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RU
RESIDENCY UNLIMITED

**NOV 2014
NEWSLETTER**

This month, RU is organizing the following public programs: Join us tomorrow evening for a presentation by [Harutyun Alpetyan](#) of his curatorial practice; on Nov 12 RU is organizing "[Body Language](#)", a group exhibition curated by Chelsea Haines featuring new work by 5 RU artists; Nov 19, join us for the discussion "[Artist as Activist](#)" between [Csaba Nemes](#) with fellow artists Adeola Enigbokan and Noah Fisher on reconciling being an artist and an activist.

DEADLINES NOT TO MISS

International curators, don't miss the November 7th deadline for the [RU/Visual Aids curatorial month long residency](#) in March 2015.

New York artists! Stay tuned...Mid November RU will launch a new open call for the second edition this year of RU's **Special Features** film production program designed for local artists. Four selected artists will receive a stipend towards the creation and production of a short film or video to be realized at RU's unique church space, and screened at RU in June 2015

FLASH NEWS

-We are honored with RU's recent collaboration with [The Wexner Center's Film/Video Studio program](#). RU artist [Ana Bilankov](#) was invited last month for a week-long post-production residency where she worked with editor Paul Hill to edit and do a sound mix on *New Town Future Film*. Check out images [here](#).

-At the Fiac/(OFF)ICIELLE artfair in Paris (Oct.21-26), RU artist [Ofri Cnaani's](#) performance [D \(Command+ Duplicate\)](#) drew long lines of visitors. For six days, Cnaani used her Xerox machine/overhead projector combined machine to produce custom images A4 one-of-a-kind Xerox pieces made from visitors' personal belonging and objects from Cnaani's collection of found ephemera. A copier then recorded the final image projected on the wall and produced a paradoxical, unique copy on paper, signed and given to each participant.

-On Sunday November 2nd, RU curator [Maayan Sheleff](#) and Frankie the documentarian Robot were invited by Ace Hotel to participate in their one evening Sunday Artist in residence series. Frankie realized nine fifteen minutes interviews asking what it means to be human. As a robot, Frankie responds to emotions with language and eye movements and creates computer-generated, emotion inspired videos that are archived [here](#).

-RU resident [Katya Grokhovsky](#) will be part of [A Wicked Project](#) at EFA Art Space, opening on November 14 and running through December 20, 2014.

-Ofri Cnaani will lead a walk on Sunday Nov 23 for the "Lower East Side Drifts" organized by [Lu Lab](#).

-In Louisville (KY), RU has begun working on "The Accelerator" artist-in-corporate-residence program spearheaded by our sister organization [I.D.E.A.S 40203](#) funded by "Our Town" NEA grant. Beginning this Fall, artists selected with specialized skills will be placed as agents of change for six weeks within local corporations across Louisville's major industry clusters such as Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare/Wellness, Food/Beverage and Tourism.

Selected RU Alumni artists are:

* Social media artist [Man Bartlett](#) was selected to work with XRateHealth and their affiliate corporation Thrive365 – a proprietary mobile health platform addressing a world-wide market of 385 million individuals living with diabetes.

* Architect/designer [Jakub Szczęśny](#) will engage with GE's first micro industry, FirstBuild. FirstBuild is envisioned as a new model for inventing, building and bringing the next generation of products to the market



RU has been following the progression of the Lanchonete.org residency initiative in São Paulo since it began by raising a question that appears in our Newsletter each month. Inspired by "[The Nature of Cities](#)," a virtual Magazine and discussion site on cities as ecosystems, Todd Lester, founder of Lanchonete.org raises the following question #9: *How can art (in all its forms), exhibits, installations and provocations be better catalysts to raise awareness, support and momentum for urban nature and green*

spaces?

[\[Read the article here\]](#)

RU Public Programs

RU TALK: Curatorial practice as lemniscate, by Harutyn Alpetyan

A talk moderated by Boshko Boskovic RU Program Director.



Raped Mona Lisa or Benjamin's nightmare, (fragment), 2009, mixed media

November 4th, 6pm

Residency Unlimited

360 Court Street (enter church building through main entrance)

Brooklyn, NY 11231

Based in Yerevan (Armenia) [Harutyn Alpetyan](#) is a 2014 CEC ArtsLink Fellow and RU curator in residence. Within the artistic context of present day Armenia, Alpetyan will share his thoughts as a cultural producer, curator, and translator about 'compensatory creativity' and failure as common denominators driving his practice. Rather than viewing his curatorial practice as something linear and flat, he compares it metaphorically to the shape of a lemniscate with its characteristic plane curve consisting of two loops that meet at a central point.

Specifically, Alpetyan will present capacity-building and context-shaping procedures intended to develop an infrastructure in the field of contemporary art in Armenia. "The Ignorant Schoolmaster" (Jacques Ranciere) is a recent project designed by the Institute of Contemporary Art of which he is a founding member in Yerevan. By employing strategies like crowd-funding and in-kind contribution and by using translation as a practice constitutive of communication and community, this project suggests alternative modes of cultural economy where production and consumption are interrelated and take place within the framework of a particular community not necessarily limited geographically.

