

DRAFT (Marieke van Hal)

Round table discussions in a series of 5

MJ is organising a series of round table discussions in Eastern Europe, related to subjects in *MJ Manifesta Journal*, international Journal on contemporary art production and curatorial practice. The main scope of *MJ Manifesta Journal* and its discussions are the issues of curatorial work, its strategies, conditions, dilemmas, and contexts. *Manifesta Journal* aims for curatorial reflection and examination.

MJ is an initiative of the International Foundation Manifesta (Amsterdam) in collaboration with Chief Editors Viktor Misiano (Moscow) and Igor Zabel Zabel (Ljubljana).

Discussion no. 1

Curators and artists; changing relations and perspectives

A show by an artist can never be as good as a really good show by a curator, but it's always more productive than a bad show by a curator.
Liam Gillick

The role and function of the curator within the field of contemporary art has been changed tremendously the past decade. The independence and responsibility seems to have been increased. The identity of and attention for the curator has become a pertinent issue of discussion for artists and art professionals. The traditional boundaries between those who create and those who mediate, in terms of organiser, facilitator to collaborator in the creative process with the artist, becomes increasingly difficult to define. Curators can take the role of artists, and artists are being requested to take in the position of curators. What was the original model and how it has changed? What does it mean for the position of the artist nowadays? What are the experiences and differences between generations?

For the discussion a diverse group of distinguished curators and artists from both West and Eastern Europe is invited for conversation to reflect upon the conditions of the relationship among them in order to explore the varied approaches to contemporary art and curatorship.

The discussion will be published in Manifesta Journal.

MJ discussions are funded by the Fund for Eastern Europe.

1. Raimundas Malasauskas (curator at CAC, Vilnius)
2. Pablo Leon de la Barra (Mexican artist, based in London)
3. Husseyin Alptekin (artist Turkey)
4. Alex Farquharson (critic and curator, UK) moderator
5. Gabriel Lester (artist the Netherlands)