

# PROPOSITIONS FOR NON-FASCIST LIVING

## PROPOSITIONS #1: What We Mean

Inaugural Performative Conference

07.10.2017, 12–24 hrs

BAK, Pauwstraat 13a, Utrecht (new address!)

*Propositions #1: What We Mean* is the inaugural performative conference of BAK's long-term research itinerary *Propositions for Non-Fascist Living*, prompted by the dramatic resurfacing and normalization of historical and contemporary fascisms in our present. Through impromptu artworks, lectures, readings, discussions, screenings, performances, and explorations of the assembly—of being together—as an art form, it opens up a space for politico-aesthetic experiments practicing art as imagination, thought, and action intervening in the contemporary. The gathering takes place in a makeshift environment amid the renovation of BAK's new venue and brings together diverse publics with the BAK 2017–2018 Fellows, as well as other artists, scholars, and activists to take on the pressing concerns of our time.

*Propositions for Non-Fascist Living* attempts to articulate and inhabit methods of de-individualized living; methods in which multiplicity and difference enact relations other than those enamored with power and hierarchy. Inspired by philosopher Michel Foucault, BAK develops and gathers propositions for an “art of living counter to all forms of fascism, whether already present or impending,”<sup>1</sup> including “the fascism in us all, in our heads and in our everyday behavior, the fascism that causes us to love power, to desire the very thing that dominates and exploits us.”<sup>2</sup> *Propositions #1: What We Mean* begins from an urgency for—and uncertainty about—what living in non-fascist ways could and does mean. From and with artistic practice, it collects, identifies, blends, and surveys myriad interventions brewing in efforts to move alternatively, situat-

<sup>1</sup> Michel Foucault, preface to *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari (London: Continuum, [1984] 2004), p. xv.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., pp. xiv–xv.

ing a flexible base for this project and its attempts at creating ways of being together *otherwise*.

Contributors to *Propositions #1: What We Mean* include BAK 2017–2018 Fellows: **Sepake Angiama** (educator and curator, Kassel); **Isshaq Al-Barbary** (writer and researcher, Bethlehem) and **Diego Segatto** (artist and educator, Bologna) of **Campus in Camps**; **Matthijs de Bruijne** (artist and union organizer, Amsterdam); **Luigi Coppola** (artist, Brussels and Lecce); **Quinsy Gario** (poet, theater maker, and artist, Amsterdam); **Ola Has-sanain** (artist, Khartoum and Utrecht); **Otobong Nkanga** (artist, Antwerp); **Wendelien van Oldenborgh** (artist, Rotterdam); and **Pelin Tan** (sociologist and art historian, Mardin).

Other contributors, who will be present either in person, in work, or in video, include, among others: **Nico Angiuli** (artist, Bari and Tirana); **Kader Attia** (artist, Algiers and Berlin); **Amy Balkin** (artist, San Francisco); **Yael Bartana** (artist, Amsterdam and Berlin); **Tania Bruguera** (artist, Havana and New York); **Susan Buck-Morss** (philosopher and intellectual historian, New York); **Danilo Correale** (artist, New York); **Dilar Dirik** (activist, Cambridge); **Mijke van der Drift** (philosopher, ethicist, and filmmaker, London); **Ramin Haerizadeh**, **Rokni Haerizadeh**, and **Hesam Rahmanian** (artists, Dubai); **Stefano Harney** (theorist, Barbados and Singapore) and **Fred Moten** (poet and scholar, Los Angeles); **Sanja Iveković** (artist, Zagreb) with **Angela Dimitrakaki** (writer and art historian, Athens and Edinburgh) and **Antonia Majaca** (curator, historian, and writer, Berlin and Graz); **Hiwa K** (artist, Berlin); **Karrabing Film Collective** (Indigenous-based media group, Northern Territory); **Evi Lachana** (soap maker, Piraeus) (with Otobong Nkanga); **Charl Landvreugd** (artist and researcher, Rotterdam) (with Wendelien van Oldenborgh); **Delaine Le Bas** (artist, Worthing); **Isabell Lorey** (political theorist, Berlin); **Sven Lütticken** (art historian, critic, and editor, Utrecht); **Migrant Domestic Workers network FNV** (trade union network, Utrecht) (with Matthijs de Bruijne); **Aernout Mik** (artist, Amsterdam); **Ahmet Öğüt** (artist, Berlin); **Antonis Pittas** (artist, Amsterdam); **Elizabeth A. Povinelli** (anthropologist, New York); **Nina Power** (philosopher and activist, London); **Vijay Prashad** (historian, Hartford); **Oleksiy Radynski** (filmmaker and writer, Kiev); **Pedro Reyes** (artist, Mexico City); **Marinella Senatore** (artist, Dresden and Paris); **Koki Tanaka** (artist, Kyoto); **Ana Teixeira Pinto** (writer and cultural theorist,

Berlin); **Gloria Wekker** (educator and writer, Amsterdam); **Giovanna Zapperi** (art historian, Paris); and **Vivian Zihlerl** (critic and curator, Amsterdam).

Artistic interventions and the screening program of *Propositions #1: What We Mean* remain on view Sunday 8 October 2017, 11–18 hrs.

Throughout the *Propositions* series, BAK gradually, and in the company of the public, moves to a new venue, Pauwstraat 13a, Utrecht amid its renovation. Concurrently, *Propositions #1: What We Mean* inaugurates BAK's Fellowship Program, which offers ten research positions per year to practitioners involved in arts, scholarship, and activism that engage art as a public sphere, a political space, and a multiplier of political interventions. *Propositions #1: What We Mean* also initiates the repurposing of BAK's digital platform, introducing its digital journal titled *Basics*.

This project has been conceptualized by Maria Hlavajova and Matteo Lucchetti with Hidde van Greuningen, Wietske Maas, and Whitney Stark, and is organized by the BAK team. It has been made possible through financial support by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the City Council, Utrecht. The BAK Fellowship Program is realized in partnership with BAK's long-term collaboration partner MaHKU at HKU Utrecht Graduate School of Visual Art and Design, Utrecht as well as Utrecht University, Utrecht. BAK specifically acknowledges philosopher Rosi Braidotti, who introduced us to Michel Foucault's notion of "non-fascist life."

The spoken language of the event will be English. Alongside standard day passes for *Propositions #1: What We Mean*, you can opt into our solidarity fund, which supports the fees of those who wish to attend the event but are unable to purchase a standard day pass. Please see *Propositions #1: What We Mean* on Eventbrite for ticketing options and ways to donate.

A vegetarian lunch (€5) and dinner (€8) can be purchased during the event. Catering by Utrecht-based Rammenas and Koffie Leute.



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap



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