

PRESS RELEASE

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Öğüt ✂ Macuga ✂

The culmination of a lengthy period of correspondence between Goshka Macuga and Ahmet Öğüt, the project maps and reveals the artists' shared interests across two consecutive exhibitions, opening 16 June and 7 September 2017 respectively.

Öğüt ✂ Macuga ✂

17 June – 31 December 2017

Opening: Friday 16 June 2017, 5 pm

Press Preview: Friday 16 June 2017, 4 pm



Ahmet Öğüt, *Where is Karl Marx?*, 2016. Installation view from Kleine Humboldt-Galerie at Humboldt University Berlin, Bust courtesy by the Humboldt University Berlin, photo courtesy by the artist.

The exhibition is the result of Witte de With Director Defne Ayas's pairing of two of the most important critically engaged artists of our times; Goshka Macuga and Ahmet Öğüt. Both artists' interests are tied to political and historical contexts, distilled through a variety of media and strategies of representation that include performance, participatory event,

sculpture, film, and installation. This process has led to realizations of parallel frames of reference, such as an engagement with the work of thinkers such as Albert Einstein, Karl Marx, activist Angela Davis, and hacktivist Aaron Swartz.

The culmination of a lengthy period of exchange between Macuga and Ögüt, the exhibition departs from both artists' generous and playful examination of each other's practices. Executed in two episodes - the first steered by Ahmet Ögüt (17 June – 20 August), and the second by Goshka Macuga (8 September – 31 December) - the project lays bare the pair's attempt to formulate a methodology with which to survey their respective practices, and reflections on both of their investment in what should be the basic currency in the art world today: trust and peer-to-peer artist dialogue.

Artists are often committed to reconciling the world in critical and imaginative ways and to offering new readings. What is the possible role of an artist in contemporary practice in relation to another? Given the radical potentiality offered by the two artists' engaging in activism through the practice of instituting, as exemplified in their recent work, the project stands to ignite such processes further, hopefully initiating fruitful future collaboration.

About Ahmet Ögüt

Ahmet Ögüt lives and works in Amsterdam, and Berlin. He often collaborates with individuals whose expertise lies outside the field of art, as well as other artists, to construct situations that bring about shifts in perspective on social and political issues. He is the initiator of the Silent University (2012-ongoing), an autonomous knowledge exchange platform by refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. He was enrolled in the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten / Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture & Science in Amsterdam (2007-2008). Among his recent and upcoming exhibitions are a solo show in Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2017); *Round-the-clock*, ALT Bomonti, Istanbul (2016); and *Studio Ögüt*, Galerie Wedding, Berlin (2016). In 2016, he has participated in the 11th Gwangju Biennale and the British Art Show 8, Edinburgh, Norwich.

About Goshka Macuga

Goshka Macuga is a London-based artist. She studied at Central Saint Martins School of Art, and at Goldsmiths College, London. Her practice typically applies in-depth historical and archival research to an interest in the evolving relationships among artists, institutions, politics, and communities. Her works investigate how art can be used to voice current concerns, rouse public debate, and inspire social change. Throughout her career, Macuga's work has embraced diverse mediums including sculpture, installation, architecture, and design. Among recent group- and solo shows are: *Goshka Macuga: Time as Fabric*, New Museum, New York (2016); *To the Son of Man Who Ate the Scroll*, Fondazione Prada, Milan (2016); *The Artist's Museum*, ICA Boston (2016); and *Accrochage*, curated by Caroline Bourgeois, Punta della Dogana, Venice (2016). In 2008 she was among the four nominees for the British Turner Prize.



About Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art

Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art is an international public institution with Rotterdam as its home base. Established in 1990, Witte de With explores developments in contemporary art worldwide. Witte de With has been commenting on the social and political predicament since its inception through the presentation of curated exhibitions, symposia, live events, educational programs, and a bold publishing arm.

Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art is supported by Gemeente Rotterdam and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

Contact Witte de With

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