

# Course description: Art is for everybody but only the elite knows it.

BIP course KHiO together with Athens School of Fine Arts and Bologna University, with Georgia Sagri and Massimiliano Mollona, respectively.

Host: Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Academy of Fine Art

Dates: 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Online meetings: 8 + 21 + 24 October.

ECTS: 4

**Description:** This course explores the intersection of artistic practices, collective action, and socio-political transformation, drawing on historical and contemporary examples. It integrates theoretical and practical elements to foster a comprehensive understanding of the role of art in addressing societal challenges. Instead of approaching art through the lens of individual withdrawal (as in Thoreau), the course situates art in relation to anarcho-autonomous, feminist perspectives, and anti-colonial movements that emphasize collectivity, care, and resistance. The guiding question is: *What do we mean when we say that art is for everyone?* Can everyone truly access art? What does it mean to own an artwork, and is ownership still reserved for the elite? We will reflect on the tension between art for the many and art for the few, and ask: As art producers, who do we have in mind when we make art? As producers and consumers, who benefits from art? Who decides and contextualizes the art we see? How can anarcho-autonomous and anarcho-feminist practices expand art as a commons?

**Description virtual component:** The virtual component will include online lectures, discussions, and collaborative digital projects. It will provide the theoretical foundation and preparatory work needed for the physical component, ensuring participants are well-prepared for the on-site activities

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**Keywords:** art practice, public, public sphere, access to art, right to art

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**Art is for everybody but only the elite knows it is** a workshop/course made in collaboration with Athens School of Fine Art, the University of Bologna and KHiO Oslo, using the formats of group discussion and collective practice to develop new forms of political imaginations and of new forms of presence of art in the public sphere.

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**Art is for everybody:** the concept "commons" is defined as the cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a society (everybody), including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable Earth. But commons are as well worlds in movement, communities that create forms of life in common that are continuously transformed. Under conditions of art/commons, the making and circulation of (art)objects are aimed at concretising, making visible and surrendering agency to the expanded, multimodal and abstract relational network in

which human value resides. The commons counter capitalist forms of production and value, but they are not outside capitalism, rather, they have carved zones of self-organisation and autonomy within them. The commons are a socialist and postcolonial space where knowledge, gestures and social relations go towards the reproduction of the commons.

**But only the elite knows it:** we will discuss together how art acquires value, monetary value and symbolic/influential value, and who determines this value and according to which factors. We will discuss how art is exhibited (made accessible) and for whom; how society is educated in relation to art - is art a necessity for everyone or just an amusement/luxury for the few? and we will discuss what is the role of artists in all that, and who has the right to call themselves an artist.

### **Practical/ theoretical**

The workshop is mainly addressed to practice, but based on discussion and debate.

### **Pool of lecturers:**

Belén Santillán (Oslo-based), Binna Choi (online lecture), Christos Korolis (on-site guest), Alexandros Schizmenos (online lecture)

### **Visits:**

Praksis <https://www.praksisoslo.org/>

Oslo Billedkunstnerne [billedkunstnerneioslo.no](https://billedkunstnerneioslo.no)

Tenthaus <https://www.tenthaus.no/about/>

### **Bibliography (new items will be added)**

*Poetry is not Luxury*, by Audre Lorde : [https://sites.rutgers.edu/teaching-against-erasure/wp-content/uploads/sites/893/2022/11/Teaching\\_Black\\_The\\_Craft\\_of\\_Teaching\\_on\\_Black\\_Life...\\_-\\_Poetry\\_Is\\_Not\\_a\\_Luxury\\_Audre\\_Lorde.pdf](https://sites.rutgers.edu/teaching-against-erasure/wp-content/uploads/sites/893/2022/11/Teaching_Black_The_Craft_of_Teaching_on_Black_Life..._-_Poetry_Is_Not_a_Luxury_Audre_Lorde.pdf) [Links to an external site.](#)

*Hope and Fears for Art*, William

Morris: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/morris/works/1882/hopes/chapters/chapter1.html> [Links to an external site.](#)

*Open Call for the Communist Museum of Palestine* : <https://en.bergenassembly.no/Open-Call-from-the-Communist-Museum-of-Palestine> [Links to an external site.](#)

*'The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility* , Walter

Benjamin: [https://monoskop.org/images/6/6d/Benjamin\\_Walter\\_1936\\_2008\\_The\\_Work\\_of\\_Art\\_in\\_the\\_Age\\_of\\_Its\\_Technological\\_Reproducibility\\_Second\\_Version.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/6/6d/Benjamin_Walter_1936_2008_The_Work_of_Art_in_the_Age_of_Its_Technological_Reproducibility_Second_Version.pdf) [Links to an external site.](#)

Rebecca Farkas, *The Role of the Artist in Society* Centre for Cultural Value.

