**Pille Riin Jaik**

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**Title:**

Imperialistic Bears and Forever Lush Gardens

**Content:**

The course is organized around a series of practical exercises and engagements, which are intended to reflect on one’s ability to actively read the organization of the socio-political spaces. In the spirit of artists like Sister Maria Kent, Pauline Oliveros or the Situationist International, we will visit together different architectural places of curiosity outside of the city center in Vienna in order to explore one’s engagement in the local context and artistic practices in relation to the politics and aesthetics of the cityscape. Different historical stories and fabulas as well as political texts will be used as ignition spark to drift into one’s own fantasy, feelings and myriad relations to the spaces. Together we will dwell on failures of modernism, historical Red Vienna, late 20th century fantasies of the united world, hidden anarchistic islands and one’s own creative practice in the midst of this world of polycrises.

**Previous Knowledge Expected:**

* Socio-political interest in the worldly and unworldy matters
* Willingness to experiment and spend time outside of the city center
* Belief in equality of all souls, religions, genders, abilities and class
* Tentative listening skills and care towards each other and the spaces we encounter
* Active participation to the best of one's abilities and communication about possible obstacles (letting me know about colliding dates, absences, problems etc beforehand).

**Objective:**

* To acquire new artistic tools and theoretical terminology;
* To better understand one’s own artistic practice and its locus in society;
* To widened historical and poetical knowledge of central-european city structures and the surrounding aspects of Vienna itself;
* To improve interdisciplinary skills in communication, listening, writing, sketching, observing, engaging, conceptualizing and presentation.
* To read aesthetics of spaces and the hidden political structures behind them.

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Teaching and learning method:** The course work with a combination of interdisciplinary artistic exercises and readings of different theoretical and poetical texts. It will also introduce art works relevant to the subject matter. The reading wil be set in relation to the environment that is investigated. At the end of the course students work independently on their final presentation reflecting on how environments influence their artistic practice and why.

**Lecture dates**

9 x 2.5 h, mostly at biweekly bases

03. March 2025, 17. March 2025, 31. March 2025, 14. April 2025, 28. April 2025, 12. May 2025, 26. May 2025, 9. June 2025, 16. June 2025.

Location: different locations outside of the academy with exception of the last two dates (9. June & 16. June 2025) that would take place in Schillerplatz.

**Participants:** for 10-15 persons

**Assessment:**

Active participation and engagement, following reading and artistic assignments and the final presentation one’s own place of choice.

**Recommended reading:**

Calvino, Italo (1972). *Invisible Cities*. Italy: Giulio Einaudi Editore

Debord, Guy (1958). *Theory of the Dérivé*. France: Internationale Situationniste #2

Federici, Silvia (2018). *Re-enchanting the World: Feminism and the Politics of the Commons*. Reprint, USA: PM Press, 2019

Glouberman, Misha and Heti, Sheila (2011). *‘The Chairs Are Where the People Go: How to Live, Work, and Play in the City*. USA: Faber and Faber, Inc.

Kent, Corita and Steward, Jan (1992). *Learning by Heart: Teachings to Free the Creative Spirit*. Reprint, USA: Allworth Press, 2008

Le Guin, Ursula Kroeber (1986). *The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction*. Reprint, UK: Ignota Publishing, 2020

Walker, Alice (1983). *In Search of our Mother’s Gardens*. Reprint, USA: A Harvest Book Harcourt, Inc., 2004

Weil, Simone (1962). *The Power of Words*. Reprint, Great Britain: Penguin Books, 2020

Oliveros, Pauline (2024). *Quantum Listening*. UK: Spiral House