

The Role of the Kunsthalle in Contemporary Art

The Danish Association of Art Centres, in collaboration with IKT (International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art), invites you to take part in *IKT Lab #2* - an international one-day seminar. With this seminar, the Danish Association of Art Centres, wishes to focus on the role of the kunsthalle in contemporary art and in society in general and to look at the development of the European kunsthalls.

In dialogue with our European colleagues and through presentations with a following debate, the seminar aims at rediscovering and obtaining new perspectives and definitions on the development and position of the kunsthalle.

Looking at contemporary art exhibitions today, people most often don't consider whether they see the exhibitions in a commercial art gallery, a museum or in a kunsthalle. Some may think that the venue is a mere framework, but there is a big difference in the way different art institutions work and the way art is experienced.

The kunsthalle differentiates itself from both the commercial gallery and the art museum by being both non-commercial and without an obligation to research, collect and preserve art. A kunsthalle promotes innovative and experimental contemporary art and it is not only an exhibition space, but also a conveyor of issues that may arise in a contemporary social debate.

The seminar will center around the following questions:

- How has the exhibition format of the kunsthalle developed during the past 100 years throughout Europe?
- What is the key task of a kunsthalle today?
- How does the kunsthalle disseminate contemporary art in the best possible way?
- How does the kunsthalle reach their potential audiences?

The kunsthalle emerged in the mid-19th century as contemporary exhibition centres in German speaking countries. The format spread widely and rapidly. As an institutional format the kunsthalle has played an increasingly active role the past 50 years. In relation to the many new expressions and formats in the art scene of the 20th century and especially after the spatial experimentation and idea-based works of the 1960's, there was a need to develop other types of venues for art with a completely different degree of interaction with audiences.

In order to meet these new expectations, many institutions have been renovated or rebuilt and new ones have emerged during the 1990's. As a distinctly flexible institution the kunsthalle proved to be an exceptionally suitable base for the different expressions of contemporary art and the demand for flexibility, room to experiment, critique and process.

About the association

The Danish Association of Art Centres consists of the following 11 institutions: Kunsthallen Brandts, Viborg Kunsthall, Charlottenborg, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Kunstforeningen GL STRAND, Fotografisk Center, Nikolaj Kunsthall, gl Holtegaard, Art Centre Silkeborg Bad, Sophienholm and Kunsthall Aarhus.

Programme

10.00-10.15	Introduction and welcome address by the President of the Danish Association of Art Centres, Kirse Junge-Stevnsborg
10.15-10.45	Presentation by the Director of Kunsthalle Baden-Baden in Germany, Johan Holten: "The development of the German kunsthalle tradition and format, and the legitimacy of the kunsthalle in Germany"
10.45-11.00	Question round
11.00-11.15	Coffee break
11.15-11.45	Presentation by art critic and curator for Stroom den Haag in Holland, Maaïke Lauwaert: "The problematization of the role of the kunsthalle and the spectres the kunsthalle operates within"
11.45-12.00	Question round
12.00-12.30	Presentation by curator for Kunsthalle Wien and project manager for the European kunsthalle, Vanessa Joan Müller: "The forces and challenges of the kunsthalle: comparing of the classic Kunsthalle Wien and European Kunsthalle"
12.30-12.45	Question round
12.45-13.30	Lunch - delicious sandwiches from Café Elefanten
13.30-14.00	Presentation by President of the association Centre d'art in France d.c.a. and Director of Centre d'art Parc Saint Léger in France, Sandra Patron: "The visibility of Centres d'art, their strategies and connection to the public"
14.00-14.15	Question round
14.15-14.45	Presentation by curators at Centre d'art Neuchâtel (CAN) in Switzerland, Arthur de Pury & Marie Villemain: "Alternative kunsthalle formats: collective and de-hierarchic institution formats"
14.45-15.00	Question round
15.00-15.30	Coffee break
15.30-16.30	Panel discussion with the keynote speakers as well as the director of GL STRAND, co-founder of the Danish Association of Art Centres, Helle Behrmdt, artist and President of UKK, Marie Thams and Helene Nyborg Bay, Director of Viborg Kunsthalle and board member of the Danish Association of Art Centres.
16.30-17.00	Question round

Moderator: Christian Skovbjerg Jensen is a freelance curator. He is currently working on establishing a new artistic platform based in Copenhagen focusing on art in public spaces.

Time: Thursday the 21st of November from 10am-5pm | Place: Dansehallerne in Carlsberg City Pasteursvej 20, DK-1799 Copenhagen V | Price: 250 kr./stud.125 kr. | Registration at info@denfrie.dk | The seminar is in English

