference center in the building of the Trade Union. There is a cinema (Kino) and several pubs and other facilities in the same building. To get the right direction when you get off the bus, best is to ask for **Nova Kino**. There are several entrances. For the hotel reception use the entrance to the cinema Nova Kino.



**Nova Hotel / Entrance through Nova Kino  
Cicignons plass**  
Building complex between **Søndre gate/  
Olav Tryggvasons gate/Krambugata  
Trondheim**

<http://www.nova-trondheim.no/en/contact>

<https://www.google.no/maps/search/nova+kino+trondheim/@63.4320229,10.3987759,16z>



## Seminar Program

### Friday, 4 September 2015

18-20h everybody can meet for dinner at Olavs Pub. Your voucher is available at the reception

Who is up to can attend the **exhibition opening at 19h at RAKE visningsrom**, Brattørkaia 17, independent exhibition space focusing on art and architecture: Stefan Schröder, co-curator: Vigdis Haugtrø.  
For the ones, who arrive earlier, you could have a coffee at Ramp, Strandveien 25a, Svartlamon, a former workers district, with interesting experimental architecture dwellings and a German bunker from WW2 close by. For museums and galleries, please have a look at the tourist guide.

### Saturday, 5 September 2015

Venue: Conference hall "Andromeda", Nova Hotel

#### 10h

Welcome and introduction by Anne-Gro Erikstad (LevArt), Rena Raedle and Vladan Jeremic

## HOW MUCH PRECARITY?

Increasing precarity and restrictions in many aspects shape our lives and production: austerity measures, constrained and forced mobility, new militarism and authoritarianism, decline of the social state, banksterism and economical repression, corporations vs. states (TISA, TTIP and TTP agreements). The aim of the first day is to look into theoretical considerations and conceptions of artistic work and precarity, gain an overview about conditions of artistic production and discuss different levels and aspects of precarity, artists and other workers are confronted with.

**10:15-13h** Three parallel morning sessions with coffee breaks

<p>Working group 1 <b>Defining (artistic) work:</b> artistic labour / precarious work / unpaid labour / reproductive work / flexible work/ forced labour</p>	<p>Working group 2 <b>Situating precarity:</b> social stratification and increased precarity in the art world /differences in the level of precarity between artistic and non-artistic work</p>	<p>Working group 3 <b>Valuation of artistic work:</b> problems of quantification of work / Art and economic alternatives: concept of basic income</p>
<p><b>10:15</b> <u>Initial input (10 minutes):</u> <b>Danilo Prnjat:</b> "Art workers, the relevance of the avant-garde and horizontal participation"  <u>Inputs (each 10 minutes) and discussion</u> along the following questions by: <b>Gregory Sholette, Jesper Alvær, Noah Fischer, Marius Lervåg Aasprong, Marina Vishmidt</b></p>	<p><b>10:15</b> <u>Initial input (10 minutes):</u> <b>Kuba Szreder</b> "Radical Opportunism as Engagement"  <u>Inputs (each 10 minutes) and discussion</u> along the following questions by: <b>Jochen Becker, Ivor Stodolsky, Marita Muukkonen, Jean-Baptiste Naudy, Jelena Vesić</b></p>	<p><b>10:15</b> <u>Initial input (10 minutes):</u> <b>Lise Soskolne:</b> "W.A.G.E. Certification and Remuneration of Artistic Labor"  <u>Inputs (each 10 minutes) and discussion</u> along the following questions by: <b>Sissel M Bergh, Minna L. Henriksson, Mourad El Garouge, Raluca Voinea, Lise Skou, Airi Triisberg</b></p>

