

Invitation to the
3rd. International and Interdisciplinary
Symposium Mohren
from 02.07.2005 – 09.07.2005

The theme is: Capital

Symposium Mohren 05

Symposium Mohren is a platform for interdisciplinary communication. An annual event, held during the summer, for a limited number of participants coming from diverse professional disciplines. During this intense and dynamic week, participants will contribute their professional and personal ideas with a collective aim to create and extend interdisciplinary theory and practice. The theme of the symposium week has been chosen beforehand by the event organizers. Social and political factors are important to the selection of this theme. Invited speakers and guests bring relevant contributions to inform and initiate debate around the subject matter.

Capital:

cap•ital /{kæp{l}tl/ noun, adj.; noun

CITY | 1 (also capital city) [C] the most important town or city of a country, usually where the central government operates from: Cairo is the capital of Egypt. Troops are stationed in and around the capital. A tour of six European capital cities (figurative) Paris, the fashion capital of the world

MONEY | 2 [sing.] a large amount of money that is invested or is used to start a business: to set up a business with a starting capital of £100 000 | 3 [U] wealth or property that is owned by a business or a person: capital assets capital expenditure (= money that an organization spends on buildings, equipment, etc.) | 4 [U] (technical) people who use their money to start businesses, considered as a group: capital and labour

LETTER | 5 (also capital letter) [C] a letter of the form and size that is used at the beginning of a sentence or a name (= A,B,C rather than a,b,c): Use block capitals (= separate capital letters). Please write in capitals / in capital letters.

ARCHITECTURE | 6 the top part of a column—picture at arcade

make capital (out) of sth to use a situation for your own advantage: The opposition parties are all making political capital out of the disagreements within the government. adj.

PUNISHMENT | 1 [only before noun] involving punishment by death: a capital offence

LETTER | 2 [only before noun] (of letters of the alphabet) having the form and size used at the beginning of a sentence or a name: English is written with a capital 'E'.—compare lower case EXCELLENT | 3 (old-fashioned, BrE) excellent with a capital A, B, etc. used to emphasize that a word has a stronger meaning than usual in a particular situation: He was romantic with a capital R.

Oxford dictionary, 2005 | www1.oup.co.uk/elt/oald/bin/oald2.pl

*„CAPITAL is at present the work sustaining ability. Money is not an economic value though. The two genuine economic values involve the connection between ability (creativity) and product. That explains the formula presenting the expanded concept of art: ART=CAPITAL... Art that can not shape society and therefore also can not penetrate the heart questions of society, [and] in the end influence the question of capital, is no art.“ | **Joseph Beuys**, 1985*

Beuys imagined that an expanded application of human creativity--and the broader definition of "art" that would follow--would result in something he called "social sculpture." While the term encompassed many things for Beuys, it might broadly be defined as a conscious act of shaping, of bringing some aspect of the environment--whether the political system, the economy, or a classroom--from a chaotic state into a state of form, or structure. Social sculpture should be accomplished cooperatively, creatively, and across disciplines (he often cited the example of the beehive as an ideal working model). For Beuys, the need to change, or literally to re-form, was urgent. "All around us," he said, "the fundamentals of life are crying out to be shaped, or created."

The slogans "Art = Capital" or "Creativity = Capital," which Beuys often used in his artworks, could be understood as shorthand notations of his ideas, and suggest that creativity and art are the new currency for the transformation of society that he envisioned. The multiple *La rivoluzione siamo Noi* (1972), "We are the revolution," recalls Beuys' proclamation that "Art is the only revolutionary force." In this work, the artist seems to stride boldly into the future, urging us to accompany him on his way to the revolution.

-Joan Rothfuss, Walker Art Center curator,

www.walkerart.org/archive/8/9C430DB110DED6686167.htm

The most common idea of capital is directly connected to the economy and commerce. Terms such as *capital stock*, *to capitalise on*, *initial capital* and *accumulation of capital*, all refer to the common economic idea. Even the critics of capitalism use the term *capital* in this sense.

The field in between the common idea and the utopia of capital is to be the basis of the Symposium Mohren 05.

Information

The Location / House:

Mohren, is located in the municipality of Reute, in the district of Appenzell, near to Bodensee and the 3 frontiers of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The nearest town is Alstätten approximately 4 kilometres away.

Mohren farmhouse is more than 300 years old, idyllically located on a mountain slope with a magnificent view over the Rhine Valley and the Alps. In the past few years, the farmhouse barn has been renovated. It offers a well-equipped carpenters workshop and the facilities for stone and metal work. The former hay storage area serves as an ideal place for discussions, as a stage or a place for film projections (beamer and slide projector are present). The organisers can arrange for other materials to be made available, if requested well in advance by participants.

Structure of the Symposium week:

The working week commences on Saturday 2nd July 2005 and will continue until the following Saturday. The leaving date is Sunday 10th July.

On the arrival day the Symposium begins with a buffet, followed by informal introductions. The following morning, a guided tour of the house and workspaces is offered.

At the beginning of the week, speeches on the Symposium theme are held, followed by discussion. From Monday to Friday, participants work in relation to the theme, in media of their own choice. Participants are free to work independently or in groups. The final work produced, should enable local visitors an insight into the process and the theme of the week's work.

Symposium Languages:

The symposium will be conducted in German and English

Accommodation / Meals:

The house is simply furnished. Besides sleeping areas, there is a common small room and a kitchen. The accommodation is available in either 2 person or 4 person rooms with linen and blankets provided. A cold shower is located in the garden and warm showers can be taken at the nearby swimming pool in Alstätten. The meals will be made by a professional cook.

Costs:

The costs for the week, all-inclusive, food and accommodation is 250 SFR (170 €).

Costs for materials / equipment will be billed in addition, upon utilisation. Individual discounts may be granted and travel costs may be refunded in exceptional cases. Further information is available on request.

Insurance:

Insurance is the responsibility of participants. Participants are liable for costs of any breakages / damages.

Works / Public Presentation:

One of the Symposium goals is to show the final work on the theme to an interested public. Media, whether images, speech, language, installation, performance, text, audio can be freely chosen. Individual or group works, theoretical texts or lectures are just as possible as artistic works. On Saturday July 9th, in Mohren, the work will be presented to the local public.

Publication:

The Symposium will be documented. Texts and pictures will be collated and shown in the publication: Symposium Mohren 05 and on the website, www.arkasana.com.

The individual work developed during the Symposium, remains the property of the author. The work, may however, be requested for further exhibitions / presentations, by the organisers.

Symposium Organisers:

Uli Schlapfer, born 1966 in Lugano, agricultural engineer and translator

Isabel Rohner, born 1974 in Zurich, artist

Irena Eden, born 1974 in Hamburg, artist

Stijn Lernout, born 1972 in Antwerpen, artist and cook

Applications:

Applications can be typed or clearly written. The deadline for receiving applications is 31st May 05. We will choose a maximum of 10 participants for the Symposium Mohren 05. The selected participants will be informed by 5th June 05.

For further information please don't hesitate to contact us:

Mohren: ++41 (0)71 77 002 77

Isabel (mobile): ++41 (0)76 334 95 59 in Switzerland

Irena and Stijn: ++49 (30) 32899413 in Germany

E-mail:

symposium@arkasana.com

Website:

www.arkasana.com