

# SCHOOL OF RESISTANCE

AKADEMIE  
DER KÜNSTE  
BERLIN

24 – 28 February 2021

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STREAM 

## A Film and Discussion series

In search of strategies of resistance, Milo Rau, the IIPM (International Institute of Political Murder) and the NTGent have founded the global network “School of Resistance”, a series of debates streamed live, in May 2020. This symbolic institution for the future is coming to the Akademie der Künste in Berlin to examine aesthetic practices of resistance. Critically reflecting on existing projects, activists and artists discuss art as a transformative practice that shapes and creates realities.

Milo Rau and the IIPM have been working on and through the internal contradictions of global capitalism for almost 15 years through installations, plays, films, books and political interventions. Interweaving activism and art leads to an expansion of the range of artistic strategies and, at the same time, contributes to the progressive dissolution of the boundaries of the concept of art. How can art react to states of crisis? How can it contribute to strategies of resistance? Six cinematic works by Milo Rau are the starting point for this investigation: *The Last Days of the Ceausescus* (2009/10), *The Moscow Trials* (2014), *The General Assembly* (2017), *The Congo Tribunal* (2017), *Orestes in Mosul* (2020) and *The New Gospel* (2020). In reflecting back on these works, the “School of Resistance” at the Akademie der Künste examines the conditions of global art production in general and the artistic strategies of the IIPM in particular.

A project of IIPM, NTGENT and the AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE, BERLIN

In collaboration with MEDICO INTERNATIONAL, MERVE VERLAG, EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES, ECCHR, HOWLROUND THEATRE COMMONS and ALLIANZ KULTURSTIFTUNG

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Curated by MARTIN VALDÉS-STAUBER and KASIA WOJCIK

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Technical director: JENS BAUDISCH

Production: ELISA CALOSI, MASCHA EUCHNER-MARTINEZ, EVA-KAREN TITTMANN

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The monthly discourse series “School of Resistance” is curated by:  
ELINE BANKEN and KASIA WOJCIK



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## 24.2.

17:00

**School of Resistance - Opening** eng

**General Assembly (Film by Milo Rau, D/CH 2017, 17 Min., OV.)**

The film series begins with the documentary recordings of the "General Assembly" which took place in Berlin in 2017. Academy member Georg Seeßlen, theatre author and Vice President of the Academy of the Arts Kathrin Röggla, and Milo Rau discuss the intertwining of activism and art.

19:00

**Film screening followed by discussion (approx. from 20:30)** eng

**The Last Days of the Ceausescus (Film by Milo Rau, D/CH 2009/2010, 72 Min., OVENs)**

The images of the sentencing and execution of the Ceausescus in 1989 have left an indelible mark on the collective unconscious as an event making world history. In the winter of 2009/10, the IIPM brought this foundational event in the fall of communism to numerous theatres. The panel following the screening will discuss possible ways of reconstructing and representing the past as well as opportunities for artistic interventions in the present. Together with Eyal Weizmann (Forensic Architecture), Andrei Ujică (director of Videograms of a Revolution), historian Silvia Sasse and Academy member Matthias Lilienthal (dramaturge and curator), Milo Rau questions the reenactment as a means of coming to terms with the past and the present.

## 25.2.

17:00

**"The (Im)possible Art"** eng

Together with philosopher Juliane Rebentisch and documentary filmmaker and Academy member Andres Veiel, Milo Rau talks about art as a transformative practice shaping and creating reality.

19:00

**Film screening followed by discussion (approx. from 20:30)** eng

**The Moscow Trials (Film by Milo Rau, D/CH 2014, 86 Min., OVENs)**

Trials (2013) stage the story of a campaign itself staged by the state and the church against inconvenient artists, restaging it with the means of political theatre. The discussion following the screening explores the potential of artistic strategies as an act of revolt. Curator and dramaturge Florian Malzacher discusses with artist and curator Victoria Lomasko, art historian Sandra Frimmel and Academy member Thomas Ostermeier the possibilities and the limits of resistant art based on *The Moscow Trials*.

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## 26.2.

16:00

### Aesthetics of Resistance - Part I eng

As activists and artists in their own ways, Edouard Louis, Geoffroy de Lagasnerie and Milo Rau discuss, hosted by journalist Laura Capelle, the possibilities and internal contradictions of politically committed art in three short podcasts.

