

THE STATUS OF THE POLITICAL IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

KLARTEXT!

A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS, CURATORS AND THEORETICIANS
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Statement

The Strategic Use of Politics in the Context of Art

The first question addressed in the lecture concerns the politicisation of art that has become visible in the last few years, or to be more exact: the political loading of art or to be even more exact: the strategic use of the political in the context of art. The lecture seeks to formulate a criticism – as well as a criticism of the counter-criticism from the leftwing dogmatic and conservative sides – of the trend of current discourse-dominating tendency of artists, especially those working in traditional media like painting, photography, or drawing, to make their own use of the political.

The second issue is the problem of the aestheticization of the political as well as the unstable relationship between the practice of art and activism. To this end, the lecture discusses historical examples, emphasizing the relationship between art, political radicalism and militancy.

Translation: RonAmber Deloney