

**Alicia Herrero**

**It's the Political Economy, Stupid**

International Group Exhibition

curators Oliver Ressler & Gregory Sholette

**Next show**

February 1/ May 26 /2013

at **Pori Art Museum**

**Finland**

Artists: FIELD WORK, FILIPPO BERTA, JULIA CHRISTENSEN, YEVGENIY FIKS, FLO6X8, MELANIE GILLIGAN, JAN PETER HAMMER, **ALICIA HERRERO**, INSTITUTE FOR WISHFUL THINKING, OLGA KOPENKINA, ALEXANDRA LERMAN, SHERRY MILLNER & ERNIE LARSEN, ÓLAFUR ÓLAFSSON & LIBIA CASTRO, SUPERFLEX, ZANNY BEGG & OLIVER RESSLER



**2012**

June 27 / September 30/2012

at **Centre of Contemporary Art**

**Thessaloniki**

Artists: Zanny Begg (AU) & Oliver Ressler (AT) | Filippo Berta (IT) | Linda Bilda (AT) | Libia Castro (ES) & Ólafur Ólafsson (IS) | Julia Christensen (US) | Yevgeniy Fiks, Olga Kopenkina, Alexandra Lerman (US) | flo6x8 (ES) | Melanie Gilligan (CA) | Jan Peter Hammer (DE) | **Alicia Herrero** (AR) | Institute for Wishful Thinking (US) | Sherry Millner(US) & Ernie Larsen(US) | Isa Rosenberger (AT) | Dread Scott (US). Exhibition coordination for CACT: Areti Leopoulou, Theodore Markoglou



January 24 / April 22/2012  
 at **Austrian Cultural Forum**  
**New York**

Artists: Linda BILDA, Julia CHRISTENSEN, Yevgeniy FIKS / Olga KOPENKINA / Alexandra LERMAN, FLO6x8, Melanie GILLIGAN, Jan Peter HAMMER, **Alicia HERRERO**, INSTITUTE FOR WISHFUL THINKING, Zanny BEGG / Oliver RESSLER, Isa ROSENBERGER, Dread SCOTT  
 Artists talk:

January 23/2012/ 5 pm

Participants: Linda Bilda, Melanie Gilligan, **Alicia Herrero**, Olga Kopenkina, Alexandra Lerman, Dread Scott, and Oliver Ressler & Gregory Sholette.

It included performances and readings, (e.g.) by Reverend Billy, The Aaron Burr Society, Dread Scott, Larry Bogar, Pablo Helguera, Martha Rosler and The Yes Men.



austrian cultural forum <sup>nyc</sup>

Austrian Cultural Forum New York  
11 East 52 Street | New York  
[www.acfny.org](http://www.acfny.org) | 212 319 5300

# IT'S THE POLITICAL ECONOMY, STUPID

MONDAY JAN 23, 2012  
12 PM

Andreas Stadler, Director of  
the Austrian Cultural Forum,  
cordially invites you to a special  
exhibition preview with artists  
and curators, followed by a lunch  
reception

Please RSVP with Christa Marchardt  
at [cmarchardt@acfny.org](mailto:cmarchardt@acfny.org),  
or 212 319 5300 x211



Artists Talk at Austrian Cultural Forum New York, January 23/2012/ 5 pm  
Participants: Linda Bilda, Melanie Gilligan, Alicia Herrero, Olga Kopenkina, Alexandra Lerman, and Oliver Ressler & Gregory Sholette.

**Description of the exhibition by the curators (Press release):**

*It's the Political Economy, Stupid* brings together an international group of artists who focus on the current crisis in a sustained and critical manner. Rather than acquiesce to the current calamity, this exhibition asks if it is not time to push back against the disciplinary dictates of the capitalist logic and, by use of artistic means, launch a rescue of the very notion of the social itself.

