

Là-bas*→ *Self as the Third **An event of visual and performance art**

AOr NOPawan, Chumpon Apisuk, Rogério Nuno Costa, Snežana Golubović, Saara Hannus, Sirkku Ketola, Jenni Luhta, Lauri Luhta, Mari Metsämäki, Sinéad O'Donnell, Irma Optimist, Saku Soukka, Jiří Surůvka

Merikaapelihalli, Cable Factory, Helsinki
Saturday 19 August 2017, 12 am – 12 pm

Tallberginkatu 1, 00180 Helsinki, **free entry** through staircase C

Up-to-date **program schedule and descriptions of artists and works:** www.la-bas.fi

The event's **press conference** is on **Friday 18 August, 12 am** at the **entrance of Merikaapelihalli**.

The organisers and most of the artists are present.

Where I meet you, a third is also present, a great witness, and I too am it. You yourself are the other in it. When the two or three are gathered, we go into a place, come into a space, step into a time. The present is sublime, history is decisive, social is corporeal and spatial. There community forms, convenes, confers and heeds.

On Saturday, 19 August 2017, the massive Merikaapelihalli of Cable Factory, Helsinki is filled with a one-day exhibition, which is, at the same time, also an international festival of performance art. ***Là-bas*→ *Self as the Third*** shows how performance art belongs to the context of visual art and sets live performances, installations, pictures and videos in the same space as equals. Works are not scenery for performances; performances are not to enliven the exhibition; performances are works of visual art amongst other works.

Philosophically and thematically, *Là-bas*→ *Self as the Third* is a concluding part of a trilogy of three festivals. The archetype *Là-bas*→ *God: The Hidden Circle* (Cable Factory, Helsinki, 2015) illustrated, in the circle of love, inviolable things that cannot be touched by violence. The antithesis *Là-bas*→ *Abyss: Splinters in the Depths* (Kiasma & Merikaapelihalli, Cable Factory, Helsinki; Telakka, Tampere; Lyhtaaltoasema & Pori Art Museum, Pori, 2016) was of one animal in a digital world, where, in the abyss left by the disappearance of God, humanity is now also going to be eradicated. The apotheosis *Là-bas*→ *Self as the Third* presents an exit, a true sign of the universal in particular, of one as the other, under which sovereign persons are brought back from nothingness to meet each other face-to-face with the third as their witness.

At the event local, i.e. artists working in Finland, **Rogério Nuno Costa** (Portugal/Finland) **Saara Hannus, Sirkku Ketola, Mari Metsämäki** and **Saku Soukka** present – and, in some cases, perform – both never-before-seen works and works that represent the current outcome of a long-span process, which also give an insight to the artist's whole body of work up to now.

Much experienced, internationally claimed performance artists **AOr NOPawan** (Thailand), **Chumpon Apisuk** (Thailand), **Snežana Golubović** (Serbia/Germany), **Sinéad O'Donnell** (Northern Ireland) and **Jiří Surůvka** (Czech Republic) are known in their respective countries also for other things than just performance art: as visual artists, curators, writers, talkers, thinkers, cultural and social activists. They have prepared their work especially with the space of Merikaapelihalli, the philosophical subject matter of the event and their encounter with Finland in the world of the year 2017 in mind.

The event has been curated by performance artist **Irma Optimist** (performance artists visiting Finland) and visual artist **Jenni Luhta** (local artists of the exhibition). It was conceived by **Lauri Luhta**, the founder and artistic director of the project *Là-bas*→ . During the event's opening, Irma Optimist does a performance and Jenni Luhta performs a pre-written speech. Lauri Luhta is presented by a series of three video works made in collaboration with Jenni Luhta.

The event is supported by Arts Promotion Centre Finland, VISEK and Cable Factory.

Là-bas→ (French "there" or "down there") is an independent living space for performance, media and sound art, experimental music, discourse on art and theory of culture. It was formed by Lauri Luhta at the studio of

Irma Optimist in Cable Factory, Helsinki, in 2000. Jenni Luhta (née Markkanen) has worked with *Là-bas→* since 2015. Over the years, the *Là-bas→* project has had many curators, co-organisers and collaborators but never a formal organisation. All in all, the history of *Là-bas→* includes more than 20 international festivals and approximately 100 smaller events including various seminars, talks, screenings, exhibitions and document exhibitions.

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