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Symposium: Free and daring! Play(grounds) as a place of identification, community, and disorder in the city

Friday, April 22, 2016, 09:30am-6:00pm

This full-day symposium, which we are hosting on the occasion of our current exhibition *The Playground Project*, gathers renown designers and researchers as well as planners and activists to discuss and define the conditions for autonomous, free, and daring play within urban space. What does it require to create places that positively challenge kids? And what should be the contribution of the given community towards it? The symposium presents new insight into different projects and experiences in planning spaces suitable for children in their various environments today. Approaches from different countries such as England, Denmark, India, and others may provide valuable clues. Good play space needs hardware and software. Therefore, this symposium also thinks of itself as a market square which offers information on new play initiatives in public space, and enables exchange among all participants in the big round-table discussion at the end of the day.

Speakers: Gabriela Burkhalter (curator of the exhibition, Basel), Marion Ebert (activist, Kinderbaustelle Biel), Tim Gill (activist, author, scholar, London), Axel Fischer (Head of Maintenance Grün Stadt Zürich), Sven Goebel (Divisional Manager Free Space and Participation, Pro Juventute, Zurich) & Petra Stocker (Project Coordinator Play and Social Space, Pro Juventute, Zurich), Karl Guyer (Director GZ Wipkingen), Alberto Nanclares da Veiga & Manuel Polanco Pérez-Llantada (basurama, artist collective, Madrid), Helle Nebelong (landscape architect, Copenhagen), Samuel Roth (Director open children and youth work Wattwil, Project Coordinator Kinderbaustelle Wattwil), Sreejata Roy (artist, pedagogue, Delhi), Xavier de la Salle (Group Ludic, artist collective, France).

Participation fee incl. exhibition ticket: 50 CHF / 30 CHF members of Kunsthalle Zürich / 15 CHF students and other discounts

Registration via Email or Telephone: Julia Moritz, Curator Theory & Programs
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Program

09:30 Registration, welcome coffee
10:00 Daniel Baumann, welcome
10:15 Gabriela Burkhalter, introduction: The Playground Project
10:30 Tim Gill, keynote lecture: If playgrounds are the answer, then what is the question? (Engl.)
11:15 Xavier de la Salle, lecture: Group Ludic - What can we learn from it today? (Fr.)
11:45 Axel Fischer, presentation: New requirements and tendencies for playground planning in Zurich (Engl.)
12:15 Excursion/lunch: Playground GZ Wipkingen, with Karl Guyer, introduction (Ger.)
13:30 Helle Nebelong, lecture: Children's Landscapes - Perspectives from Denmark (Engl.)
14:15 Marion Ebert, presentation: Kinderbaustelle Biel (Ger.)
14:45 Sven Goebel & Petra Stocker, presentation: Pro Juventute (Engl./Ger.)
15:30 Coffee break
15:45 Alberto Nanclares da Veiga & Manuel Polanco Pérez-Llantada, presentation: Basurama (Engl.)
16:15 Sreejata Roy, presentation: Dialogue (Engl.)
16:45 Panel discussion with all speakers and Samuel Roth (Kinderbaustelle Wattwil), moderated by Daniel Baumann & Gabriela Burkhalter
17:45 Apéro, sponsored by Pro Juventute

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Gabriela Burkhalter is a political scientist and urban planner based in Basel. She has documented the history of playgrounds on www.architektur fuer kinder.ch since 2008. She was a guest curator of *The Playground Project* at the 2013 Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, and in 2014 for *Architectures for Children— Zurich's playgrounds* at gta exhibitions, ETH Zurich. In the same year Group Ludic assigned their archives to her for preservation and research. In 2015 the project *Group Ludic's Visionary Urban Landscapes, 1968-1979* received a grant from the Graham Foundation Chicago.

Marion Ebert is the initiator and director of *Kinderbaustelle Biel* (Kids' Construction Site Biel), a patch of wasteland at the fringes of a large construction site at the center of Biel's settlement area. Between the spring and fall holidays the site is explored and cultivated according to the imagination of the kids alone. The project's second season is about to commence this year in Biel. Marion Ebert graduated in art pedagogy, and is trained as a carpenter. She initiated and directed *Kinderbaustelle Aarau* (2008), a model to the Biel project.

