

18th International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie Weimar and the City of Weimar

What Happened to God?

Whether we believe in a god or not, whether we identify ourselves as theists, atheists or even anti-theists, our world is profoundly influenced by concepts of god and the divine. The image of the divine, the absolute and the human pursuit to bring oneself in harmony with a “higher power,” condensing these things into an image of a transcendent, benevolent creator, using these things to find protection, solace and happiness through collective worship, but also to maintain relationships of power, are as old as humanity itself. Why doesn't such a higher consciousness prevent or relieve suffering and misfortune in the world? This central, critical question that has occupied believer and non-believer alike since the beginning of religion finds its culmination (so far) in the formulation that it is God who allowed Auschwitz to happen.

The urgent issues of the 21st century – religious and ethnic conflict, terrorism, the struggle over natural resources (and the associated poverty and famine), globalization and the lack of rational solutions to save the world – on the one hand, appear to correspond to a heightened religious awakening, to a growing commitment to other religious cultures, to a partially fanatical, radicalized adherence to faith and religiousness. On the other hand, renunciation of the church, lack of belief and misuse of belief are no rarity. People lose their faith, dedicate themselves to other forms of spirituality and search for new meaning in their lives that seems worth holding onto. It seems that the person without belief is not truly human.

Nevertheless religion becomes “the sigh of the oppressed creature,” “the heart of a heartless world,” “the soul of soulless conditions” and “the opium of the people” (Karl Marx), and one can reach a higher level of humanness through completely stripping away western Christianity with a “transvaluation of all values” (Friedrich Nietzsche), by criticizing it just as the culture of belief itself is contested by numerous scientists, historians, psychologists and ethnologists – those who in past decades rejected any form of religion, irrationalism, superstition or pseudo-science and lobbied instead for a world that is dominated by rationality and intellect in lieu of irrationality and religious hatred.

Those who count themselves among the faithful: what have they found? And those who look for something new: what do they aspire to? Does a shared vision of a utopic Paradise on Earth unite them? Do they share a common dilemma of the untraceableness of this place, while they search for their salvation in different vanishing points? What does God offer them? What has happened to God in a world in which the disillusioned abandon him, others know only to defend him with violence, and yet others turn away in anguish and horror, and consume, but still disregard, the images of religiously motivated violence that have become commonplace?

To be an artist, to live out a commitment to art, does this not also mean to be a practicing believer, a monk, to operate with the goal of giving new meaning to one's own life and those of others? Does art know the answer to the question: What Happened to God?

INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION/PARTICIPATION:

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIO PROGRAM:

The "International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie and the City of Weimar" was founded in 1994. Annual themes of the program have been: "Allegories" (1995), "Fascis – Fascism and Fascination" (1996), "Kopf an Kopf – Head to Head – Tête à Tête" (1997), "Community – Society" (1998), "Close to the Skin" (1999), "Heart's Blood – Hand-Written Script" (2000), "The Measure of Things" (2001), "über MENSCHEN – The Future of the Human" (2002), "Origin – No Man's Land" (2003), "Irony is dead. Long live Irony!" (2004), "The Culture of Fear" (2005), "The Subversion of Standstill" (2006), "ON THE OUTSIDE" (2007), "On Indefiniteness" (2008), "Failed Art – The Art of Failure" (2009), "Beyond Desire" (2010) and "On Dilettantism" (2011). The 54 participants of the program have come from Argentina, Australia, China, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay and the United States. www.acc-weimar.de/atelier/kommentare.html

SUPPORT BY THE CITY OF WEIMAR:

The City of Weimar pursues the following aims in its role as an initiator and partner of the International Studio Program: To combine financial support for artists with the presentation of contemporary art in the urban realm, to serve as a forum for artists and as a catalyst for encounter between them and to gain international recognition for the resulting activities. By these means, international cultural exchange is to be promoted and prejudices eliminated. The support provided includes the provision of a combination artist's studio/apartment in the Municipal Studio Building. Newly restored, the Atelierhaus is one of the oldest buildings of its kind in Germany. It contains 11 studios rented to different artists for limited time periods. The International Studio Program is supported by the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture of the Free State of Thuringia.

