

Zero Budget Biennial

curated Joanna Fiduccia & Chris Sharp
06/25 – 08/07/2010

The Zero Budget Biennial, curated by Joanna Fiduccia and Chris Sharp, is the biennial to end all biennials as we know them. In an art world beleaguered by both biennials and economic hardship, the Zero Budget Biennial offers a solution, a viable alternative, a way out. This exhibition reverses the usual terms and general impact of biennials. Where biennials often trade in a specific set of political and social themes, from globalism to post-Wall discourse, the Zero Budget Biennial will remain steadfastly un-programmatic. Where most biennials perpetuate a particular genre one might call biennial art in the service of illustrating dominant biennial themes, the Zero Budget Biennial will privilege idiosyncrasy.

Where other biennials promote tourism, boost local economies and generate cultural capital, the Zero Budget Biennial will leave little or no carbon footprint, probably make no one any richer and generate a cultural capital of questionable marketability. Where most biennials bark (change), the Zero Budget Biennial will actually bite. For it intends to breach the closed circuit of biennial discourses, artworks and economies by proposing a new model for these post-budget times. A patently unprofitable show in a commercial space, this biennial blithely blurs the boundaries between the so-called 'sacred' non-commercial domain of the biennial and the 'profane' one of the gallery. To the injury of this unorthodox context can be added the insult of a human-sized, anti-spectacular art, contra biennial conventions. An amalgam of hyperbole and humility, bombast and intimacy, chest-beating outrage and methodical joy, The Zero Budget Biennial seeks to challenge more than a few assumptions, and it will do so with barely a dime.

The Zero Budget Biennial will feature approximately 35 international and local artists, including a performance program and a screening program selected by a group of international curators and curatorial collectives. The sole prerequisite for participation is that no artist or curator may have had prior biennial experience. The Biennial was inaugurated last September at Galerie Carlos Cardenas and Galerie schleicher+lange in Paris, and subsequently traveled to pianissimo, Milan and ROKEBY, London.

Participating artists: Michael Baers, Sara Barker, Davide Balula, Agnieszka Brzezanska, Jerome Saint Loubert-Bié, Vanessa Billy, Simon Dybbroe Møller, Jeff Feld, Anouk Kruithof, Lamarche-Ovize, Jochen Lempert, Justin Lieberman, Cécile Meynier, Sally Osborn, Marlo Pascual, Ruth Root, Simone Schardt & Wolf Schmelter, Anna Strand, Hayley Tompkins, and Will Yackulic, among others.

Screening program selected by: Jacob Fabricius, Joanna Fiduccia, FormContent, Lindsey Hanlon, Vincent Honoré, Gianni Jetzer, Komplot, Simone Menegoi and Chris Sharp.

Screening program including: Ben Callaway, George & Mike Kuchar, Christopher Miner, Jasper Rigole, Martin Soto Climent, Esther Stocker, Margaret Tait, Vladimir Tomic, and Philippe Van Wolputte.

Performance program curated by Fanny Gonella: "In light of the large number of performance evenings that have taken place in Berlin during these last months, organizing another performance program can feel like going through the motions. Yet the wide spectrum of possibilities offered by performance could make one wonder, at what point do artists start engaging with a performative situation?"

Following up on this questioning, the performance program for the Zero Budget Biennial focuses on actions that are not necessarily conceived as performances, but nevertheless shape our perception of the artist's practice. The program takes the form of a walk through different areas of Berlin with stopovers in public spaces, an artist's studio and at a gallery."

artists: Øystein Aasan, France Fiction, Yngve Holen, Anca Munteanu, Suse Weber.

July 3rd, 2 pm – 6 pm

Space is limited. RVSP to fannygonella@gmail.com with your telephone number in the body of the email, as your number will be needed for one of the pieces.