The AJZ non-profit art-space is another interesting model of oscillation between producing and consuming culture at the same place co-curated by Alpetyan and his two colleagues since its founding in 2009. AJZ not only hosts numerous events, exhibitions and workshops but also functions as an open space for rehearsals and readings for independent theatre collectives. It has organically stipulated the practice of group curating and hence the emergence of a curatorial collective whose practice involves exhibition making yet is not limited by it.

[Harutyun Alpetyan's](#) curatorial residency at RU is made possible with funding from CEC Artslink Fellowship.

RU EXHIBITION: "Body Language"

A group exhibition organized by Chelsea Haines of new work by [Antonia Dias Leite](#), [Alex Verhaest](#), [Noilin O'Kelly](#), [Katya Grokhovsky](#) and [Maayan Sheleff](#).



Katya Grokhovsky, Her, mixed media, 2013

Opening: Wednesday November 12, 6pm-8pm (Free and open to the public)

Exhibition: November 13-14, 12-6pm; Saturday Nov 15, 2-6pm

Performance: Katya Grokhovsky - November 15, 2pm.

Interviews: with *Frankie* the documentarian robot Saturday Nov 15, 3-6pm

Residency Unlimited

360 Court Street (enter church building through main entrance)

Brooklyn, NY 11231

One picture is worth a thousand words. This asymmetrical adage—one picture is worth *one thousand* words—is premised on the logic that words and pictures are somehow exchangeable entities with discrete values. Both signal the way things are in the world. That is certainly one way of looking at the relationship between pictures and languages that is still commonly employed in the marketing world where this phrase was undoubtedly coined.

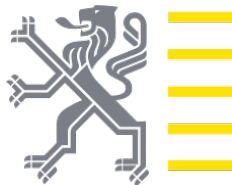
There is another less positivistic, more heterogeneous way of considering the relationship between words and pictures that places human subjectivity at its core. This view recognizes reality as a sequence of unstable images that must be constantly interpreted and reiterated into words with flawed, imperfect humans as its translators. Each misinterpretation and failed translation creates a new series of meanings that is endlessly generative in its possibilities as well as its frustrations.

"Body Language" is an exhibition that brings together 5 artists who consider this very process of constant iteration and reinterpretation in their work. Through diverse means, each artist explores human representation through the inconsistency and failure of language and gesture to express need, desire and intimacy. Humans are perceived as players within a matrix of pre-existing languages and forms who struggle to come to terms with emotion and desire.

MORE INFO ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

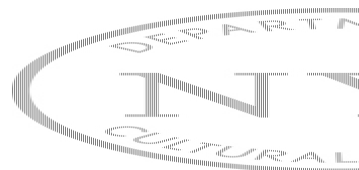
RU is also grateful for support from OiFuturo, the Flemish Government, The Arts Council of Ireland, Artport, Tel Aviv, Artis Grant Program, a private collector and an anonymous funder.



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RU TALK: Artist as Activist

Join us for discussion with RU artist Csaba Nemes and his guests Adeola Enigboka and Noah Fischer on being an artist while implementing strategies of contemporary activism.



Csaba Nemes, In Acting We Trust!, 2014, 14in.x11in., mixed media

Thursday November 19 , 2014
6.30pm (Free and open to the public)
Residency Unlimited
360 Court Street (enter church building through main entrance)
Brooklyn, NY 11231

In the present situation where the public sphere faces a deep identity crisis worldwide and civic culture is anything but present, which strategies are effective within the framework of the experimental field of art? How does one reconcile being an artist and activist? How does the one practice affect the other and are they more effective combined? How do artist-activists navigate the institutional systems they so often criticize? What is the influence of 20th century activism on today's practices? With the vulnerabilities and failures of representative democracy becoming more apparent and art institutions inability to create a political discourse separate from both mainstream politics and the market, activism appears to be more present in artistic practices.

Through his prominent role in artist-led protest groups such as Free Artists, Hungarian artist Csaba Nemes *has developed a distinctive critical art practice that investigates the overlaps between personal and political history, the dark side of the nationalist psyche, and the fragile bonds of social solidarity* (1). This critical practice, and other artist-led protests, respond directly to the alarming rise of Hungarian far right and populist tendencies in public discourse. Tonight's discussion will highlight the shared perspectives of fellow artists Adeola Enigbokan and Noah Fisher both whom Csaba met during his current residency in New York. Adeola Enigbokan is an artist and writer whose projects often bring together artists, social researchers and educators to interpret the behavioral and political scripts that shape everyday urban life. Noah Fischer is the initiator of the Occupy Museums action group.

(1) Maja and Reuben Fowkes in *Csaba Nemes, Dont try to make it logical*

MORE INFO

Csaba Nemes's residency is supported by ACAX / Agency for Contemporary Art Exchange and TMU / Trust for Mutual Understanding.



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