

L U M I N A T O F E S T I V A L

PARTNERS IN CREATIVITY

L'ORÉAL



June 9-14, 2014

The Copycat
Academy

A weeklong
masterclass
with an absent
master

The Theatre Centre

Image: Gabriel Von Max/General Idea

The Copycat Academy Copycat Talks

A weeklong masterclass with an absent master

A project by **Hannah Hurtzig**
Produced by **Luminato Festival**

June 9–14, 2014, The Theatre Centre

Saturday, June 14, 4PM-7PM

Academy Open House (FREE for the public)

June 10-13, 12:30PM-1PM

Philip Monk speaks on General Idea (FREE for the public)

Faculty:

Marcus Boon
Jennifer Doyle
Kendell Geers
Gisèle Gordon
Sheila Heti
Terence Koh
Bruce LaBruce
Kobe Matthys
Philip Monk
Lemi Ponifasio
Susanne Sachsse
Mårten Spångberg
Chrysanthe Stathacos

June 10-14, 2014, The Theatre Centre

Tuesday, June 10, 8PM, \$15

Jennifer Doyle: The Politics of Emotion in Contemporary Art

Thursday, June 12, 8PM, \$15

Kendell Geers: Following the Blind Man (Marcel Duchamp and the Voodoo Connection)

Friday, June 13, 8PM, \$15

Mårten Spångberg: Hijacking as Proactive Strategy

Visit luminatofestival.com for tickets.

Selected Participants:

Brandon Alvendia (USA)
Tawny Anderson (Canada)
Sanna Blennow (Sweden)
Brett Donahue (Canada)
Justus Harris (USA)
Jiri Havelka (Czech Republic)
Kristen Holfeuer (Canada)
Rimants Irzikevics (Latvia)
Gada Jane (Canada)
Jordan Loeppky-Kolesnik (Canada)
Victoria Macarte (Spain)
Humboldt Magnussen (Canada)
Varun Mathur (India)
Gwynne Philips (Canada)
Alfredo Staffolani (Argentina)
Bojana Stancic (Canada)
Alejandra Pombo Suarez (Spain)
Andrew Tay (Canada)
Thom Vernon (Canada)
Paul Wiersbinski (Germany)

Copycat Talks

Tuesday, June 10, 8PM

Jennifer Doyle: The Politics of Emotion in Contemporary Art

In the art gallery, anger, tears, arousal, and certain kinds of laughter may appear to signal the disintegration of composure. Controversial art works—or as Jennifer Doyle prefers, difficult work, or noisy art—expands the conversation about emotion and identity. “As Theodor Adorno once observed, ‘the supreme independence’ that we experience as pure feeling, unadulterated passion or joy is ‘precisely the tool of society.’ The artists that interest me turn to emotion, feelings, and affect as a means not of narcissistic escape but of social engagement.”

Thursday, June 12, 8PM

Kendell Geers: Following the Blind Man (Marcel Duchamp and the Voodoo Connection)

“In the spring of 1912, Marcel Duchamp left Paris for Munich on a 3 month sojourn that would ultimately change the course of twentieth century art.” This is how the lecture begins, and after it ends you will never think about Duchamp or art in the 20th century the same way. Think twice before you attend and listen! Part history, part fantasy, part channelling the spirit of Duchamp himself, Kendell Geers has invented another way of seeing the old man of history: as a shaman.

Friday, June 13, 8PM

Mårten Spångberg: Hijacking as Proactive Strategy

Mårten Spångberg articulates a genealogy of hijacking, and uses the notion as a conceptual path to understand contemporary phenomena and identify tendencies within the current neoliberal regime. “What if Derrida decided for hijacking instead of friendship. What if Barthes was in to the poetics of hijacking instead of a lover’s discourse. What if Badiou was into hijacking instead of anything else... It’s a dark activity—only at its darkest can it relieve us from the suffering.”

