



Don't be
cool
be relevant

Yeap!

And if you can be
relevantly cool,
good for you...

9 ARTISTS MAY 9 – JULY 13, 2014

Yael Bartana

A key theme in the work of **Yael Bartana** (b. 1970, Israeli, lives and works in Berlin) is the investigation and then intervention in processes by which communities convene, subjects are formed, national mythologies maintained, and gendered behaviors enforced. *9 Artists* features her video trilogy *and Europe will be stunned*, which tells of the rise of the Jewish Renaissance Movement in Poland, a quasi-fictional political group that calls for the return to Poland of 3.3 million Jews. With the European resurgence in nationalism in recent years, the group becomes home to all who feel that citizenship should be organized around more than national, ethnic, or religious identity.

Liam Gillick

Intimately invested in the legacy of modernism, **Liam Gillick** (b.1964) makes sculptures, text-based works, and publications that owe much to a working through of the failure of its Utopian promise to design a more egalitarian society. The exhibition includes a range of projects from the last 20 years of the artist's production. While the work on view ranges from graphic vinyl wall texts, to a giant Bloody Mary, to glitter carpets, it is aligned through a concern for how communities exist and are transformed in an era of ever increasing privatization.

Natascha Sadr Haghighian

Natascha Sadr Haghighian abjures biography altogether, seeing the artist résumé as a globally-pervasive mode of regulating individuals according to conventional markers of identity, such as age, nationality, education, and institutional affiliations. Included in the exhibition is her *present but not yet active*, which resulted from her choice to forego an invitation to participate in Manifesta and to instead invite the European art biennial's three curators to visit the Frankfurt Zoo, an institution developed according to a colonialist theory that the care of African wildlife could not be trusted to the continent's indigenous peoples. Also featured are other works which display the artists keen sense of humor, and her relationship to site and context.

Renzo Martens

Renzo Martens (b. 1973, Dutch, lives and works in Brussels and Kinshasa) is known for his satirical and disturbing video documentaries in which he travels to war-torn countries and places himself narcissistically at the center of the action, demonstrating how Western spectators consume distant trauma. Martens is Creative Director of the Institute for Human Activities (IHA), an art center Martens began on a former Unilever plantation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has launched a five-year Gentrification Program to generate a sustainable source of income for the local population through the production of critical art. For the List, he collaborated with Ludovica Gazzè, a PhD candidate concentrating in Development Economics at MIT, and the design studio Metahaven on mapping the way in which a locally owned artistic engagement with Congolese labor conditions can diversify the local economy and thereby ameliorate these labor conditions.

Bjarne Melgaard

Bjarne Melgaard (b. Australia, 1967, Norwegian, born in Australia and based in New York) has produced a newly commissioned work of documentary photographs by Johannes Worsøe Berg. Disturbing and illuminating, these photos capture the figure of the artist in seemingly-candid documentation as well as many of his immersive and expressionistic installations. The photographs are accompanied by a new video and soundtrack developed with artist Marie Karlberg (b. 1985, Swedish-Iraqi, lives and works in Brooklyn, New York).

Nástio Mosquito

The work of artist **Nástio Mosquito** (b. 1981, Angola, lives and works in Luanda) finds form in music, performances, and videos, and the exhibition will present a range of moving image works, including two videos featuring one of the artist's alter egos, Nástia (the feminine form of Nástio in Portuguese), a Russian-accented prognosticator, who discourses about the world with a mixture of crude cliché, insight, and satirical self-help dogma. The exhibition also features Mosquito's new video essay, *Nástio Mosquito Answers Ryan Bartholomew* produced in association with Vic Pereiró and leading out of a series of questions sent to him by the exhibition curator for the 9 Artists publication.

Hito Steyerl

Since the 1990s, **Hito Steyerl** (b. 1966, Munich, lives and works in Berlin) has played with conventional formats of the documentary genre, borrowing from its reputation for objectivity while acknowledging its ongoing history as a means of propaganda and indoctrination. *9 Artists* features *Red Alert*, through which the artist claims to have reached the logical end of the documentary genre, as well as *How not to be seen. A fucking didactic educational .MOV file*, which continues her long meditation on the nature of the image in the digital age.