The exhibition includes documentarian approaches, such as works by Julia **Christensen**, who explores the transformation of defunct Big Box stores throughout the U.S. as an example of the resilience and resourcefulness of those affected most by the crisis. A piece by Yevgeniy **Fiks**, Olga **Kopenkina**, and Alexandra **Lerman**, documents those who were at the root of the crisis (Wall Street traders and corporate employees) participating in discussions on Lenin and his ideas on Imperialism. Films by Jan Peter **Hammer** and Melanie **Gilligan** reflect the artists' fictionalized takes on the crisis, by drawing historical parallels and showing the microcosmic point of view of those directly involved, respectively.

Quite a few artists and collectives took a performative and decidedly actionistic path, all of which represent artistic precursors to the Occupy Wall Street movement: Performance artist Dread **Scott** literally burned money on Wall Street, until he was stopped by the police. The

**flo6x8** group staged flamenco-dancing flashmobs in Spanish banks to protest against the financial system, while Alicia **Herrero** staged public fora at the National Bank of Argentina, in which experts, artists, and activists discussed theoretical models and ideas for economic and political change. The collective known as the **Institute for Wishful Thinking** (IWS) tackles the eternal recurrence of the capitalist crisis with a series of site-specific visual commentary on the infamous 1975 New York Daily News headline: “Ford to City: Drop Dead”.

Austrian artist Isa **Rosenberger**'s piece, *Espiral – A Dance of Death in 6 Scenes*, takes a 1930s Weimar-era political ballet, and transposes it to reflect the present-day crisis. **Zanny Begg** and **Oliver Ressler** employ the medium of animation to explore how governments in the United States, and other places in Europe such as Ireland, managed to turn a banking crisis into a budgetary crisis.

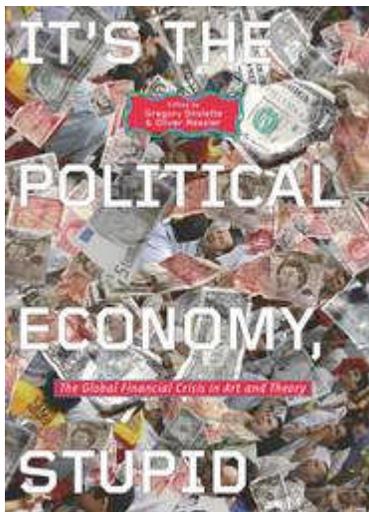
As a tangible complement to these video works, Austrian artist Linda **Bilda** was commissioned to produce a wall mural for the exhibition. Her graphic series *The Golden World* is a point of departure, as it explores themes such as greed and competition in the monetary world.

**Next Launch 2013:**

## **BOOK of the exhibition**

Title: **It's the Political Economy, Stupid: The Global Financial Crisis in Art and Theory**

Book published by **Pluto Press** (UK) and **Pori Art Museum**  
Launch at **Austrian Cultural Forum New York** April 25 /2013



- ISBN: 9780745333694
- Extent: 192pp
- Release Date: 07 Jan 2013

- Size: 240mm x 170mm
- Format: Hardback
- Illustrations: 45 Photos
- Category: Cultural Studies **Arts**

### **Book description:**

*It's the Political Economy, Stupid* brings together internationally acclaimed artists and thinkers, including **Slavoj Žižek, David Graeber, Judith Butler and Brian Holmes**, to focus on the current economic crisis in a sustained and critical manner.

Following a unique format, images and text are integrated in a visually stunning bespoke production by activist designer Noel Douglas. What emerges is a powerful critique of the current capitalist crisis through an analytical and theoretical response and an aesthetic-cultural rejoinder. By combining artistic responses with the analysis of leading radical theorists, the book expands the boundaries of critique beyond the usual discourse.

*It's the Political Economy, Stupid* argues that it is time to push back against the dictates of the capitalist logic and, by use of both theoretical and artistic means, launch a rescue of the very notion of the social.