The Copycat Academy

The Copycat Academy is a weeklong school for 20 emerging artists from all around the world and from a variety of disciplines. It will run during Luminato Festival as a new annual program, created and conceived by Hannah Hurtzig, Founder of Mobile Academy Berlin, and produced by Luminato Festival. The inaugural edition features artists from Berlin, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Delhi, Madrid, Prague, Riga, Santiago de Compostela, Stockholm, and of course from Montreal, Toronto, and Saskatoon.

The Copycat Academy takes the work and biography of an artist as the model for its curriculum. Over a weeklong, intensive learning experience an artist's method of production will be hijacked and subjected to a temporary parasitic inhabitation. The 2014 pilot will start with one of the most influential artist collectives of the late 20th century, Toronto based General Idea. This is meant to be idolatry and cult. Or more precisely an act of mimicry. Or more accurately it is a laboratory. It's a master class without a master.

The pilot program will be facilitated by a faculty comprised of colleagues of General Idea, theoreticians, critics, and contemporary artists. The faculty will include those connected to General Idea, and those who have nothing to do with the collective's art practice, but whose research follows a recursive path. "I never knew what it meant to educate artists. To me it's an enigma. But Luminato Festival gives us the possibility to create a complex situation. It's a place where academia, the marketplace and the nightclub meet. It offers the possibility of dangerous discussions, challenging encounters. We will use this opportunity to betray the promise of knowledge that an academy is supposed to deliver."

Topics covered throughout the week include:

- The Present Absence. The Corpse
- Glamour: The Face. The Walk.
- Emotion. Politics. The Body
- Authorship. Copyright. Plagiarism
- Collectivity & Dancing
- Shamanism & Healing as Art Form

Faculty Members

Marcus Boon

Marcus Boon teaches contemporary literature and cultural theory. His interests include literature in the digital age, critical theory, the Beats and other alternative and countercultures, sound studies, and the cultural study of spirituality and religion. His 2010 book, *In Praise of Copying*, investigates the ethics and philosophy of copying—it available as a .pdf released under a creative commons license. Marcus Boon writes about music and sound for *The Wire* and is currently working on a book entitled *The Politics of Vibration*.

marcusboon.com

Jennifer Doyle

Jennifer Doyle is a Professor of English and Co-Chair of the LGBIT Studies Minor at University of California, Riverside, where she directs Queer Lab. Her newest book, *Hold it Against Me: Difficulty and Emotion in Contemporary Art* (2013), explores some of contemporary art's most contentious works. Refusing the discourse of controversy that has framed the reception of artists like Ron Athey and David Wojnarowicz, Doyle re-centers understanding of their work on its emotional complexity.

thesportspectacle.com

Faculty Members

Kendell Geers

Kendell Geers is a conceptual and installation artist who was born in May, 1968 in Johannesburg, South Africa – he changed his name and birthdate officially as a political act of self-creation. In the late 1980s, he went into exile and only returned to South Africa after the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. He lives in Brussels and has worked globally since 1993.

kendellgeers.com

Sheila Heti

Sheila Heti is the author of five books including the story collection *The Middle Stories* (translated into French, German, Dutch and Spanish), a novel, *Ticknor*, and a book for children called *We Need A Horse*, featuring art by Clare Rojas. With Misha Glouberman, she wrote *The Chairs Are Where the People Go*. Most recently she published *How Should a Person Be?* which *The New York Times Book Review* called an “odd, original, and nearly unclassifiable book.”

sheilaheti.com

Gisèle Gordon

Gisèle Gordon’s work includes media-based installation and video projects, as well as documentary films. Her work often explores the connection between western scientific and Indigenous ways of understanding the world, most recently in the two channel video installation work *Crosscurrent*, commissioned for the Moscow Biennale in 2013. Urban Nation is her filmmaking partnership with Kent Monkman, wherein Monkman’s drag alter-ego, Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, is a frequent subject.

