



FUTURE ORACLES



Sofia Art Week Edition 4
Program by Æther Sofia

13—30 September 2021



Participants
SAW Sofia Art Week #4

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FUTURE ORACLES

21—27 September 2021

The purpose of this year's physical and virtual encounter is to tune into the frequency of voices and visions of artists, mediums and visionaries, perceiving and prescribing the Avenir! — the future, as a deconstructed understanding of the present, via complex histories of the past, rendered into a new spectrum of understanding or negating one of the major laws of physics, the law of « cause and effect. »

A decisive element of evolution has always been humans' abilities and skills to use language, to give words to that what is envisioned, to imagination. But when a prospect thought becomes reality, is it a truth? We humans have become the prophets of our own lives, but the question at stake is, do we fully comprehend the effects of our evocations? Do we take responsibility for our incantations, or do we keep bouncing the ball around the deadly playground of geopolitics, while looking for online solutions?

What is progress today, one might ask, when the point of reflection and contemplating the future converges into a computer screen?

The polluted ether reverberates the oscillating trembles of real and metaphorical earthquakes and buzzing satellite-signals in a nonstop electronic data transmittance mania — but are we capable to hear vibrations coming from 'other,' further places/spaces/voices?

Western histories of colonization, extraction and the exploitation of both natural and human resources — capitalism — have dehumanized humanity. The Anthropocene has not only destroyed the ecosystem and human relations, but also the human capacity to co-exist with nonhumans. The algorithm has destroyed divination, the gods-inspired human practice to assign significance to both material and nonmaterial events, to foresee the future.



In place of collectivity, we have isolation.
Instead of imagination, we have prejudice.

Stripped bare, the future, in other words, doesn't look good.
What is left to do — embracing madness?!

Future oracles are not a matter of positivist affirmation of potential, of being open to whatever happens, of seeing possibilities everywhere. Such typifies, as Walter Benjamin wrote, a destructive character. If the bodily coincidence of internal and external sensations is deafening all senses, future oracles offer resistance to intrusive stimuli. Instead of surrendering the gaze to external impulses, it steers them (away) in a sovereign fashion. As a mode of resistance to all current political and social injustice, saying « no » proves more active than hyperactivity.

To allude to Hannah Arendt's dialectic of political action — between deliberation and expressive action — hyperactive intensification leads to an abrupt switch into hyper-passivity: one obeys every impulse or stimulus without resistance. Instead of freedom, it produces new constraints. It is an illusion to believe that being more active means being freer. Future oracles explore the void to seek new forms and thoughts. We are heading to find out if a vision of can offer simultaneously resistance and provide an inner map for navigating the future through contemplation and imagination.

The human mind, that ultimate technology of nature, awaits a reset — this as much is what we can predict. We anticipate the expansion of the human mind, a different mind, one that provides change. Fearless of imagining, and a hand full of wishes, in the Twilight of the Idols, Nietzsche formulates three tasks for which skills are necessary: one needs to learn to see, to think, and to speak and write. Learning to see means « getting your eyes used to calm, to patience, to letting things come to you » — that is, making yourself capable of deep and contemplative attention, casting a long and slow gaze. Such learning-to-see represents the « first preliminary schooling for spirituality [Geistigkeit]. » One must learn « not to react immediately to a stimulus, but instead to take control of the inhibiting, excluding instincts. » By the same token, « every characteristic absence of spirituality [Ungeistigkeit], every piece of common vulgarity, is due to an inability to resist a stimulus » — the inability to set a no in opposition.

Only the idea defined by our capacity to understand our surrounding condition, in multi-layered captures, can prompt oneself to endeavor the outcome of a project that is nothing, but a gesture of holding artifacts within their absence.

Possible futures, therefore, become our own reasoning of triggers to build new archives of the now and all that might.

Program SAW Sofia Art Week #4 13—30 September 2021 Future Oracles

Pre-Art Week 13—18 September

Location : Æther art space

18:00 Opening on Monday 13th

Сбъднати пророчества /

Fulfilled prophecies

Project by Adelina Popnedeleva,
managed and supported in the
realization by Ina Bostandchieva.

Monday 20 September

Location : Exhibition hall of

« Triangular tower of Serdica »

Изложбена зала « Триъгълна кула
на Сердика »

Ulica Maria Luiza 16

18:00 Opening Ceremony

Collective ritual, exhibition and concert
by Violetki collective, Galena Serdamova,
Anna Bo, Voin de Voin and
Rosa Stern Space.

Tuesday 21 September

Location : Goethe institute

23:59

SAW visits Goethe institute Bulgaria
on the occasion of « Marx »,
Olaf Nikolai's 24h projection.

21—29 September

Location : Æther Sofia

19:00 Opening on Tuesday 21st

« I got here on a floating tin can », by
Rosa Stern (artspace and collective from
Munich) as part of Future Exchanges of
Independent Art Spaces in Europe.

With Rosanna Marie Pondorf, Alexander
Scharf, Simon Sternal, Josua Rapp,
Zarah Abraham, Mathias R. Zausinger,
Kalas Liebfried.

22—27 September

22—27 September

19:00 Opening on Wednesday 22nd

Location : Former restaurant Ohljov,
Ulica Serdica 24

« Future Oracles », group exhibition.

Thursday 23 September

Location : Bobbina Space,

Ulica Tradica 5

17:00

Artists talk, presentation with Rosa
Stern, Æther and Ko-op art gallery.

22:30

Djs, live acts : Lamborghini Crying b2b
Cold Walter B, SLOVVA, ROSI96.

(INVITATIONS ONLY DUE TO COVID 19
RESTRICTIONS).

Friday 24 September

Location : +359 Gallery

17:00

« Prodigy », lecture by Simeon Markov.

18:00

« We Are Sacred — Progress,
Internationalism and Cultural Memory »
Artist talk by Cédric Van Parys | office
CCXD

Monday 27 September

Location : Ko-op space

18:00

Artist talk by Eli Joteva.

Tuesday 28 September

Location: Goethe Institute

20:30—22:30

« Digital Oracles », screening program.

Online program

In conversation with Rosella Biscotti,
Simone Gilges, Katja Novitskova,
Zuzanna Czebatul, Raul Walch,
Karol Radziszewski.

Organisation : Æther Sofia

This project is realized with the kind support of Sofia Municipality program « Kultura ».

Проекта се извършва с подкрепата на Столична Община.

Special thanks to: Столична община програма « Култура », Goethe Institute Bulgaria, +359 Gallery, DOMA art foundation, Ko-op art gallery, Bobbina Space, Изложбена зала « Триъгълна кула на Сердика ».

For more info check :

<https://aether-artspace.com/>



With the support of Sofia Municipality



AKADEMIEVEREIN
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Unser Programm wird gefördert von der



Landeshauptstadt
München
Kulturreferat