

contesting/contexting SPORT 2016

to reclaim the field with art and activism

9 July - 28 August 2016

Opening at both venues: 8 July 2016, 19h
Press preview starting at nGbK: 8 July 2016, 11h

nGbK
Oranienstr. 25, 10999 Berlin
daily 12-19h, Wed-Fr 12-20h

Kunstraum Kreuzberg/ Bethanien
Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin
daily 11-20h

contesting/contexting SPORT 2016 exhibition and program **contests** the field of SPORT* through critical art and activist practices. Coming from feminist and queer practices, the project aims to challenge discrimination and encourage emancipation. SPORT will be **contextualized** from its declarative neutrality and autonomy, rendering diverse influences, but also experiences and conditions of SPORT realities visible.

The field of SPORT* is one of the most influential contexts for shaping norms and forming identities - most often in narrow and harmful ways - taking place in many different shapes, forms, and places: from gender discrimination and LGBTIQ* invisibility/ oppression, to site-specific labor exploitation and evictions around mega-sporting events. It is located at the personal and local level; it exists between athletes, within teams, at clubs, amongst coaches, administrators, fans, media and sponsors. It is carried out at the institutional level from educational systems, within professional governing bodies, in policies and organizational practices, and in legislation or lack thereof. It is taking place at the global, hyper-commercialized mega-sport level through the commodification of minds and bodies, city infrastructures and propaganda of nation-state oligarchies; and everything in between. It comes in the form of racism, sexism, (neo)colonialism, homo/bi/transphobia, ageism, ableism, nationalism, along with socio-economic class divisions and many other intersecting axes of difference. Unfortunately, SPORT systems are seldom contested or contextualized - instead they are often taken for granted in their contemporary form.

2016: Two mainstream mega-sporting events are taking place this summer - the Men's **European Football Championship** (10 Jun-10 Jul) in France and the **Olympic Games** (5-21 Aug) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There is an urgency and opportunity to network, connect and create space for independent, individual and grass-root expressions in/on/with SPORT. Sports can serve as a powerful tool to address discrimination and injustice, as well as inspire creativity, empathy and solidarity both on the field and in society at large.

contesting/contexting SPORT 2016 at nGbK and Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien will pioneer in materializing a platform for trans-disciplinary exchange at intersections of arts, sports and politics. Researchers, critics, fans and visionaries connect to develop new and share existing work to challenge nationalism, sexism, trans-/inter-/homophobia, and racism across borders.

The **discursive program** entitled “SWEAT DREAMS” entails performances, workshops, presentations, lectures and screenings. These pieces further question SPORT norms, amplify critical voices and detect tensions between sport and social justice.

Exhibition with: **Pascal Anson, Aquahomo, Imtiaz Ashraf, Berlin Bruisers, Boxing Queers, Micha Cárdenas, Cassils, Manuela Johanna Covini, Antoni Hervàs & WoMen Synchro, David Crespo, Tristan Deschamps, Jean-Úlrick Desert, Discover Football, Estelle Fenech, Caitlin D. Fisher, Zsuzsi Flohr/The Jewish Renaissance Boxing Club, Gabriele Fulterer & Christine Scherrer, GRRRLS* can skate, Barbara Gruhl, Guerreiras Project, Jason Hall, Tabea Huth, Justin Jorgensen, Brian Kenny, Lola Lasurt, Julia Lazarus, Llobet & Pons, Albert Markert, Marthe’Oh, Tara Mateik, Marisa Maza, Dayna McLeod, Stuart Meyers, David Miguel, Frank J. Miles, Maximilian Moll, Maria Molteni, Marc Ohrem-Leclef, Les Dégommeuses, Tanja Ostojić, Open Games, Max Pelgrims, Kathrin Rabenort, Rafucko, Saul Selles, Marc Serra, Coral Short, Julia Smit, Spielaufbau, Katja Stuke, Ilaa Tietz, Tools for Action/Artúr von Balen & QueerSport/Željko Blaće, Alexa Vachon, Verena Melgarejo Weinandt, Tom Weller**

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With: **Mikel Aristegui, Željko Blaće, Alex Brahim, Vanessa Brazeau, Berlin Bruisers, Jules Boykoff, Copy & Dance, Julien Carrel, Veronica Cendoya, Jennifer Doyle, Zsuzsi Flohr, Caitlin D. Fisher, GEGEN, Diego Grandry, Guerreiras Project, Andrea Liu, Antoine LeBlanc, Philippe Liotard, Llobet & Pons, Tara Mateik, Stuart Meyers, Tanja Ostojić, Rafucko, RKS Gwiazda, Martin Schick, Saul Selles, Coral Short**

Please find the program at www.ccSPORT.ngbk.de

The responsible nGbK project group *cc.SPORT* is a group of athletes, artists, academics and activists:

Mikel Aristegui, Imtiaz Ashraf, Željko Blaće, Sarah Bornhorst, Andreea Carnu, Caitlin D. Fisher, Carmen Grimm, Stuart Meyers

The project was initiated by:

Željko Blaće (b. SFR Yugoslavia) works in contemporary culture/arts, technology/media and sport/social/queer activism, research and development. He is co-founder of Multimedia Institute /MaMa - social and cultural center in Zagreb as well as instigator of QueerSport communities, initiatives and projects.

Caitlin Davis Fisher (b. USA) queer activist, researcher and co-founder of the *Guerreiras Project*. Her work focuses on gender, the body, capitalism and *futebol* tied to art, based on her experiences as former professional futebol player (Brazil, Sweden, USA). She has a BA from Harvard University in Biological Anthropology, and a MSc in Gender from the London School of Economics.

Carmen Grimm (b. Germany) founder and coach of various girls’ and women’s sport teams; works with Discover Football, Champions ohne Grenzen und spielaufbau as well as in academia on gender politics, physicality, labor rights and logistics.

Tom Weller (b. Germany) filmmaker, diversity trainer, activist and sport coach, working with many disadvantaged groups from transgender people to prisoners. He studied at Sporthochschule and Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln (Film/Fernsehen).

contesting / contexting SPORT 2016 is partnering, collaborating and coordinating with numerous organizations, projects, initiatives and individuals.

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