<p>What is the position of “art workers” and artistic labour in neoliberal capitalism?</p> <p>Why critique of political economy and value-critique is relevant for defining what is “artistic labour” today?</p> <p>What is the difference between “artistic labour” and “artistic work”?</p> <p>Coffee break: 11.30h</p> <p><u>Résumé writer</u>(*): <b>Marina Vishmidt</b> <u>Facilitator</u>: <b>Rena Raedle</b></p> <p>(*)writes a recapitulation and condensation of the working group's discussion and conclusions that can be basis for a joint document</p>	<p>What does it mean to be a cultural worker in capitalist social relations? A creative slave? A freethinking hireling?</p> <p>Can the general precarity of art production be seen to function as a common denominator in artists' struggles for better working conditions?</p> <p>How does the collective reward or punish cultural institutions that violate agreed upon rules of conduct?</p> <p>Coffee break: 11.30h</p> <p><u>Résumé writer</u>(*): <b>Jelena Vesić</b> <u>Facilitator</u>: <b>Vladan Jeremic</b></p>	<p>The question of autonomy of art in the context of re-positioning artists as workers and quantifying artistic labour?</p> <p>Will recognition of artistic work as “alienated work” challenge the critical function of art?</p> <p>On the which level “well paid” artistic labour can challenge neoliberal capitalism?</p> <p>Why does the exhibition guard, the cleaner, the director get paid by the public to facilitate the space for art exhibitions, while the actual producers are left in debt?</p> <p>Coffee break: 11.30h</p> <p><u>Résumé writer</u>(*): <b>Airi Triisberg</b> <u>Facilitator</u>: <b>Corina L. Apostol</b></p>
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**13-14h** Lunch break at Olavs Pub, Nova Hotel

**14-16:45** Plenary session

<b>Plenary session with all participants and guests</b>	
<b>14:00-14:45</b> Working group 1: <b>Defining (artistic) work</b>	<b>Marina Vishmidt</b> et al: Presentation of the résumé of working group and discussion
<b>14:45-15:00</b> Coffee break	
<b>15:00-15:45</b> Working group 2: <b>Situating precarity</b>	<b>Jelena Vesić</b> et al: Presentation of the résumé of working group and discussion
<b>15:45-16:00</b> Coffee break	
<b>16:00-16:45</b> Working group 3: <b>Valuation of artistic work</b>	<b>Airi Triisberg</b> et al: Presentation of the résumé of working group and discussion

**17-23h** Excursion to Falstad Memorial Center and dinner

Saturday evening we will visit the Memorial center of the SS-prison camp at Falstad in Levanger municipality about one hour bus drive north of Trondheim.

More information about the camp and the center please find at this link:

<http://falstadsenteret.no/en/history/falstad-prison-camp/>

**18-20h** Guided tour through the prison camp by a historian from the Memorial Center.

**20-22h** Joint dinner at Falstad.

**The bus starts in 17:15 in front of the hotel.** We will be back at the hotel around 23h.

**Sunday, 6 September 2015**

Venue: Conference hall "Andromeda", Nova Hotell

## TOWARDS NEW WAYS OF PRODUCTION AND COALITION-BUILDING

The second day we want to focus on exchange of experiences and examples of practices in transformative ways of production, organizing and coalition-building.

**10:15-13h** Three parallel morning sessions with coffee break

<b>Transformative ways of art production /</b> Artistic contribution as class struggle	<b>Possibilities and difficulties of coalition-building beyond local and international constraints:</b> "trans-national" working conditions / core-periphery relationship	<b>Aligning with existing social movements, trade unions, parties and organizations in transformative struggle</b>
<p><u>Initial input (10 minutes):</u> <b>Jesper Alvær:</b> "The intervention into the employment process of the CoCA Toruń"</p> <p><u>Inputs (each 10 minutes) and discussion</u> along the following questions by: <b>Jelena Vesić, Kuba Szreder, Jean-Baptiste Naudy, Lise Skou, Danilo Prnjat, Raluca Voinea</b></p> <p>What is transformative art production and which are relevant examples of such practices?</p> <p>Which are the possibilities within an artistic practice towards social, spatial and political change?</p> <p>How to overcome the hegemony of the "post-ideological" ambiguity?</p> <p>Can the "autonomy" of artistic production become an emancipatory force?</p> <p>How can transformative models of art production models support coalition-building?</p> <p>Coffee break: 11.30h <u>Résumé writer(*)</u>: <b>Raluca Voinea</b> <u>Facilitator</u>: <b>Corina L. Apostol</b></p>	<p><u>Initial input (10 minutes):</u> <b>Minna L. Henriksson:</b> "The case of the Mänttä Art Festival" and <b>Sissel M. Bergh:</b> "Potentials of the periphery"</p> <p><u>Inputs (each 10 minutes) and discussion</u> along the following questions by: <b>Jochen Becker, Marita Muukkonen, Airi Triisberg, Ivor Stodolsky</b></p> <p>What are the common grounds for struggles in the context of differences and contradictions, with conditions varying between the peripheries and centers of capital, between the global South and North?</p> <p>What are adequate formats for inter- trans-national / trans-local cooperation and coalition-building?</p> <p>Coffee break: 11.30h <u>Résumé writer(*)</u>: <b>Ivor Stodolsky</b> <u>Facilitator</u>: <b>Vladan Jeremic</b></p>	<p><u>Initial input (10 minutes):</u> <b>Noah Fischer:</b> "G.U.L.F."</p> <p><u>Inputs (each 10 minutes) and discussion</u> along the following questions by: <b>Marius Lervåg Aasprong, Marina Vishmidt, Lise Soskolne, Mourad El Garouge, Gregory Sholette</b></p> <p>How artists contribute to social movements or political parties of the new left that aim for non-capitalist transformation?</p> <p>What are the implications of joining such movements?</p> <p>What are politically relevant participatory forms of democracy, art and action?</p> <p>Coffee break: 11.30h <u>Résumé writer(*)</u>: <b>Gregory Sholette</b> <u>Facilitator</u>: <b>Rena Rädle</b></p> <p>(*)writes a recapitulation and condensation of the working group's discussion and conclusions that can be basis for a joint document</p>