<https://www.culturehive.co.uk/CV/resources/research-digest-the-role-of-the-artist-in-society/#highlights>

Silvia Federici, *Re-enchanting the world. Feminism and the Politics of the Commons* [we can select a excerpt] [https://base.socioeco.org/docs/re-enchanting\\_the\\_world\\_feminism\\_and\\_the\\_-\\_silvia\\_federici.pdf](https://base.socioeco.org/docs/re-enchanting_the_world_feminism_and_the_-_silvia_federici.pdf)

María Galindo, *Feminismo Bastardo* .... [this is a link of an interview:](https://nocountrymagazine.com/i-believe-in-an-anti-systemic-feminism-a-conversation-with-maria-galindo/)

<https://nocountrymagazine.com/i-believe-in-an-anti-systemic-feminism-a-conversation-with-maria-galindo/>

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*

[https://www.humanities.uci.edu/sites/default/files/document/Wellek\\_Readings\\_Ngugi\\_Quest\\_for\\_Relevance.pdf?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.humanities.uci.edu/sites/default/files/document/Wellek_Readings_Ngugi_Quest_for_Relevance.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, *Ch'ixinakax Utxiwa: A Reflection on the Practices and Discourses of Decolonization*

<https://criticaltheoryworkshop.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/rivera-cusicanqui-chixinakax-eng.pdf>

Gregory Sholette, *Dark Matter: Art and Politics in the Age of Enterprise Culture*

[\[I have received the pdf from Gregory and we can share parts of its entirety it with the students when and how we think suits.\]](#)

Mao Mollona, *ART/COMMONS. Anthropology Beyond Capitalism*. London: Zed Books.

Magkou Matina, Alice Borchì and Maud Pelissier, 2025 *The rise of the commons, cultural spaces and policy in Southern Europe: why did this happen and why do we care?* International Journal of Cultural Policy

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/228613/1/The%20rise%20of%20the%20commons%20%20cultural%20spaces%20and%20policy%20in%20Southern%20Europe%20%20why%20did%20this%20happen%20and%20why%20do%20we%20care%20.pdf>

Georgia Sagri, *Stage of Recovery*, 2021, Divided Publishing

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Schedule :

### **October 8**

10-12 am

Online information meeting: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://khio-no.zoom.us/j/61210923842?pwd=P1mWRF2Bg3tBxeasQ8Cn7s0ug1aCZ8.1>

Briefing in the evening for Massimiliano and the Bolonia students.

### **October 13**

10 am - Meeting at **main venue, Seilduken 2**, KHiO, gathering of all students

10 - 12h - Professor presentations. Professors Georgia Sagri, Massimiliano Mollona and Dora García present their practice and how it relates to the central topic art for everyone but / art for the many / art commons: 30 min each with time for questions.

12.30 - lunch (catering)

13.30 - 16h: Proposition of collective exercise: ***Scripts for the Future of Art: 1) Pedagogy, 2) Exhibition and 3) Sustainability***

Work groups are created where students from the three institutions are evenly distributed, each group 6-8 persons.

Each group decides in which script they want to work.

To close the day, the Oslo students take their respective groups to visit their ateliers, the cantine, the library: show the environments of the course.

## **October 14**

10 - 12 Lecture by guest lecturer **Christos Korolis**, Seilduken, KHiO

Christos Korolis is an English teacher with a deep passion for education and social action. He views teaching as a way to connect with others, particularly through his involvement in the solidarity school "Mesopotamia" in Moschato, where he teaches both children and adults, including migrant communities. During Greece's economic crisis, Christos played an active role in supporting vulnerable groups, and he continues his work today, believing that strong, collaborative communities can challenge rising conservatism. His teaching is rooted in values of solidarity, cooperation, and the belief that education can be transformative.

1 pm lunch at Praksis, Oslo (catering provided by Praksis)

2 - 3 pm: presentation of the **PRAKSIS** project (<https://www.praksisoslo.org/>) by **Nicholas John Jones** - *Founder and Artistic Director*. PRAKSIS is a transnational platform for art, research and learning based in Oslo, Norway.

3 pm: meeting **BO** (The Association of Visual Artists Oslo, <https://www.billedkunstnerneioslo.no/en/homepage/>), who shares headquarters with Praxis. BO is an association with the goal of safeguarding the artists' professional, economic, and social interests in Oslo.

