

AKADEMIE [ARBEITSTITEL]

21 October 2017 – 7 February 2018

Against the background of the fiftieth anniversary of the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf in its current building, the exhibition *Akademie [Arbeitstitel]* deals with topics related to the archive. The title of the exhibition deliberately focuses not on the topic itself, but rather on the artistic perspective and the process of development: professors and students from the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, the Kunstakademie Münster, and the Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln were invited to engage with the topic of the archive, the archive of the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, as well as individual aspects such as the architecture, specific works, or the (exhibition) history of the institution. The word *Arbeitstitel* (working title) is an integral part of the exhibition title and points to the fact that it is an experimental, open-ended format, similar to the legendary *between* series in the late 1960s.

In addition to dealing with materials from the archive of the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, examinations of the idea of the archive will also take place on a more extensive and abstract level by viewing the archive as a site of memory at the intersection of valuable heritage, historical burden, storage architecture, and much more. The category of the archive and the categories according to which an archive is organized and thus produces art history, cultural identities, and individual mythologies will also be examined. What role do archives play in artists' own work or the perception of an institution? How do we deal with and evaluate a specific past from our present perspective? To what extent do not only collective but also private archives represent forms of artistic practice?

The exhibition will take place over a period of sixteen weeks, during which a changing series of around 100 projects will be shown. It will open with a hall reduced to its architectural foundations in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary and history of some 500 exhibitions. The development of individual works as well as the installation and alteration phases will take place during opening hours, and visitors will be able to follow the proceedings. Along with the projects, the exhibition catalog will also be developed at the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf by students of the Köln International School of Design (KISD).

Under the label “performing archive,” individual artists, musicians, and curators have also been invited to present interpretations that extend beyond the exhibition in the form of dance, performances, concerts, and lectures on the history of the institution.

The exhibition is supported by



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