



PRESS INFO

## "NEVER AGAIN" CONFERENCE OCTOBER 24–26, 2019

Museum on Pańska, Pańska 3 Street, Warsaw

"Never Again" is a two-part conference held by the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw as focal point of the public program to the exhibition of the same title presented at the Museum on the Vistula.

Scheduled for October 24–26, 2019, the conference will consist of historical and contemporary part: "Art Against War and Fascism in the 20th and 21st Centuries" – Thursday, October 24.

"Internationalism After the End of Globalization" – Friday and Saturday, October 25–26.

Both parts of the conference will take up the debate underway in the field of art and elsewhere on the forms of engagement by the artistic community and cultural institutions in historically crucial moments. Today this is a debate on new forms of violence, fear of war, and denial of the lessons drawn from the tragedy of the Second World War. Its witnesses are slowly passing away, while the works serving as a repository of memory of the war are no longer a clear caution, and instead undergo neutralization.

The exhibition "Never Again. Art against War and Fascism in the 20th and 21st centuries", organised on the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, is also held as part of the Anti-Fascist Year: a country-wide initiative of cultural institutions. We search the rich anti-fascist history for answers to the question about the significance and force of this tradition today. We ask whether anti-fascism – as a universalised experience and a peaceful foundation of social life – has lost its consolidating power? Whether it came to an end with communism, with which it was so closely linked both in the 1930s and in the 1950s? And can it therefore be successfully further pursued within democratic traditions? Or is the struggle with (post)fascism identical to the struggle with capitalism, which is the essence of the leftist anti-fascist tradition? Finally, how do we recount the history of anti-fascism so that it inspires today's social movements that aim to counter violence?

On the first day of the conference (the historical portion) we will examine the structure of the exhibition "Never Again", exploring the relations between art and antifascism in the 1930s and 1950s and presenting reports by art historians devoted to specific works or artistic movements. The same day will also feature a roundtable among directors of the seven institutions making up the L'Internationale confederation of European museums. Thus the discussion will extend beyond the histories of individual works, taking up the topic of the social mission of cultural institutions and their duty to society in times of tension and political polarization in Europe.

On the second and third days of the conference (the contemporary portion) we will host persons representing collectives, institutions and research centres, as well as artists involved in reflection on contemporary crises connected for example with the use of new technologies as a tool of manipulation, or the radicalization of political disputes. We will also wrestle with the issue of the current definition of fascism and hear many opinions and artistic, activist and academic approaches.

Group presentations will be delivered on 25 October in thematic sessions, followed by a public discussion. The session on October 26 will take the form of a moderated gathering facilitating involvement by all participants. The aim of the assembly is to seek new forms of artistic cooperation and internationalism which could be founded on a basis of economic, racial and gender equality and climate justice.

# ART AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES

## OCTOBER 24, 2019

11:00 – 14:00

1st session

11:00 Joanna Mytkowska, introduction,

11:30 – Jenny Nachtigall, "Contradiction and circulation: (anti-fascist) politics of form in Berlin Dada and beyond",

12:00 Dorota Jarecka, "A raised fist",

12:30 Agata Pietrasik, "Figures of resistance: Maja Berezowska and artists from Ravensbrück",

13:00 Discussion

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch break

15:00 – 16:30

Discussion involving the directors of institutions belonging to the L'Internationale confederation of European museums.

Participants: Charles Esche (Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven), Zdenka Badovinac (MG + msum, Ljubljana), Manuel Borja-Villel (Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid), Meriç Öner (SALT, Istanbul, Ankara), Ferran Barenblit (MACBA, Barcelona), Bart De Baere (M HKA, Antwerp), and Joanna Mytkowska (Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw).

Moderated by Sebastian Cichocki, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw chief curator.

