

Eva Kot'átková

Training in Ambidexterity

19/06/2015 – 06/09/2015

Opening: 18/06/2015, at 7.15 pm with a performance by Almudena Pardo

Lesson 0. Exhibition programme at Espai 13, Fundació Joan Miró

Curators: Azotea (Ane Agirre and Juan Canela)

Press release

The Fundació Joan Miró presents *Training in Ambidexterity*, a project by Eva Kot'átková at Espai 13.

From the forced training to use both hands to write or draw, Eva Kot'átková investigates any type of structure that tries to educate and classify individuals in different fields, such as education, culture or psychiatry.

The exhibition juxtaposes two conflicting aspects that characterise art classes: on one hand they seek to offer a space of freedom for the imagination, and on the other they are conditioned by the limits inherent to the academic context.

The installation becomes alive with performative actions based on a choreography that fuses object and body by Almudena Pardo. These sessions will take place on the opening day, on June 30 from 11 am to 1 pm and on July 12 from 11 am to 1 pm.

***Training in Ambidexterity* will be on show from 18 June to 6 September 2015 as part of the *Lesson 0* programme curated by Azotea (Ane Agirre and Juan Canela). In the 2014-2015 season, Espai 13 invites us to think about the current state of art education and to explore new ways of generating and transmitting knowledge.**

Barcelona, 18 June 2015. Ambidexterity is the ability to use both hands indifferently. It is not rare to find people considered ambidextrous who were originally left-handed and who were forced to use their right hand, either deliberately or during their childhood, in institutions such as schools, or at jobs where right-handed habits are demanded. Based on this concept, the artist reflects on how they operate and what are the characteristics of the different institutional systems that structure our lives.

Eva Kot'átková winds up the *Lesson O* exhibition program with a project based on the contrast between art classes as a space for the imagination, and the formal framework in which they take place. The installation transforms Espai 13 into a room that is somewhere between a disintegrating classroom and a stage set conducive to art education. A series of objects used in educational processes involving both children and adults are arranged on a central stage, and also scattered throughout the room. These accessories take on meaning through different performative actions and through the intervention of visitors. The notions of creativity and destruction run through the entire exhibition, which emphasises the paradox arising from using formal frameworks as a channel for the utopian goals associated with the teaching of art.

In conjunction with Eva Kot'átková's exhibition, the *Lesson O* mediation program *Friction Pedagogies* takes a reflective turn on the museum as an educational device. The idea is to explore the roles involved in the educational development of the art institution, in order to reconsider the problems and opportunities that emerge at the intersection between art and pedagogy in the museum.



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Eva Kot'átková (born 1982, Prague, Czech Republic) studied at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts until 2008 and later enrolled at the San Francisco Art Institute and the Akademie Bildende Künste in Vienna. In 2013 she completed her doctoral studies at the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague. In 2007 Kot'átková won the J. Chalupický Award for Young Artists and the J. Hivka Award. Her group exhibitions include the Venice Biennale (2013), Moscow Biennale (2013), Sydney Biennale (2012) and Lyon Biennale (2011). Her work has been shown at galleries and museums including Staatliche Kunsthalle (Baden-Baden), Scrap Metal Gallery (Toronto), Project Arts Centre (Dublin), Czech Center (New York) (*Report on the Reconstruction of the Past*), Hunt Kastner (Prague), Wrocław Museum of Contemporary Art (Poland), MAO - Modern Art Oxford (United Kingdom) (*A Storyteller's Inadequacy*) and Rurart (Rouillé, France) (*Unlearning Instincts*). Eva's work is currently exhibited at MIT List Visual Art's Center (Cambridge, Massachusetts).

Lesson 0 is the exhibition program at Espai 13, Fundació Joan Miró, for the 2014-2015 season. It is a transversal project curated by Azotea (Ane Agirre and Juan Canela) that reflects on the current state of art education. **Priscila Fernandes, Rita Ponce de León**, and **Anna Craycroft / Marc Vives** in collaboration with **Rivet** have been the other artists featured in the Lesson 0 program. The four projects are activated through the mediation program **Friction Pedagogies**, which is conducted by Aida Sánchez de Serdio, Cristian Añó (Sinapsis) and Rachel Fendler. You can follow the project on Twitter and Facebook with the hashtag **#Lesson0**.

Images available at: <http://bit.ly/1tkOnDc>

Downloadable video: <http://vimeo.com/fundaciojoanmiro>

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