

Siegmar Zacharias

## Training for Political Imaginaries:

## Posthuman Solidarities

30-hour immersive training

FFT Kammerspiele / Jahnstraße 3


20.09.2019 6 pm till 21.09.2019 midnight

Duration: 30 hours

**With:** Loren Britton, Alice Chauchat, Sonja Jokiniemi, Yaron Maïm, Verena Meis, Eva Neklyaeva, Eroca Nichols, Mithu Sanyal, Neha Chriss, Louise Trueheart, Jacob Wren und Miki Yui.

A project within the framework of Bündnis internationaler Produktionshäuser, funded by Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien.

**Produktions  
häuser**

 Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

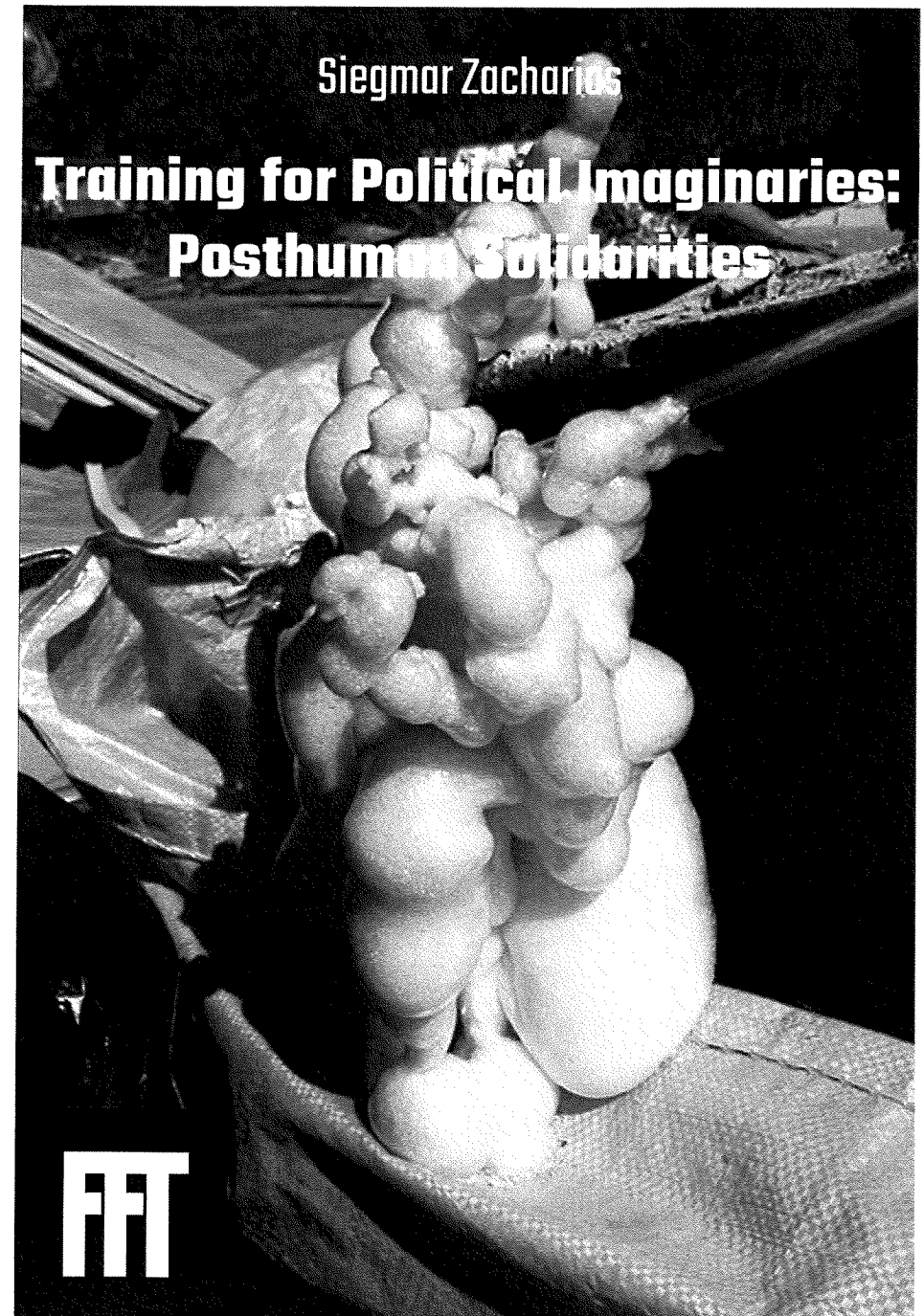
**fft-duesseldorf.de**

Ministerium für  
Kultur und Wissenschaft  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Landeshauptstadt  
Düsseldorf

The FFT is funded by the state capital Düsseldorf and the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia.



**(NOT) SWALLOWING (Friday 6 pm till midnight)**

**Mithu Sanyal:** How do we feed the souls of our counterparts?  
Talking and Cooking

**Siegmar Zacharias:** Drooling Lecture  
Performance

**Miki Yui:** Listening Walk and "FLUX"  
Walk and Video Screening

**LISTENING (Saturday midnight till 7.30 am)**

**Neha Chriss:** Psychoacoustics  
Concert

Reading & Listening

**Miki Yui:** Listening before Awakening  
Concert

**VIBRATING (Saturday 7.30 am till 2 pm)**

**Loren Britton:** Friendship and Material Connection  
Workshop and Talk

Breakfast

**Eva Neklyeva:** Curation as Pleasure  
Talk

**Neha Chriss:** Introduction to Polyvagal Theory  
Workshop

**Eroca Nichols:** Nature Drag  
Ritual

Lunch

**ACCOMPANYING (Saturday 2 pm till 7.30 pm)**

**Sonja Jokiniemi:** Talking with Things  
Performance

**Jacob Wren:** Care, Nurturance Culture and Hypocrisy  
Talk

**Alice Chauchat:** Dance of Companionship  
Workshop

Dinner

**ENTANGLING (Saturday 8 pm till midnight)**

**Sonja Jokiniemi:** N.N.  
Talk

**Verena Meis:** Why don't you eat a jellyfish pizza?  
Video-Lecture

**Eroca Nichols:** Elements  
Ritual