urbannation.com

Terence Koh

Born in 1977 in Beijing, China and raised in Mississauga, Terence Koh’s oeuvre employs a diverse range of media, including drawing, sculpture, video, performance and the internet. He has exhibited extensively around the world in venues including the Garage Centre for Contemporary Culture in Moscow, exhibitions at MUSAC, Leon, Spain, KunsthalleZurich, Switzerland, the Vienna Secession, Austria, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New Museum and PS1 in New York City.

terencekoh.com

Hannah Hurtzig

Hannah Hurtzig created her first, large-scale, temporary art academy in 1999. Since then her company, Mobile Academy Berlin, has explored modes of knowledge transfer in theatres, the academic field, museums and art exhibitions. Ongoing projects include the Blackmarket for Useful Knowledge and Non-Knowledge, staged encounters, installations, and archives, which have been presented at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven ND, La Biennale di Venezia 09, Taipei Biennial 2012 and at INSERT 2014 in Delhi, India.

mobileacademy-berlin.com

Kobe Matthys

Kobe Matthys is the founder of Brussels-based AGENCY. AGENCY was founded in 1992. (Cf. Agency). AGENCY, a generic name, constitutes a growing list of things that resist the split between culture and nature. These things are mostly derived from juridical processes, lawsuits, cases, controversies, affairs and so forth involving intellectual properties (copyrights, patents, trademarks, etc).

agentive.org

Bruce LaBruce

Bruce LaBruce is a Toronto-based filmmaker in porn and mainstream film, as well as a writer, director, photographer, and artist. His film *L.A. Zombie: The Movie That Would Not Die*, starring French star François Sagat was released in both a mainstream and hardcore version. LaBruce began his career in the mid-eighties, making short films and co-editing a punk fanzine called J.D.s, which begat the queercore movement. His latest film, *Gerontophilia*, is described as a gay Harold and Maude.

brucealabruce.com

Philip Monk

Philip Monk has been a curator at The Power Plant in Toronto, curator of contemporary art at the Art Gallery of Ontario, and is currently the director of the Art Gallery of York University. His most recent book is *Glamour is Theft: A User’s Guide to General Idea 1969-1978*. Published in 2012, the book mimics General Idea’s practice, pretending to be written during the period of the works’ production.

yorku.ca/agyu



Faculty Members

Lemi Ponifasio

Lemi Ponifasio established MAU in 1995 as the name for his work and platform for critical reflection and creativity with artists, scholars, activists, intellectuals and community leaders. As a High Chief of Samoa, Ponifasio bears the title Sala and is among the leading intellectual and spiritual personalities of Samoa. His visual stagings intersect with and transcend conventions of theatre and dance, and civic activism.

mau.co.nz

Susanne Sachsse

Susanne Sachsse is an actor and director. She was involved in the Berliner Ensemble and worked there with Heiner Müller, Robert Wilson and Einar Schlee. In 2001 she founded the artists' collective CHEAP. She works in a range of performance and art contexts with, among others, Yael Bartana, Phil Collins, Keren Cytter, and Vegard Vinge/Ida Müller and has realised a number of film and theatre projects with the Canadian filmmaker Bruce LaBruce. Her first film *Serious Ladies* came out in 2013.

Mårten Spångberg

Mårten Spångberg is performance related artist living and working in Stockholm. His interests concern choreography in an expanded field, which he approaches this through experimental practices in a multiplicity of expressions. These range from choreography, including the recent, MoMA-commissioned *La Substance, but in English*, to written works including *Spangbergianism* and *Swedish Dance History*. He also teaches, convenes networks, and performs as a dancer himself.

martenspangberg.org

Chrysanne Stathacos

Chrysanne Stathacos uses printmaking, photography, video, and installation, often to create participatory public art projects. Her installations bring into conversation ritual, feminism, technology and environmental issues. Stathacos has presented over 25 interactive public art projects and exhibitions in Asia, Europe and North America. Stathacos is based in Toronto and New York City, and met General Idea in the 1970's.

chrysannestathacos.com