Danh Vo

People, objects, art history, geopolitics, and various identity formations all become material in the work of **Danh Vo** (Danish, b. 1975, Vietnam, lives and works in Berlin and New York), producing a profound portrait of the complications and complexities of life today. Vo's *IMUUR2* draws on the personal archive of deceased artist Martin Wong, a painter deeply involved in New York's 1980s Lower East Side art scene, which Wong developed over many years in collaboration with his mother, Florence Wong. Vo's work *Tombstone for Phùng Vo*, 2010 features calligraphy by his father, and after this exhibition will be in situ in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden until Vo's father's death. At that point it will adorn his father's grave in Copenhagen. The inscription on the surface is sourced from the Romantic poet John Keats, who was buried in exile in Rome. The work considers French colonialism in Vietnam, Vo's family history, and the interplay between documents and the legitimization of personal identity.



9 ARTISTS

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9 ARTISTS

9 Artists brings together a multigenerational and international group of artists—Yael Bartana, Liam Gillick, Natascha Sadr Haghigian, Renzo Martens, Bjarne Melgaard, Nástio Mosquito, Hito Steyerl, and Danh Vo—whose viewpoints and approaches to making are diverse, but who share a belief that art must engage with society. Through the works on view, the artists ponder the essence of citizenship, address geopolitics in an increasingly networked sphere, seek to bring new understanding to the changing nature of intimacy, love, and family; beyond the gallery walls, their ambitious and provocative efforts often extend to writing, performance, publishing, theory, and activism.

The exhibition is organized by the Walker Art Center and curated by Bartholomew Ryan; Alise Upitis, MIT List Visual Arts Center Assistant Curator, has collaborated with Ryan on curating the exhibition for the List.

CATALOGUE

9 Artists is accompanied by a catalog to which the artists have each contributed a 16-page artist's book exploring some aspect of their practice, often in collaboration with other artists, writers, or designers including Karl Holmqvist, Phùng Vo, Galit Eilat, Vic Pereiró, An Art Service, Federica Buetti and T.J. Demos.

SUPPORTED BY

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TOKY



HAYDEN AND REFERENCE GALLERIES: May 9 – July 13, 2014

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

MAY 10, 12-4PM

Family Day at the List: Graphic Text Workshop

MAY 15, 5-8PM

9 Artists opening reception

MAY 15, 6PM

Artist talk by **Liam Gillick** and conversation with *9 Artists*' curators Bartholomew Ryan and Alise Upitis (Bartos Theatre, E15 Lower Level)

MAY 16, 6PM

Lecture by **Renzo Martens**, artist and Creative Director of the Institute for Human Activities, an organization dedicated to increasing living standards in the Congo through artist-initiated gentrification

MAY 18, 12-6PM

Open House at the List: Art Museum Day 2014

MAY 31, 1PM

Tour of *9 Artists* with List Assistant Curator Alise Upitis

MAY 31, 2PM

Screening of Shōhei Imamura's *The Ballad of Narayama* (1983, 130 min.), selected by artist **Danh Vo** (Bartos Theatre, E15 Lower Level)

JUNE 13, 6PM

Leroy and Dorothy Lavine Lecture Series

Artist talk by **Hito Steyerl**, whose films and essays examine the proliferation, dissemination, and ontology of the digital image (Bartos Theatre, E15 Lower Level)

JUNE 14, 12-4PM

Family Day at the List

JUNE 18, 6-7PM

Reading seminar with List Curatorial Fellow Jeff De Blois examining the status of the documentary in contemporary art, with a focus on the work of **Renzo Martens** and **Hito Steyerl**

JULY 9, 6-7PM

Reading seminar with List Curatorial Fellow Jeff De Blois examining the relationship between collecting and identity, with a focus on **Danh Vo's** *IMUUR 2*, a work drawing from the personal archive of artist Martin Wong