



KALLE BROLIN & KRISTINA MUNTZING

SUNSHINE SOCIALIST CINEMA: A CINEMA MANUAL – LISBON SESSION

FOCO GALLERY

3 p.m. 10 MARCH 2019

Rua da Alegria 34, Lisboa

The *Sunshine Socialist Cinema* is an outdoor, solar powered cinema created by the artist duo Kristina Muntzing and Kalle Brolin, who started to work on their project in 2011. Their first solar powered screening took place in 2012 and the cinema has since been installed in a garden in the southern Swedish countryside town of Höja. A mobile version of the project was also created, and is currently traveling throughout Sweden in a van. The themes of the films include post-industrial survival, political filmmaking, artists joining political collectives, and more. The cinema's activities include public screenings, study group discussions, field trips, and presentations hosted by other institutions. Programming is discussed, and technical issues are worked out, in a study group run within the local workers educational association ABF (ABF, Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund / Workers' educational association of Sweden), where the artists are also developing a typology of political film and filmmaking. The present edition is part of the Lisbon Consortium curatorship class project *Portions of Share*, and it is

framed within the broader context of *4Cs - From Conflict to Conviviality through Creativity and Culture*, co-founded by Luísa Santos. The curatorial challenge was to present the work of the artists in the form of an artistic book.

The *Sunshine Socialist Cinema* is a utopian, sustainable, and politically engaged discussion platform. These notions of utopia, engagement, and discussion were the starting point for developing an artist book showcasing the *Sunshine Socialist Cinema* that would open new perspectives and ways of sharing.

Following the idea of the project, which generates discussion and allows for interactions between diverse perspectives framed within a left-wing political viewpoint, rather than producing a book as we know it, we have chosen to make the space of FOCO Gallery a place for the expression and dialogue of multiple voices. Such a space is understood here as a place of exchange of ideas and a platform for discussion. Within this intention, dissent is welcomed and finds its place within a conversation among other people. By walking into the space the spectator is invited to traverse the different layers of this cinema. As a book, it must be visited, explored in depth. This space was created, in order for the audience, to reflect, question, recognize or simply observe the audiovisual input as well as the sociocultural configurations expressed through the films projected.

Thus, working as chapters, the different spaces of the gallery are presenting the diverse aspects of the project.

While developing the curatorial practices to realize this project, two main perspectives were followed. First, it was fundamental to be coherent to the messages this platform aims to convey: an alternative perspective to the present; utopian possibilities of sharing; a plurality of voices and points of view. Second, it was important to create a space where the screening can be experienced freely in the context of a strongly interactive environment accessible to everybody. From the reading part to the projection, passing by a room for free expression and inspiration, the visitor is immersed in the universe created by Müntzing and Brolin.

For the artists, learning from the audience was central to the development of the edition of the *Sunshine Socialist Cinema* in Lisbon. For that purpose, a list of questions on what an idealistic, utopian socialist cinema could be has been shared in order to gather ideas. We ask what people envision when they dream of a utopian cinema, how it would be organized and financed, who the audiences would be and how they would experience such a cinema, what films would be shown, and what such a cinema could do with audiences - with us. The artists themselves have also answered these questions, and with the input of people from diverse backgrounds, the frame of the *Sunshine Socialist Cinema* transforms, expands, and invites

others to share their different perspectives.

The exhibition-artist book consists of a programme involving the screening of feature length and short films by nine artists from diverse nationalities and backgrounds. The films are related to topics such as sustainability, conviviality, conflict resolution, and left-wing political views. The selected films include **Casus Belli (2010)** by Yorgos Zois from Greece; **No Green No Blue (2010)** and **Instinctive Behavior (2017)** by Marta Alvim from Portugal; **Digital Trauma (2017)** by Maria Molina from Spain; **Sound from the Hallways (2012)** by Lasse Lau from Denmark; **Veridis Quo (2016)** by Lola González from France; **Athènes plages (2019)** by Christophe dos Santos from Portugal and France; **(Putting words) in my mouth (2018)** by Divine Southgate Smith from England; **Dandakaranya - The Jungle of Punishment (2012)** and **The Ghost Taxonomy (2012)** by Tushar Waghela from India; **How green was my valley - EUROPA (2005)** by Paulo Mendes from Portugal. Multiple voices (audience, artists, and directors) allow anyone to make his or her own interpretation of the different subjects highlighted throughout the screenings. This dialogue is what shapes the structure of the *Sunshine Socialist Cinema*.

This selection presents and further inspires an engagement not only with the ideas of a *Sunshine Socialist Cinema* but also the practices that inspired concepts and ideas at the heart of the 4Cs project, which more broadly frames the exhibition-artist book.

As noted in the context of the 4Cs project, the idea of going from conflict to conviviality must be seen as a circular rather than a linear movement. Instead of reaching a final, ideal destination, we will always encounter a new disturbance, a new conflict with the productive potential of inspiring us to yet again seek conviviality. The projection of the diverse films in our *Sunshine Socialist Cinema*, each with its own notions of calm and disturbance, of conflict and conviviality, presents such a cycle from conflict to conviviality - and back to conflict. To that end the *Sunshine Socialist Cinema* is an experimental playground, a space for us to meet, think, and discuss what kind of society we want to live in.

Aude Vignac
Federico Rudari
Jule Kurbjewweit
Juliana Orrego Trujillo

About KALLE BROLIN & KRISTINA MUNTZING

Kristina Müntzing and Kalle Brolin are Swedish artists collaborating on several works. Kristina Müntzing has shifted base between Gothenburg, Scania, Stockholm, Buenos Aires, London and Berlin during the last years. Her work has often dealt with issues of belonging, as for example her 'New Bastards' or little figurines of 'New Swedes'. Recently she has created pieces in the series 'Mapping Panther Politics' that, in themselves, draw a line across time and geographies and thus refutes any simple notions of us and them, local or global or then and now. Kalle Brolin is an artist working with video installations and performance, and a writer mainly for the culture pages in the alternative newspaper Fria Tidningen, while contributing to several art magazines as well. His works have been shown in a number of international biennales and art exhibitions. His latest series of works, on the culture of the coal mines and sugar factories in southern Sweden, has been exhibited at Malmö Art Museum and reviewed by most major Swedish newspapers, as well as by Art Forum. Kalle Brolin has spent several years living and working in Buenos Aires, Istanbul, London, Berlin, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Tallinn, and Gdansk. He is now based in Malmö. Together, Kristina Müntzing and Kalle Brolin run the Sunshine Socialist Cinema, an outdoor solar-powered cinema.

About PORTIONS OF SHARE

Portions of Share is a curatorial project by the students of the international MA and PhD programme in Cultural Studies, The Lisbon Consortium, Faculty of Human Sciences, Universidade Católica Portuguesa. This project, developed during the seminar on Curatorship led by Luísa Santos is conceived within the conceptual framework of *4Cs: from Conflict to Conviviality through Creativity and Culture*, a European Cooperation Project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. The curatorial project consists of three artists' books reflecting on notions of conviviality, power and hospitality. Besides the three artists' books, *Portions of Share* presents a publication with essays on these notions through the lenses of the artistic proposals of invited participating artists. The invited participating artists of *Portions of Share* are Rita GT, Nuno Nunes-Ferreira, Kristina Müntzing and Kalle Brolin (*Sunshine Socialist Cinema*).