STUDIO: Located on the ground floor of the historical Städtisches Atelierhaus (municipal studio building), the studio is about a ten minute walk from the ACC Galerie Weimar in the town center. In addition to the visiting international artist, the well-lit studio building accommodates ten other Weimar artists. In its cellar, the Städtisches Atelierhaus has a small printmaking workshop for etching, lino, and woodprinting, for which it provides basic tools. However, the studio (30 square meters/323 square feet) does not offer any other special equipment, such as photography, video, digital, etc. Images at www.acc-weimar.de/atelier/atelierhaus.html

ROOM AND BOARD: Rent-free, furnished apartment on the ground floor of the Städtisches Atelierhaus (30 square meters/323 square feet) with telephone/answering machine and DSL internet. Meals are available at ACC Café-Restaurant at a 30% discount.

PARTICIPATION: Artists who would like to produce works of art in accordance with the outlined theme can apply. The jury will select three artists, each of whom will spend four months living and working in Weimar. Students' applications cannot be accepted.

EXHIBITION: A selection of works produced during the residency period may be presented in a group exhibition in the year 2013. The ACC Galerie Weimar makes the final decision about the participation of the artists in the exhibition. A possible concept for the exhibition will be developed together with the artists. Where appropriate, works of art will be displayed in public spaces in Weimar to be agreed upon with the artists. It is intended that the artists are present during the preparation and for the opening of the exhibition.

WORK PERIODS: February 1 – May 31, 2012; June 1 – September 30, 2012; October 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013.

STIPEND: The selected artists will receive a monthly stipend of 1000€. In order to receive the stipend the artists must live in Weimar during the work period. The artists are also expected to hold a lecture/talk at the ACC Galerie Weimar at the end of his/her stay in Weimar. In addition we offer free entry to public municipal institutions, such as the City History Museum, and to the museums of the Weimar Classic Foundation, such as the Weimar Art Collection, the Goethe National Museum, the Bauhaus Museum, the New Museum of Contemporary Art and the Dutchess Anna Amalia Library. Participants are responsible for their own telephone bills and have to arrange for their own medical insurance. (One suggestion is to arrange insurance through www.mawista.com)

LANGUAGES: English and German are the official languages of the International Studio Program. Participants should have a solid grasp of either English or German.

TRAVEL COSTS: The participants must cover their own travel costs, although the program attempts to find additional funding in cooperation with the artists.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

For a completed application, please include:

- 1) The completed application form.
- 2) A written description of the work planned in relationship to the theme of the International Studio Program. One A4 page, maximum 3500 characters, including spaces.
- 3) A maximum of 10 examples or 10 minutes of recent work. Please send only the following formats of work:
 - Prints or photos no larger than A4. Please mark the top of the image.
 - Digital images saved as **JPG**, no larger than 800 pixels on the longest side.
 - Video files as **MPEG4** or audio files as **MP3**. Do not send files in DVD format!

Name the files with the last and first name of the artist and number corresponding to the description list, e.g. lastname-firstname-01, lastname-firstname-02, etc.

If you send a combination of still images and time based work, 1 minute of audio/video = 1 still image, e.g. an artist could send 3 JPGs and a 7 minute video, or a 9 minute audio work and 1 photo.

Send image, video or audio files on a CD or DVD.

- 4) A list identifying the work samples including title, size, technique, materials and date. One A4 page, maximum 3500 characters, including spaces.
- 5) A CV/résumé with a short description of education, exhibitions, projects, etc. A maximum of two A4 pages, maximum 6500 characters, including spaces.

Please include printed versions of all texts. Do not staple, paperclip or otherwise attached papers to each other. Do not include additional catalogs, press-clippings or other materials. Incomplete or incorrectly formatted applications will not be reviewed by the jury.

Pack carefully. For customs purposes please indicate clearly on the parcel/letter that it is "non-commercial"!

Application materials cannot be returned. Please do not send original or unique works of art.