**13-14h** Lunch break at Olavs Pub, Nova Hotel

**14-16:45** Plenary session

<b>Plenary session with all participants and guests</b>	
<b>14:00-14:45</b> Working group 4: <b>Transformative ways of art production</b>	<b>Raluca Voinea</b> et al: Presentation of the résumé of working group and discussion
<b>14:45-15:00</b> Coffee break	
<b>15:00-15:45</b> Working group 5: <b>Possibilities and difficulties of coalition-building beyond local and international constraints:</b>	<b>Ivor Stodolsky</b> et al: Presentation of the résumé of working group and discussion
<b>15:45-16:00</b> Coffee break	
<b>16:00-16:45</b> Working group 6: <b>Aligning with existing social movements, trade unions, parties and organizations in transformative struggle</b>	<b>Gregory Sholette</b> et al: Presentation of the résumé of working group and discussion

## **18-20h Mini Book Fair and presentations**

Venue: Conference hall "Andromeda", Nova Hotel

The Mini Book Fair features publications and artists' editions dealing with the topics of art and work. Seminar participants and artists and writers from Trondheim will present their publications to the audience on Sunday, 6 September, 18-20h.

Working hours of Mini Book Fair:

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 18-20h

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 18-20h

## **21h Party and Food at Svartlamon**

Svartlamon is an alternative housing area at the former workers' district Lademoen close to the center of Trondheim.

At **21h** we will have food and party at Rake Work Space <http://rake.trondheim.no>, Strandveien 33, Svartlamon, hosted by Kunstkantina, a food/art-project started by the artist duo Heidi-Anett & Lena Katrine (kunst=art, kantina=canteen) that has it's main base in Rake Workcommunity at Svartlamon.

**Monday, 7 September 2015**

Venue: Conference hall "Andromeda", Nova Hotell

## RESOLUTION/MANIFESTO/DECLARATION

The aim of the seminar is to develop a common strategy for organizing and coalition building of art workers. We would consider it a valuable outcome of our meeting to draft a common declaration. We propose to finish the seminar with a common declaration/manifesto based on the discussions and written résumés of the two days. This resolution/manifesto/declaration will be the concrete outcome of the seminar and will be publicly announced.

### Plenary session with all participants

**10-12h** Morning session with all participants

Agreement on the final version and public reading out of the joint resolution/manifesto/declaration.

**Afternoon:** Departure

### Organizers of the project/seminar:

Vladan Jeremic and Rena Raedle, curators and initiators of the seminar, +49176 38153699

Anne-Gro Erikstad, project leader and curator of LevArt, +47 45636287, agerikstad@gmail.com

[www.levart.no](http://www.levart.no)

## LevArt

The seminar and the exhibition *A Real Work of Art - art, work, and solidarity structures* (2-20 September 2015, RAM Galleri) are curated by Rena Raedle and Vladan Jeremic. <http://raedle-jeremic.net>  
Raedle & Jeremic were invited as guest curators at LevArt (project space Levanger) and RAM Galleri (Oslo) in 2015 as part of an ongoing project collaboration between the two institutions.

Financial support for this project/seminar was provided by Arts Council Norway and Nordic Culture Point. Preliminary research for this project was done during a residency of the artists at The Nordic Artists' Centre Dale.