**DOCUMENTING (continuously)**

**Yaron Maim:** Drawing

**Louise Trueheart:** Writing

**MIKI YUI** (1971, Tokyo, Japan) artist, composer, musician based in Düsseldorf since 1994. Multi-disciplinary artist, crossing the boundary of music, performance, drawing, and installation.

She investigates the grey zone of our perception, between the reality – imaginary.

MIKI YUI invites us to go on a deep listening walk with her, followed by the presentation of her film "FLUX". On Saturday morning she is going to play the concert "Listening before Awakening".

Siegmar Zacharias is a performance artist and philosopher. Her works produce situations of embodied dirty thinking together through matter and matters, exploring the politics of alienation & intimacy in collaborations with humans and non-humans. She makes performances, installations, discursive encounters and immersive curations dealing with questions of agency, liquefaction, queering modes of knowledge production, ecology of artistic practice. Recent works include: Drooling Lecture Series; Slime Dynamics; The Cloud: a cosmo-choreography made by animals, vegetables, minerals, humans, concepts and emotions; Dirty thinking; invasive hospitality; THE OTHER THING. 2018 she received a TECHNE scholarship for excellency and innovative research to pursue her PhD project: Intimacy & Alienation – learning from uncontrollable materials. Towards a posthuman feminist poET(H)ICS, and became associated artistic research fellow at THIRD! DASGraduateschool Amsterdam.

**Drooling Lecture** – is a research practice in which Siegmar explores different ways of thinking through the visceral vocality of speech and its meaning building sensibility. It devotes itself to the movement between fluidity and sedimentation, that can cause particles to reorientate and reorganize. It works through the politics of intimacy and alienation and their entanglement. She will spin threads of saliva on/around/through virtual and non-virtual intimacies towards re- reorganizations of non-normative bodies of knowledge and flesh. In collaboration with 80 lit. of slime.

