

THE STATUS OF THE POLITICAL IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

KLARTEXT!

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Statement

Contemporary art and the paradoxes of political art

In front of the "consensual" attempt to empty the stage of political conflict, it is claimed that Art plays a new political role, by intervening in the public space or bringing back the forgotten reality of the world in the rooms of its own exhibitions. On the one hand, this tension between the inside and the outside sets up in a new light the dialectics inherent in the politics of art, poised between its self suppression in the framing of a new world and the incorporation of the political promise in the separateness of its own forms. On the other hand, it is debatable whether the contemporary forms of this outward/inward movement can escape the frame of the consensual description of the common world, which puts worries about "exclusion" or the "loss of the social bond" in the place of political concerns. How can the public intervention of art get out of the "ethical" confusion in which politics and art tend to vanish together?