## **October 15**

10 - 12 Lecture by guest lecturer **Belén Santillán**, Seilduken, KHiO

Belén Santillán is an Ecuadorian artist and educator based in Oslo. Her work moves through the intersections of art and critical pedagogy, imagining how institutions might open spaces for creative expression and collective learning. Belén is part of Tenthaus, where she contributes to the artistic coordination of P1, the collective's international residency and public program. In collaboration with Tenthaus, she has developed public programs for *Momentum 12 – Nordic Biennial of Contemporary Art*, *Tegnetriennalen 2023*, and *Stedsveven (2024–2026)*, a long-term public art commission by Oslo Kommune Kunstsamling. Her recent project, *El Micromuseo de Plantas Migrantes*, extends this pedagogical and institutional inquiry. Conceived as a self-made museum, it examines migration and language as sites of resistance through performative lectures, installations, and low-fi films. Her projects have recently been presented at *Henie Onstad Kunstsenter – DKS-LAB for kritikere*, the *Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA)*, and *Singapore Art Museum (SAM)*, often taking shape as workshops and public programs grounded in collaborative processes.

12.30 - lunch (catering)

14.00 visit to **Tenthaus** (<https://www.tenthaus.no/>) guided by Belén Santillán. Tenthaus Art Collective has been working together in various constellations since 2009. The collective is characterized by an open, process-oriented form of participation and collaboration. They focus on local contexts exploring collectivity and inclusion through different forms of engagement .

Tenthaus began as an artists-in-schools project and over a decade later they continue to maintain strong relations to the community and works to cultivate and nurture its environment.

Recommended event: 15 October 2025 18.00 [BOOK PRESENTATION: We circle through the night and are consumed by fire](#) by Simon Asencio & Pauline Hatzigeorgiou (eds.)

Presented by Simon Asencio.

## **October 16**

10 - 12 Lecture online with guest lecturer **Alexandros Schismenos**. Seilduken, KHiO and online:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://khio-no.zoom.us/j/69299211013?pwd=gLXYOGjA6vxadMS61Tu1Aeyell8arY.1>

Meeting ID: 692 9921 1013

Passcode: 486941

Alexandros Schismenos holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Ioannina and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki. He has authored four books in Greek and several articles regarding social autonomy, political philosophy and the philosophy of technology. He is interested in ontology, metaphysics, magmatic logic, temporality, social theory, political philosophy and the philosophy of digital technology and AI. Schismenos will present the Athens School, a social cooperative structure of education and research that aims to promote equal and autonomous study and research in the fields of theory, art and technology. It promotes as its horizon the projects of direct democracy and autonomy according to the thought of Cornelius Castoriadis and the political theorists of social ecology and radical transformation. <https://athensschool.gr/>

12.30 - lunch (catering)

14 - 16 h Work in groups in ***Scripts for the Future of Art: 1) Pedagogy, 2) Exhibition and 3) Sustainability***

17 h. Public presentation at KHiO library - conversation between Georgia Sagri, Massimiliano Mollona and Dora García.

## **October 17**

10 - 12 Lecture online with guest lecturer **Binna Choi**. Seilduken, KHiO and online

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://khio-no.zoom.us/j/61700850296?pwd=KPTanfea9hDRTfyVdWGbm0l6NePSDc.1>

Meeting ID: 617 0085 0296

Passcode: 462461

Binna Choi is a curator of the 2025 Hawai'i Triennial. From 2008 to 2023, she was the director of Casco Art Institute: Working for the Commons, Utrecht, the Netherlands, where she still serves as the cooperative curatorial advisor. Under her direction, Casco explored the commons as an alternative to binary worldviews and systems through and for art, taking it as its organizing principle. Choi served as co-artistic director for the Singapore Biennale 2022, named *natasha*, and as curator for the 11th Gwangju Biennale (2016), titled *The Eighth Climate (What Does Art Do?)*, through which she reconnected with the land where she was born and grew up. Choi is also a member of the Akademie der Künste der Welt in Cologne, Germany.

12.30 - lunch (catering)

14 - 16 h Work in groups in ***Scripts for the Future of Art: 1) Pedagogy, 2) Exhibition and 3) Sustainability***, with feedback by professors and guests and briefing.

TBC, 17 h: meeting The Third Room, a series of events or spaces hosted at the **ASSATA** (<https://www.assata.no/info>) library and cultural space in Oslo, Norway, that provide a platform for creative expression, community connection, and creative resistance. These gatherings can include workshops, discussions, artistic presentations, and communal activities, often focusing on themes of art as inquiry, creative reflection, and community building.

ONLINE meetings

### **21 OCTOBER**

12-15 pm: reading together selected fragments of Silvia Federici, ***Re-enchanting the world. Feminism and the Politics of the Commons*** [https://base.socioeco.org/docs/re-enchanting\\_the\\_world\\_feminism\\_and\\_the\\_-\\_silvia\\_federici.pdf](https://base.socioeco.org/docs/re-enchanting_the_world_feminism_and_the_-_silvia_federici.pdf)

### **24 OCTOBER**

12 - 15 pm Reading together the tree scripts produced during the course: ***Scripts for the Future of Art: 1) Pedagogy, 2) Exhibition and 3) Sustainability***

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