**Eroca Nicols** is currently known as a dancer/choreographer/teacher, but her multi-faceted practice stems from a family of semi-mystical nomadic trailer people, years working as a janitor, and a BFA in video/performance art and sculpture from California College of the Arts (formerly and Crafts.) Their teaching, dancing and training are deeply influenced by continued study of ritual, biomechanics and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

**Nature Drag and/or Rocks don't Apologize** is a practice of what, Robin Wall Kimmer, Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology, calls "ceremonies of practical reverence".

Shame is a human invention. Might we work on disinviting/dis-inventing ourselves from humanness not as a way of escaping accountability but perhaps as a practice for remembering the myriad materialities we are capable of embodying. Being with tangible and practical ways of undoing shame with sensation and adaptability as our guides and being in states of active rest, together, with intention.

**Eva Neklyaeva** is a curator based in Helsinki. Eva is concerned with the questions of freedom and focuses her practice on exploring these questions across performing art, politics and sexuality. During the past years, her curatorial experience includes Santarcangelo Festival (Italy), Wonderlust Festival and Baltic Circle (Helsinki).

**Introducing her own practice of curation as pleasure**, she will draw from two experiences curating Santarcangelo and Wanderlust festivals. She wants to open a conversation about: desire, co-creation, citizenship, safer space, pleasure, ethics of production.

**Jacob Wren** makes literature, collaborative performances and exhibitions. His books include: "Polyamorous Love Song", "Rich and Poor" and "Authenticity is a Feeling". As co-artistic director of Montreal-based interdisciplinary group PME-ART, he has co-created the performances: *Individualism Was A Mistake*, *The DJ Who Gave Too Much Information* and *Every Song I've Ever Written*.

To think the world/ myself from its/ my final stages, after the turn from adventure to decay, in its/ my planetary dimension; to weave the fluctuating interconnectedness of the social physical/ material and the mental body into a possible net to which we/ I could cling to or to which I could cling ourselves to; simultaneously having the old tools at hand: The public, language, judgment, knowledge... Solidarity? Scribing traces for the future, perceiving oneself as coming deposition; thoughts during upheaval; the soliloquy of a confused one once thought of as a warrior.

## About the artists

**Loren Britton** are an interdisciplinary artist, thinker and curator based between Berlin and New York. They make themselves responsible to questions and ideas around: on/offline, class, how to communicate (pedagogy) and intersectional trans\* feminism. They play by working with the materiality of language in a visual and embodied way, exploring state change with matter(s), trans\*ating, reading and holding.

**Sculpt in Play Dough** – friendship and material connection

Loren's contribution creates and invites situations for engaging with play dough and map making through playing, melting, defining and dissolving. Sculpt in Play Dough is an invitation to sculpt moods, explore what shapes for colours there may be, introduce ourselves in the form of miniature sculpture, and tie the material we engage to each other and to where it may have travelled from, or will travel to. This sculpt informs narrative through the hand-made and through our associations/ knowledge of the materials around us.

**Alice Chauchat** (\*1977) likes to ponder on politics and ethics of alterity and togetherness through dance practice, and to process the knowledge and complexity of collaborative practices into choreographic forms. She created performances with, among others, Anne Juren, Alix Eynaudi, Frédéric Gies, and has performed with, among others, Jennifer Lacey, Xavier le Roy and Juan Dominguez. She co-developed numerous choreographic projects and platforms for knowledge production and exchange in the performing arts (everybodystoolbox.net, paf, praticable etc.). From 2010-2012, she co-directed Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers, a centre for artistic research. From 2017-2020, she is a guest professor at HZT.

