

ual:

# OURHAUS KEYNOTE: QUEER BAUHAUS DR ELIZABETH OTTO



Image: Keeping Up  
with Kraze, Phoebe Ackers,  
Camberwell College of Arts,  
UAL. Photo by David Poultney

6PM, TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019  
CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS

The Bauhaus (1919-1933) is widely regarded as the twentieth century's most influential art, architecture, and design school, celebrated as the archetypal movement of rational modernism and famous for bringing functional and elegant design to the masses. In this talk, art historian Elizabeth Otto delves into the previously unexplored question of sexuality and gender fluidity at the Bauhaus by focusing on Bauhäusler who queered the school's aesthetics in order to disrupt gender conventions, represent gay and lesbian subjectivities, and picture same-sex desire, moves that were not without risk during the Weimar Republic, a regime that criminalized homosexuality. By looking broadly at what Jack Halberstam dubs a queer way of life—one that encompasses “subcultural practices, alternative methods of alliance, forms of transgender embodiment, and those forms of representation dedicated to capturing these wilfully eccentric modes of being”—this talk disrupts the narrative of a normative Bauhaus to yield a richer history that only emerges when we look at a new range of Bauhaus works and artists, and reconsider the questions that we ask of them.

**Elizabeth Otto** is an art historian and the author of *Haunted Bauhaus: Occult Spirituality, Gender Fluidity, Queer Identities, and Radical Politics*, *Tempo, Tempo! The Bauhaus Photomontages of Marianne Brandt*, the co-author of *Bauhaus Women: A Global Perspective*, and the co-editor of five books including *Bauhaus Bodies: Gender, Sexuality, and Body Culture in Modernism's Legendary Art School*. She is Associate Professor at the University at Buffalo (SUNY), where she has also served as the Executive Director of the Humanities Institute. Her work has been supported by numerous organizations including the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Centre for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, the National Humanities Centre, and the University at Pittsburgh's Humanities Centre.

# REHEARSAL FOR B ALEXIS TEPLIN

8PM, TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019

INSIDE 'UTOPIA IN CRISIS' EXHIBITION,  
CAMBERWELL SPACE

Dr Elizabeth Otto's lecture will be followed by artist, **Alexis Teplin**'s presentation of a new performance within the context of the **Bauhaus: Utopia in Crisis** exhibition, exploring the nature of translation and miscommunication through abstracted language, appropriated text, and a dialogue between the artist and an actor. This work incorporates Teplin's own writing alongside excerpts from 'The Great Communication Breakdown' by The Bash Street Kids (1971), Iris Murdoch's letters to Raymond Queneau (1946 to 1975), and Ken Russell's 'The Debussy Film' for the BBC (1965).

**Alexis Teplin**'s work is engaged in what is frequently described as an expanded painting practice. It begins within the history of two-dimensional painting and expands to include performance, video and sculpture. Teplin uses abstraction to construct performative installations based in seduction, artificiality and cultural signification. Her work draws on a wide range of art historical, literary and film references, which ultimately explore the nature of sensuality, cultural politics and positions of decadence.

Teplin lives and works in London has exhibited widely, including venues such as the Sydney Biennale, the Migros Museum, Zurich, the Whitechapel Gallery, the Hayward Gallery, the Serpentine Gallery for Park Nights in London, Tramway for Glasgow International, The New Art Centre at Roche Court and an upcoming exhibition at the Bluecoat in Liverpool. She teaches at Kingston University and the Royal College of Art.

# MATIÈRE

## PRIVATE VIEW

6-9PM, TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019

## STUDENT-LED GALLERY

## CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS

The MATIÈRE exhibition by students and staff from Camberwell College of Arts and HGB is a contemporary response to the eponymous course at the Bauhaus. The course was an important element of the Bauhaus Preliminary Course, developed by Josef Albers and László Moholy-Nagy to explore the 'inner quality' of materials.

Organised by UAL Lecturer in Painting, **Juan Bolivar** and Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig's (HGB) **Professor Oliver Kossack**

## ARTISTS:

### **Camberwell College of Arts:**

Adam Barratt, Alice Brazzill, Ashley Goldman, Megan Cartwright, Liza Radlova, Indera Tamara Harrison-Nedd, Meeri Paajanen, Juan Bolivar

### **Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (HGB):**

Viktoria Conzelmann, Kim Sarah Albrecht, David Behrens, Jonas Liesaus, Paul Wilting, Soenke Thaden, Tobias Fabek, Johannes Unger, Oliver Kossack

Exhibition continues: 21 October-9 November 2019

Monday - Friday: 10am - 6pm

Saturday: 12 - 4pm

# OURHAUS

**100 YEARS OF BAUHAUS: A WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL**

**21 OCTOBER-25 OCTOBER 2019**

**CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND  
CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS, UAL**

To coincide with **Bauhaus 100**, the international celebration of the renowned art and design school's centenary, **OurHaus**, a week-long festival marks **University of the Arts London (UAL)** relationship with the Bauhaus. This festival critically re-imagines the school's legacy for our times and marks the culmination of a year-long project at **UAL**.