ACC Galerie Weimar is not liable for any damages or loss of material. Applications sent by fax or e-mail are not accepted. Applications received after the submission deadline (Monday, October 31, 2011) will not be reviewed. Please send your application early enough to account for possible delays in customs. Application materials of the chosen fellows, by way of documentation, will remain the property of the ACC Galerie.

JURY: The jury will meet in November 2011. The decision of the jury is final and explanations for its selection will not be given.

NOTIFICATION: We cannot acknowledge the receipt of applications. Applicants will be informed of the jury's decision by email after the jury meeting.

ABOUT WEIMAR:

The city of Weimar has seen both the very best and the very worst of German history. On the one hand, Weimar has been home to renaissance art (Cranach), German classical literature and music (Goethe, Schiller, Bach, Liszt), Art Nouveau and Modernism (Henry van de Velde), the Weimar Bauhaus (Gropius, Kandinsky, Klee, Feininger, Moholy-Nagy, etc.) and other important intellectual figures including Herder and Nietzsche. On the other hand, Weimar was also a favored retreat of Hitler, and the former concentration camp of Buchenwald located nearby reminds residents and visitors alike of the darker side of human nature. Although Weimar lives largely in the shadow of this weighty past, the city is now looking towards the future. In 1999 Weimar became the European Capital of Culture.

ABOUT ACC GALERIE WEIMAR:

