

Press Release

nabaSITE

IT'S NOT EDUCATIONAL
4 exhibitions curated by Marco Scotini

LUCA FREI
Come in, friends, the house is yours!

17 January- 24 February 2007

**Flyingcity (ROK), 28 February – Copenhagen Free University (DK) 11
April – Rainer Ganahl (A) May**

NabaSITE is the exhibition space of the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (NABA) in Milan. In 2007 it is promoting a cycle of four exhibitions curated by Marco Scotini entitled *It's not educational*. The exhibition project stems from a research workshop held for the specialist biennial course in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies that starts in January 2007.

The project *It's not educational* will draw attention to one of today's most important public themes and will use a series of exhibitions to prompt a debate on educational processes, on the problematization of the relationships between educator and subjects to be educated, between teaching and communication, between cultural conservation and social change and between knowledge and action. Unsurprisingly, the project started in an art school but it will develop a broader reflection on the forms of knowledge *in a* and *for a* changing society. The crisis in the enlightened model of knowledge, aimed at creating general rules and validity, triggered research into new learning processes, experiential and situational forms of knowledge, and styles of "active" reflection. The title *It's not educational* alludes to the fact that today education is not the lever of change – as Paulo Freire said in a conversation with Ira Shor – whereas it should be.

Leading exponents of the contemporary relationship between artistic practices and pedagogical strategies have been invited to participate; the first is **Luca Frei** whose work focuses on the concept of mediation and active learning. For the occasion, **Rainer Ganahl** will produce another of his "Reading Seminars" which he started doing in 1993, staging public readings from Frantz Fanon, Antonio Gramsci and other intellectuals. The **Copenhagen Free University** may explore and intensify the forms of knowledge and subjectification excluded from shared knowledge, but the Seoul group **Flyingcity** applies alternative reading tactics to the city space.

For *It's not educational*, Luca Frei has produced a project entitled *Come in, friends, the house is yours!* Which will be written in neon lights at the entrance to the nabaSITE exhibition space. The words are a quote taken from the Theatre of the Oppressed by Augusto Boal, who in Brazil, in the 1960s, adopted a method inspired by the pedagogical theories of Paulo Freire. The exhibition space will also contain a magnetic board filling a whole wall on which visitors will be able to move letters starting from the phrase "Everything was to be done. All the adventures are still there": a quote from Kodwo Eshun in an interview with Geert Lovink. In the centre of the space, "Cubitus", an installation consisting in 30 cube-shaped wooden pieces

reproduces the Bibliothèque des Enfants in the Centre George Pompidou in the early 1980s. They will form a set, an archive or a pedagogical situation. Or another situation invented on the basis of the context created around it.

Luca Frei (Lugano 1976), of Swiss origin and based in Sweden, has participated in numerous international exhibitions including the 9th Biennale in Istanbul (2005), the Collective Creativity Exhibition in Kassel (2005) the Gwangju Biennale (2002).

His work, as Lars Bang Larsen writes (Frieze 2006), “conveys the suspicion that learning, above all, is the desire to energize social space through an emptying out of the stuff that culture habitually accumulates: a process that requires not larger syllabuses and tougher questions but a kind of holistic reconstruction”.

In 2004 Luca Frei created Gruppo Parole e Immagini for the free appropriation, elaboration and distribution of texts and visual materials that the participants feel a need to share with others.

The exhibition is organized in collaboration with Studio Dabbeni (Lugano) and CASCO, Office for Art Design and Theory (Utrecht).

Info

Title:	LUCA FREI “Come in, friends, the house is yours!”
Curated by:	Marco Scotini
Inauguration:	17 January 6pm
Period:	from 17 January to 24 February
Where:	Ed. Cobalto NABA site, NABA (Nuova Accademia Belle Arti Milan)
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