The transcribed conversation will be published as a book by L'Arche and serve as a basis for a production by Milo Rau together with Édouard Louis.

In their first conversation, they problematise the contradictions of the bourgeois regime of representation and distributory logic of the artistic field.

17:00

### Transnational (In)justice eng

In search of strategies of resistance, the IIPM/Milo Rau have founded the global network "School of Resistance" as a series of debates streamed live in May 2020. In this tradition, lawyer and deputy legal director of the ECCHR Miriam Saage-Maaß, curator and artist Lara Staal will discuss the opportunities, conditions and problems of transnational justice together with dramaturge Kasia Wojcik.

19:00

### Film screening followed by discussion (approx. from 20:30) eng

#### The Congo Tribunal (Film by Milo Rau, D/CH 2017, 100 Min., OVE nS)

In their film *Das Kongo Tribunal* (The Congo Tribunal, 2017), IIPM/Milo Rau shed light on the background to the war in the Great Lakes region, which has been going on for 20 years and has already claimed over 6 million lives. The Congo Tribunal paints a harrowing and yet analytically profound tableau of a neocolonial world. In the discussion following the screening, Celine Tshizena, one of the lead investigators of the Congo Tribunals, curator and journalist Dorothee Wenner, choreographer Nora Chipaumire and sociologist Harald Welzer will discuss the conditions of global art production and the significance of artistic strategies of resistance.

## 27.2.

16:00

### Aesthetics of Resistance - Part II eng

In the second conversation, Édouard Louis, Geoffroy de Lagasnerie and Milo Rau discuss, hosted by journalist Laura Capelle, the intertwining of activism and art in particular. How do civil society actors contribute to an expansion of artistic strategies? To what extent does engaged art lead to the dissolution of a narrow conception of art?

17:00

### Can there be global art? eng

Choreographer Lia Rodrigues, writer and director Wajdi Mouawad and director Rabih Mroué discuss the challenges of global art production in conversation with Milo Rau.

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19:00

**Film screening followed by discussion (approx. from 20:30) eng**

**Orestes in Mossul (Film by Milo Rau, D/CH 2020, 72 Min., OVENs)**

As does the hero of the Oresteia, the founding myth of Western civilisation dramatized in Aeschylus' classical trilogy, the tragic hero Orest ends up before a tribunal in Mosul, as well. A multilingual ensemble composed of European and Iraqi actors, an Iraqi drama school class, musicians and amateurs talk about themselves and their life in a destroyed city. In a discussion with cultural theorist and writer Klaus Theweleit, playwright Mohammad Al Attar and actress Susana Abdul-Majd, dramaturge Eline Banken interrogates the conditions of global art production as well as the significance of artistic strategies of resistance.

28.2.

16:00

**Aesthetics of Resistance - Part III eng**

In the third conversation hosted by journalist Laura Capelle, Édouard Louis, Geoffrey de Lagasnerie and Milo Rau will discuss the departure from the cave: How can activists and artists, the experts of change, build a repertoire (and archive) of strategies of resistance together?

17:00

**The Revolt of Dignity eng**

In search of strategies of resistance, the IIPM/Milo Rau have founded the global network "School of Resistance" as a series of debates streamed live in May 2020. In this series, writer and activist Yvan Sagnet, philosopher Lorenzo Marsili and activist Luca Casarini speak with dramaturge Martin Valdés-Stauber about the internal contradictions of global capitalism and correlated efforts to resist unbearable suffering and oppression.

19:00

**Film screening followed by discussion (approx. from 20:30) eng**

**The New Gospel (Film by Milo Rau, D/CH 2020, 107 Min., OVENs)**

In The New Gospel, director Milo Rau documents and stages a "Revolt of Dignity". Led by political activist Yvan Sagnet, the movement fights for the rights of refugees who arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean only to be enslaved in tomato fields and live in ghettos in southern Italy.

After the screening, actress Maia Morgenstern, writer and activist Yvan Sagnet, photo journalist Erik Marquardt (Member of the European Parliament) and Academy member Georg Seeßlen discuss artistic strategies of resistance.



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