The non-profit organization ACC (Autonomous Cultural Center) originated in 1987, before the fall of the Berlin wall, when students occupied a derelict Renaissance building in the center of the town where Goethe (inevitably) had had his first residence in Weimar (1776/77). Shortly before the reunification, ACC protagonists were able to secure the house with the aid of private sponsors. The institution now consists of a gallery and a café and offers a cultural program that includes theater, literature and lecture series. Between spring 1989 and 2011 the ACC organized and curated more than 200 exhibitions (roughly five per year) of international contemporary art, through which the gallery has become a center for international cooperation and exchange. Simultaneously, the ACC focuses on the achievement of local artists and inaugurated an international artist-in-residence program. The current space is comprised of two connected buildings with 300 square meters of space consisting of 15 rooms in four former apartments. Examples of the exhibition program that ACC has pursued over the years include: 1991: "Photographs at the Bauhaus"; 1992: "Paul Klee – The Weimar Years 1921-25"; 1993: "Stars from Gugging" (Outsider Art from Austria); 1994: Cindy Sherman; 1995: William Wegman; 1996: Pierre et Gilles; 1997: "Suite Barcelona" with Akane, Cruspinera, Xavier Déu, Manolo Gómez, Toni Moranta and others, "SPLASH!" with Pierrick Sorin, Nedko Solakov and Gillian Wearing; 1998: "Broadview 5.1" with Nobuo Kubota, Yvonne Singer, W. Mark Sutherland and others, "mächtig gewaltig" with Joël Bartoloméo, Cheryl Donegan, Johan Grimonprez and Tony Oursler, "The Voices from Tokyo" (curator: Hitomi Hasegawa) with Makoto Aida, Oscar Satio Oiwa, Tsuyoshi Ozawa, Hiroyuki Matsukage, Matsumishi Tosa and Parco Kinoshita; 1999: "Europe In The Box" (co-curators: Christine Brühl and Henrik Schrat) with Alexandros Psychoulis, Boris Achour, Rui Caçada Bastos, Frans Jacobi and others, "An Italian Travel. Weimar – Rome – Naples" (curator: Patrizia Bisci) with Raimund Kummer, Nicola de Maria, Eliseo Mattiacci, Mimmo Paladino, Eva-Maria Schön and Janaina Tschäpe, "the stockholm connection" (curator: attitudes and Gregor Podnar) with Mauricio Dias and Walter Riedweg, Christoph Draeger, Koka Ramishvili, Elisabeth Saveri, Bojan Gorenc, Goran Petercol and others; 2000: "Landscape" (curator: Ann Gallagher) with Mat Collishaw, Paul Noble, Tacita Dean, Rachel Whiteread, Ross Sinclair, Wolfgang Tillmans and others, "Our Chinese Friends" with Yang Shaobin, Chang Xugong, Ai Weiwei, Chen Shaoxiong, Xu Tan, Qiu Shihua and others; 2001: "Orientale 1" (curator: Peter Herbstreuth) with Ayşe Erkmen, Enrique Fontanilles, Candida Höfer, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Young Hay and others; 2002: "re-orientation: Art about Central Asia" with AES, Abilsaid Anarbekovich Atabekov, Sergey Maslov, Yerbosyn Meldibekov, Julia Sorokina and others; 2003: "über MENSCHEN – The Future of the Human" with Bjørn Melhus, Anne-Britt Rage, Måns Wrangé, Sarah Lewtas, Giovanni Manfredini and others, "Get Rid of Yourself" with eteam, 16Beaver Group, Michael Rakowitz, Matthew Buckingham, Temporary Services, Bernadette Corporation and others; 2004: "Even the Moon is Not Autonomous – Activism and Cooperative Structures in Japanese Contemporary Art" with Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT), ARTiT, Hiroshi Fuji, Noboru Tsubaki, Kenji Yanobe and others, "Lacrimacorporis/The Weimar File" with Janaina Tschäpe and Vik Muniz; 2005: "polymorph pervers" with Franz von Bayros, Will Cotton, Salvador Dalí, Valie Export/Peter Weibel, Sylvie Fleury, Paul McCarthy and others, "The Social Collector" with The Museum of Jurassic Technology, Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, Werkbundarchiv – Museum der Dinge and others; 2006: "Art does not deliver us from anything at all" with Javier Abreu, Narda Alvarado, Lourival Batista, Máximo Corvalán, Juan Manuel Echavarría, Proyecto Venus, Javier Téllez and others, "The Culture of Fear" with Critical Art Ensemble, Luc Delahaye, Trevor Paglen, Efrat Shvily, The Yes Men, Wang Jianwei and others; 2007: "ON THE OUTSIDE" with Christoph Büchel, The Da Zha Lan Project, Peter Fend, Neriman Polat, Oliver Ressler, Kristin Lucas and others, "Le Souvenir – Kult. Kitsch. Kunst." with Ivan Moudov, Jochem Hendricks, Raffi Kaiser, Constantin Boym, Nina Katchadourian, Ik-Joong Kang and others; 2008: "On Indefiniteness" with Benjamin Bergmann, John Cage/David Tudor, Marja Kanervo, Julien Maire, Luisa Mota and others, "UNSTERN. SINISTRE. DISASTRO. Visions of Contemporary Artists" with Roddy Bell, Patricia Bueno, Tom Fecht, Peter Hutton, Jonas Mekas, Tracey Moffatt, Adrian Paci and others; 2009: "TERRA NULLIUS - Contemporary Art from Australia" with Vernon Ah Kee, Richard Bell, Destiny Deacon, George Gittoes, Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro, Gordon Hookey, Mike Parr and others, "Failed Art - The Art of Failure" with Daniel Buren, Dani Karavan, Mischa Kuball, Peter Land, Gregor Schneider, Roman Signer and others, "THE IDEAL EXHIBITION" with Guy Ben-Ner, Rodney Graham, Michelangelo Pistoletto and others; 2010: "Pause the Pulse: Portrait of Accra" with Kofi Agorsor, Akirash, Kwadwo Ani, Kofi Dawson, Akwele Suma Glory, Tei Mensah Huagie, Jennifer Opare-Ankrah, Larry Otoo and others, "An das Gerät!" with Mark Bain, Kim Jones, Paul Etienne Lincoln, Maywa Denki, Claude Shannon, Stelarc, Morten Viskum, Jim Whiting, Krzysztof Wodiczko and others; 2011: "Changes" with Nina Berman, Harun Farocki, Shahab Fotouhi, Thomas Hoepker, Robert Longo, Helmut Smits, Wolfgang Staehle and others, "What Happened to God?" with Peter Beste, Marc Bijl, Christian Jankowski, Helmut & Johanna Kandl, Cristina Lucas, Rory Macbeth, Dan Perjovschi, Per Teljer and others.