The **dance of companionship** is a practice Alice has been developing, dancing and guiding people through since 2014. It is a guided dance framed by a text, and it also involves writing poems. The text weaves together propositions for dance and narrative fragments about forms of togetherness. It is a practice of being-with: with dance, with oneself, with each other, in attentive and intimate distance. As we focus with ever more detail on the present events, dance – our companion – continuously moves away as that which exceeds the dancer's own doings. It is a horizon and a companion; a partner that remains unknown, whose unknowability obliges and displaces.

**Neha Chriss** is a multi-disciplinary conceptual noise artist. Neha's research in psychosonics and polyvagal theory is reconstituted into crafted sound works and aural encounters. Producing generative sonics via live coded audio programming languages, she engages audiences to explore psycho-emotive states and the surfaces of autonomous perception.

#### **Introduction to polyvagal theory**

Reflexive and adaptive engagements in our most essential bio behaviours, the nuance of social engagement, the subtle seesaw between risk and safety, and the non-conformal nature of the dominant and submissive states of the subconscious body. Neha's most recent practices in sonics are shared, as she offers an induced meditation on the essential praxis of polyvagal theory and an introduction to deconstructive sonics. The audience participates with amplified voluntary vocalisations, readings and impressions, shared adaptively and at will throughout the session.

**Sonja Jokiniemi** is a choreographer, performer and visual artist based in Helsinki, Finland. Jokiniemi graduated from the DAS Theatre (previously DasArts) MA Degree programme in Performing Arts in Amsterdam 2013. Prior to this, she completed a BA degree on Contemporary Dance at London's Laban Centre. She makes transdisciplinary work with research interests in thing ecologies, language and thinking structures.

#### **Artistic practice: Talking with things.**

Here different materials, actions, intimacies, images and constructions of lumpy objects take place in a non-hierarchical manner as a proposition towards other logics and languages.

**Yaron Maïm** is a Berlin-based Swiss & French artist interested in transformation processes. Their practice develops new perspectives on the body with a strong sense of image-making and personal narrative.

They will document "Posthuman Solidarities" by using drawing techniques and the idea of reciprocity between the pages, the tools, the bodies and the duration.

**Dr. Mithu Sanyal** is an award-winning author, broadcaster and cultural historian. She works in the fields of gender, race and sexuality. Her books include the cultural-historical titles "Vulva. Unveiling the invisible sex" and "Rape. From Lucretia to #metoo".

#### **How do we nourish the souls of our counterpart?**

What we eat is more than just food. It is information, love, community. It is also a possibility of inclusion and exclusion of desired and unwanted entities - just as insects have been excluded as food by the Mosaic commandments and are now about to return to our dining table, or as in the rejection of foreign food, an attitude that has changed to exotic joy. Food is family and also a way of experiencing the world. In children's books, food takes on the role of sex: Midnight feasts and heaps of ginger ale. And we have all grown up with food rituals and deep knowledge about them.

This performance is an invitation to share this knowledge, an invitation to delve into the tastes and aesthetics of the edible world and transform this world into something that nourishes our bodies and souls.

**Louise Trueheart** is a dancer and writer. Her original performance works are shown internationally and take shape in video, one on one, and on stage. She has danced for numerous choreographers, including Asaf Aharonson, Cecile Bally, Alice Chauchat, Nikima Jagudajev, and Tino Sehgal. Louise is a contributing writer for Berlin Art Link, and editor in chief of queer feminist collective COVEN BERLIN's online magazine.

**For "Posthuman Solidarities", Louise will document the 30 hour-performance in writing.** An apt metaphor for the inherent incompleteness of this attempt to record the goings-on is that of swinging from vine to vine through a dense jungle. Looping back and arriving in the future, the huge document will be both a passive receptacle of fragments and an active way to layer time. It will be hand-written and visible throughout.

**Verena Meis** is a literature and theatre scholar and co-founder of the Jellyfish Institute, which understands jellyfish as a post-anthropocentric and eco-choreographic figure of thought for lucrative contemporary alliances.

#### **performance lecture**

Salty strips of Jellyfish on Pizza Margherita. At the hotline the androgynous voice of a tentacular. Formations of cold clear water on wall.

Pizza - poetry - projection.