Axel Fischer is the Head of Maintenance at Grün Stadt Zürich (Green City Zurich), the department of the City of Zurich (section public works and sanitation), which fosters, designs, and manages all grassland within the city; this includes 350 playgrounds in schools, kindergartens, and municipal nurseries. Axel Fischer is a trained landscape gardener, horticultural engineer, and graduated business manager.

Tim Gill is one of the UK's leading thinkers on childhood. He is the author of *No Fear: Growing up in a risk averse society* (2007), co-author of an authoritative UK guide to managing risk in play, and a Built Environment Expert for the Design Council. Gill is in demand worldwide as a public speaker, and appears regularly on TV and radio. He was Director of the Children's Play Council (now Play England) from 1997 to 2004.

Sven Goebel is the Divisional Manager of the department «Free Space and Participation» that was founded at Pro Juventute in 2015, and that contains the campaign „Free Space for Children“, a traditional concern of the foundation since their engagement with adventure playgrounds and playground advice in the 1950s in Switzerland. For many years Goebel is privately and professionally involved in matters of health and mobility.

Petra Stocker is the Project Coordinator of the segment «Play and Social Space» at Pro Juventute where she realizes play space and play culture projects. For eight years she is active in the open children's work with a focus on the creation and design of play space.

Karl Guyer is part of the management of the “Gemeinschaftszentrum” (short: GZ, English: community center) in the Zurich neighborhood Wipkingen where he leads the educational and cultural activities. One of the first of 17 organizations run by the Zurich Community Center Foundation, GZ Wipkingen is a social-cultural facility for local Zurich residents. Karl Guyer is trained as an elementary school teacher, parental and adult educator and lecturer at the ZHAW school for social work. Engaged in socio-cultural work for over 25 years.

Alberto Nanclares da Veiga and Manuel Polanco Pérez-Llantada are members of the Madrid based artist collective **Basurama** (with offices in Brazil and Bilbao). The collective was born in the Madrid School of Architecture (ETSAM) in the year 2001 and, since then, it has evolved and acquired new shapes. Their aim is to study those phenomena inherent in the massive production of real and virtual trash in the consumer society, providing different points of view on the subject that might generate new thoughts and attitudes. Besides the visual arts in all its formats Basurama compiles all kind of workshops, talks, concerts, projections and publications - more than 100 projects in the four continents. www.basurama.org

Helle Nebelong is a Danish Landscape Architect, and a key pioneer of the natural playground movement, which advocates for using local materials and materials found on site. For more than ten years Nebelong was employed by the City of Copenhagen (1994-2006), leading the Technical and Environmental Administration's strategy "City for All - Improving the accessibility of the Urban Spaces in Copenhagen". Between 2004-14 she was president of the Danish Playground Association.

Since 2010 **Samuel Roth** is the Director of open children and youth work in the community of Wattwil, and holds a BA in social work in St. Gallen (2011). Together with a group of fellows engaged in issues of child-care and leisure activity he initiated “Offene Kinderbaustelle Wattwil” (open kids' construction site Wattwil) as a pilot project in 2012. Due to the success of its pilot phase the Wattwil youth commission decided to sustainably continue the project as a segment of the community's open children and youth work.

Sreejata Roy has graduated from the Coventry School of Art and Design. She has been awarded with the Public Art grant from FICA and completed reshaping a community park in one of those low-income colonies. Roy has also worked exploring community and public spaces in other parts of India and the UK. Presently, she is working on a year-long project in Khirkee, an urban village exploring the idea of women in public space. She is simultaneously engaging with homeless women exploring the idea of women in public space at the shelter in Jama Masjid, a project supported by Art Reach, New Delhi.

From 1954-58 **Xavier de la Salle** served as cabin boy and sailor in the mercantile navy. He served in the French marines for an additional three years. He began his studies in political science and economics at the University of Bordeaux in 1961. In 1964 he moved to Paris and worked as press assistant for the European Community (EC). Together with David Roditi and Simon Koszel he founded Group Ludic in 1967. Group Ludic designed more than 100 playgrounds mostly in France. From 1973 to 2001 he was professor of design, environment, and urbanism at the École d'Architecture de Paris-La Défense. Between 1979 and 1985 he carried out interventions in problematic areas in the Parisian suburbs. He published *Espace de jeux, espace de vie* (Bordas, Paris) in 1982.

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