

Discussion on Art in Public Space

On art in public space – researching, writing, educating

on Tuesday 14 March 2017, at 17.30

in the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Herrengasse 13, 1010 Vienna

with **Sabine Dahl Nielsen** (KØS Museum for Art in Public Space)

Nils Norman (artist, professor at the School of Walls and Space)

Michèle Novak (editor *Common – Journal für Kunst und Öffentlichkeit*)

Chair: **Anna Soucek**

After an intense artists' exchange between Hamish Fulton and Michael Höpfner the discussion series on art in public space dedicates itself to a thematic focus again and on 14 March presents institutions and initiatives that research art in public space from various different perspectives.

The KØS museum in Denmark was opened as early as 1977 and is one of the few museums for art in public space. Sabine Dahl Nielsen, who among other things works as the curator there, gives an insight into the way a museum approaches art in public space: How is it collected and presented? How has art in public space changed over recent decades and thereby also the scientific approach to it? To what extent does museum work again extend into public space?

Nils Norman is well-known as an artist who critically analyses the change in public, urban space and in his projects highlights alternative possibilities for using it. Since 2008 he has been a professor at the Danish Academy of Art and Design in Copenhagen and is head of the School of Walls and Space, with public space becoming the "classroom". Is there such a thing as a specific artistic view of public space? How has the role of art in public space changed in recent decades within the field of art? How does art position itself between the numerous demands of the commissioners and actionist, subversive approaches?

Spatial theory, landscape planning and art are different disciplines in which Michèle Novak works and which analyse public space from different perspectives. Based on the wish to promote an exchange between the different disciplines, she founded the online magazine *Common*, which dedicated itself to three thematic focuses a year between 2012 and 2015. What possibilities and limitations does such an open platform offer? To what extent can the discussion between the disciplines be promoted in writing? To what extent do the interests of partners such as political departments and institutions overlap with those of the scientific sphere?

To what extent does the respective institutional background shape the view of art in public space? What are the points of emphasis of the individual institutions? To what extent has art in public space and the debate around it changed in recent decades? The discussion that follows the presentations will go into these and other questions with the speakers.