Artists and theorists explore the current crisis of capitalism: Aaron Burr Society - Zanny Begg - Filippo Berta - Linda Bilda - Larry Bogad - Julia Bryan-Wilson - Judith Butler - Libia Castro/Ólafur Ólafsson - Julia Christensen - Angela Dimitrakaki/Kirsten Lloyd - Thom Donovan - Noel Douglas - Field Work - Reading Lenin with Corporations (Fiks & Kopenkina & Lerman) - FLO6x8 - Melanie Gilligan - David Graeber - Jan Peter Hammer - Pablo Helguera - **Alicia Herrero** - Brian Holmes - Pia Hovi-Assad - Institute For Wishful Thinking - Sherry Millner/Ernie Larsen - Occupy Museums - Liz Park - Oliver Ressler - Damon Rich - John Roberts - Isa Rosenberger - Dread Scott - Gregory Sholette - Kerstin Stakemeier - Superflex - Slavoj Žižek

## **The work of Alicia Herero in the exhibition**

High definition video, 40"

Spanish copy subtitled English

Title: **Bank Art & Economy**

Act II of Public Considerations, a Symposium in Three Acts

(performative-talks, video and book ) (2010-2011)

(One copy, collection of Thessaloniki Museum)

Description of the work:

Public considerations, a Symposium in three Acts is an exercise that presents a double status of existence: the creation of a form of the public sphere within the city's political scenarios and the enablement of these scenarios to transform themselves into mechanisms of investigation.

The project proposes entering into a debate on what constitutes 'the public', in three acts in three

auditoria of notable and iconic public institutions of the city of Buenos Aires: Buenos Aires University's Ricardo Rojas Cultural Centre, the central office of the Argentine National Bank in Plaza de Mayo, and the auditorium of the National Congress.

Public forum were staged at the headquarters National Bank of Argentina (act II), in which experts, artists, actors and activists discussed theoretical models and ideas for economic and political change. A flexible and paratactical speech act conformed of various represented sectors.

“For Herrero, the rostrum and panels bet on the possibility of participants to self-alter and distance themselves from passive reception. She proposes a participation that distances itself from narcissistic and histrionic vanguardism, to reconstruct the senses that make the community an acting society. This manner of considering the performativity of acts of speech has some precedent in Argentine art, in particular in that of the late the sixties and early seventies. Two artworks articulate points of reference and intersection for Public Considerations. The first is the artwork/installation realized by Lea Lublin in Yvonne Lambert Gallery, Paris (1974) after a journey to Chile, where she presented this proposal for the first time. The second, which in fact pre-dates the first, responded to a project presented in the Di Tella Institute, Mesa Redonda- Esto es un juicio (1967) by Margarita Paksa.”

By Teresa Riccardi (excerpt text: **The Enacting of the Public**, book *Consideraciones sobre lo Público, un Simposio en Tres Actos*, (spanish-english) LiPac, CCRR- Universidad de Buenos Aires.



Austrian Cultural Forum New York / January-April 2012



(right) Austrian Cultural Forum New York /January-April 2012

## Video stills







## Alicia Herrero BOOK of the project



Book: *Public Considerations, a Symposium in Three Acts*, 1500 copies, EUDEBA distribution  
The book brings together the (bilingual Spanish-English) transcription of the three acts with 57 participations (philosophers, artists, activists, economists, actors, teachers, musicians) + placards, flags, banners and graphics + dossier of photos + research archive of the use of public space for discussion + theoretical research.

Launch:

January 24/ 2012

Eyebeam Art + Technology Center  
New York

February 9/2012 // 7 pm

El Ranchito - Matadero  
Madrid

February 17/2012 // 6 pm

Medialab Prado  
Madrid

February 27/2012 // 8 pm

Traficantes de Sueños  
Madrid

April 18/2012 //7 pm

CCRRojas-UBA  
Buenos Aires

The project was including in Praxistest.Künstlerische Projekte Zur Vermittlung Aktueller Kunst (2011) / Book series of the Schoepfinger Forum für Kunstvermittlung, Germany (4 pages with pictures)



And a next publication of the *Association for Economic and Social Analysis* /Routledge/Taylor & Francis, USA (15 pages with pictures)

The exhibition will be present during 2013 in Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires

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