17:00 – 19:00

2nd session

17:00 David Crowley, "Guernica after 1945",

17:30 Piotr Słodkowski, "Against war, against fascism, but what else? Marek Oberländer's Branded",

18:00 Justyna Balisz-Schmelz, "East German requiem. A defiant antifascism in East Germany",

18:30 Discussion

# INTERNATIONALISM AFTER THE END OF GLOBALISATION OCTOBER 25–26, 2019

## 25.10.2019 Conference

10:00 Jesús Carrillo, Sebastian Cichocki, Kuba Szreder, Mabel Tapia – introduction

10:30 – 12:00 Beyond Capitalist Realism

10:30 Yaiza Hernández Velázquez, "The Universal at the end of the Rainbow",

10:45 Marco Baravalle, "Beyond Capitalist Realism: project and utopia",

11:00 Keir Milburn, "Are we in an Acid Communist Moment?",

11:15 Anti-Fascist Year, "Surprising alliances. Mapping the Anti-fascist Year",

11:30 Discussion

12:00 – 12:15 Coffee break

12:15 – 13:30 Frontlines: natural and digital

12:15 Joanna Bednarek, "Fear and Curiosity: Reading H.P. Lovecraft in Times of the Anthropocene",

12:30 Tomislav Medak, "Accelerated Technocapitalism and the Politics of Non-Complicity",

12:45 Ana Teixeira Pinto, "Capitalism with a Transhuman Face: The Afterlife of Fascism and the Digital Frontier",

13:00 Discussion

13:35 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 16:00 From Internationalism to Alter-Globality

14:30 Angela Dimitrakaki, "From Internationalism to Antinationalism: A Contested yet Necessary Step for Contemporary Antifascism",

14:45 Vasyi Cherepanyn, "Against an Anti-Communist International",

15:00 Charles Esche, "For Western Europe, decolonising must also mean demodernising",

15:15 Zeyno Pekünlü, "The Eclipse of Strategies",

15:30 Discussion

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 17:45 Forms of action/forms of connection

16:15 Keep it Complex, "Unite Against Dividers - Organise With Others – Make it Work",

16:30 Theo Prodromidis, "The realities and possibilities of action",

16:45 Zuzanna Hertzberg, "Artivism as every day antifascism",

17:00 Sabina Sabolović (WHW), "The revision and continuity of anti-fascism",

17:15 Discussion

# INTERNATIONALISM AFTER THE END OF GLOBALISATION OCTOBER 25–26, 2019

## 26.10.2019 Self-organized Assembly

Proposals for an Anti-fascist Internationale. Projects, actions, networks, institutions and ways of survival. Facilitation: Marsha Bradfield

11:00 – 11:30 Introduction: Marsha Bradfield, Kuba Szreder, Jesus Carrillo

11:30 – 13:00 Self-organized assembly with short presentations (5-minutes max, each followed by 5 minutes of discussion) to share:

- proposals for projects & direct actions that respond to the current crisis of capitalism, fascist revival and climate catastrophe on both local and global scale;
- ideas for creating and enhancing networks that would be able to facilitate translocal exchange of information and coordination of activities;
- proposals for democratizing institutions in and beyond art, promoting forms of collaboration with civil society/social movements, protecting them against anti-democratic threats (f.e. authoritarian censorship, austerity, elitism or commercialization), and enabling them as catalyst of social change;
- practices aimed at sustaining radical social practice in contemporary art, academia and the cultural field as a whole, and fighting against systems of oppression that thwart radical practices.

13:00 – 14:00 Developing proposals in working groups

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 17:00 Developing proposals in working groups

17:00 – 18:00 Concluding plenary session

The summit is being held as part of Our Many Europes, a project of L'internationale, a confederation of European museums, and the Anti-fascist Year, a nationwide series of cultural events organized to support anti-fascist struggles by hundreds of institutions, collectives, and individuals across Poland to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War and the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazism.

More information: [artmuseum.pl](http://artmuseum.pl)  
#NeverAgainConference

Conference language: Polish and English (SI)  
Location: Museum on Pańska, Pańska 3 Street, Warsaw

## ART AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES

Conducted by: Joanna Mytkowska, Łukasz Ronduda

## INTERNATIONALISM AFTER THE END OF GLOBALISATION

Curators: Jesús Carrillo, Sebastian Cichocki, Kuba Szreder

In collaboration with: Zofia Czartoryska, Paweł Nowożycki

The summit is being held as part of Our Many Europes, a project of L'internationale, a confederation of European museums, and the Anti-fascist Year, a nationwide series of cultural events organized to support anti-fascist struggles by hundreds of institutions, collectives, and individuals across Poland to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War and the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazism.

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