**OurHaus** will include performances, workshops, exhibitions, screenings and talks by internationally renowned voices and emerging practitioners across **Camberwell College of Arts** and **Central Saint Martins**. One hundred years after its founding, we will ask what the Bauhaus means for contemporary artists, students and society?

**OurHaus** represents the culmination of a year-long project at both **Camberwell College of Arts** and **Central Saint Martins, UAL**. This has included Camberwell Fine Art students being commissioned by the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation Open Stage to create a series of new performances in response to Xanti Schawinsky's 'Spectodrama' for the opening of the Bauhaus Dessau Museum and Central Saint Martins graduates working with the BBC on the programme Bauhaus Rules with Vic Reeves. 'Bauhaus: Utopia in Crisis' exhibition will tour to Weimar in 2020. Camberwell College of Arts, UAL, students and Erasmus partners in Leipzig have revisited the Matières Course with support from Fritz Hortsman from the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in the US, while Camberwell College of Arts technicians have been investigating how Josef Albers' colour course could be interpreted in a darkroom setting. Central Saint Martins' students have responded to Oskar Schlemmer's 'Das Triadisches Ballet' through an exhibition of live rehearsal, A Critical Rehearsal, in the Lethaby Gallery earlier this year, and also staged 'A Unified Work of Art' in Granary Square outside the college for the public, inspired by Schlemmer's Bauhaus parties as part of Art Night 2019.

<http://bit.ly/UALOurHaus>

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# 21-25 OCTOBER 2019

## **Screening of the new BBC documentary Bauhaus Rules with Vic Reeves**

7-9pm, Monday, 21 October 2019

Platform Theatre, Central Saint Martins  
Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London N1C 4AA

Earlier in 2019, the BBC spent a week at Central Saint Martins, UAL, shooting 'Bauhaus Rules with Vic Reeves', a documentary challenging six graduates of Central Saint Martins to create a new work of art, design or performance.

## **Keynote lecture: 'Queer Bauhaus' by Dr Elizabeth Otto**

6-8.30pm, Tuesday, 22 October 2019

Lecture Theatre, Camberwell College of Arts  
45-65 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UF

Art historian Elizabeth Otto delves into the previously unexplored question of sexuality and gender fluidity at the Bauhaus. Followed by a performance by Alexis Teplin.

## **OurHaus: Art, Design and Performance Educators' Symposium**

9am-6pm, Wednesday, 23 October 2019

Lecture Theatre, Camberwell College of Arts  
45-65 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UF

This one-day symposium is aimed at art and design educators in secondary schools, FE colleges and universities, as well as artists, who are interested in finding out more about learning and teaching at the Bauhaus.

## **Bauhaus: Utopia in Crisis Symposium and Bauhaus SIGNS Party**

9am-8pm, Thursday, 24 October 2019

Lecture Theatre, Camberwell College of Arts  
45-65 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UF

This conference looks at how contemporary artists and academics have found inspiration through interrogating the social and political histories associated with the original design school.

## **UnserHaus Public Print Workshops**

10am-6pm, Friday, 25 October 2019

The Crossing, Central Saint Martins  
Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London N1C 4AA

UAL's UnserHaus will function as an educational experiment for the course of OurHaus, enabling diverse groups of students to occupy the structure for durational periods of time with the aim of exploring the nature of collective working and exchange.

## **Rethinking the Total Work of Art**

7pm, Friday, 25 October 2019

Platform Theatre, Central Saint Martins  
Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London N1C 4AA

A performance in the Platform Theatre by Klara Kofen, James Oldham and students of Central Saint Martins will present a new 'Gesamtkunstwerk' for our times through critical engagement with Bauhaus theory and performance - the result of a four-day collaborative devising session.

For more information and related programme, please visit: <http://bit.ly/UALOurHaus>

## **VENUE DETAILS:**

### **Camberwell College of Arts**

45-65 Peckham Road  
London SE5 8UF

Find us: <https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/camberwell-college-of-arts/about/find-us>

### **Central Saint Martins**

Granary Building, 1 Granary Square  
London N1C 4AA

Find us: <https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/about-csm/find-us>

