

OPEN CALL

NGBK BERLIN
FOR AN EXHIBITION
FROM 09/01 – 10/14/2012

“A BURNT-OUT CASE?”

Background

Being under stress, reaching one's limits, feeling empty and exhausted: Burnout is a phenomenon of our times that omits hardly any professional group. Persons not affected themselves at least know someone in their circle of acquaintances who is. As of late, the term burnout has changed from a stigma of social or helping professions to an almost “chic” diagnosis – for it provides evidence of the willingness to do the utmost and enable what appears unworkable, to exceed limits and surpass oneself.

Artists and creatives are regarded as cultural entrepreneurs, as forerunners and models of flexibilised and deregulated worlds of work. We're fed up with this! We demand a departure from the dilemma of self-exploitation that is conducive to burnout! Beyond the same old popular and often pseudo-therapeutic discourse in the media, we would like to provoke a different view of the burnout phenomenon.

For the show “A Burnt-Out Case?” at the NGBK from 09/01 to 10/14/2012, we therefore invite artists, artists' groups, activists and interdisciplinary projects to cast a view from the future back to the present and create complex perspectives on burnout – not only as an individual but above all as a social symptom. We are looking for disturbing, contrary, illogical, associative positions and strategies that evade appropriation and victim discourses and instead describe a utopian and fictitious future. Will we still be familiar with burnout in the year 2062, and how will the exhausted society of 2012 be remembered? Are there signs of learning from the effects of neoliberal work models? What kind of alternative concepts exist?

We grasp the exhibition as a laboratory situation of joint working, philosophising and testing. With the work processes partially taking place on location, we would like to incite a different way of thinking about that which burns us out and draw up alternative models of work and life.

We are interested in positions that approach the theme of burnout in an associative manner or reflect on own subjective viewpoints. What we find exciting in this context are politically motivated statements, poetic views, and process-related forms of work that are further developed during the course of the exhibition or that directly deal with artistic production. Participatory strategies, performative approaches, and works intervening in public space are just as welcome as classical forms of expression.

One focus of the show is on the perspective of artists and creatives in their precarised surroundings: Particularly in the arts business we discern the willingness to at all times do the utmost and enable what appears unworkable.

- When is the deadline?**
- > Until 5 December, 2011 enquiries related to the open call can be sent via email to: burntout@ngbk.de
 - > **Entry deadline** for outlines of works yet to be realised or documentations of existing works: **15 January, 2012**

- How is the selection made?**
- > An interdisciplinary jury will select a total of **up to 10 positions** from the submissions. The jury's decision will be presented by **31 March, 2012**. The selected artists will **receive up to 1,400 euros incl. VAT (fee and material)** to realise their work, which they will present at the NGBK Berlin from 09/01 to 10/14/2012.
 - > As a supplement, all submitted positions will be made available during the show in the form of an archive, provided that submitters agree to this presentation after the jury decision.
 - > For the chosen works the submitter consents from submission to the NGBK publishing it for a publication, the press and documentation.
 - > The open call is applicable for students, artists and interdisciplinary groups living in Germany.

- How do I apply?**
- > Exclusively **via email** to burntout@ngbk.de until 15 January, 2012

- To be submitted:**
- > a **PDF** (firstname_surname.pdf or, in the case of groups, e.g. name_name.pdf or groupname.pdf) **with max. 8 pages, max. 2 MB:**
 - > 1st/2nd page: Concept and sketches/photos on the project proposal or work for the exhibition, specifications on materials/technology, sizes and form of the implementation, cost and time schedule. (Please take note of the budget and the exhibition dates. Installation is possible starting around 08/22/2012.)
 - > 3rd page: Contact details: name/address/email/telephone/if applicable homepage, and short vita (education, exhibitions, publications, grants, awards, stipends)
 - > 4th to 8th page: Documentation of earlier works/projects

The project "A Burnt-Out Case?" is realised under the responsibility of Andrea Hense (sociologist), Annika Niemann (art mediator), Nadin Reschke (artist), Sabine Richter (psychotherapist) and Karen Weinert (artist). We are looking forward to your ideas and projects and to working together with you!

Open Call by:
Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst e.V.
Study group "A Burnt-Out Case?"
Oranienstraße 25
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www.ngbk.de

