

# Curating Degree Zero Archive

## Dorothee Richter & Barnaby Drabble

The Curating Degree Zero Archive (CDZA) documents the work of over 100 contemporary art curators who are known internationally for their critical and experimental positions. This collection of exhibition documentation, gifted to the archivists by the curators themselves, contains, among other materials, catalogues, DVDs, magazines and ephemera. In this way the archive presents a representative cross-section of the critical curatorial discourse at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

The project began with the three-day symposium “Curating Degree Zero”, organized in Bremen in 1998 by Dorothee Richter and Barnaby Drabble. Between 2003 and 2008, the two curators worked together again on the archive, which grew in size as it travelled to eighteen venues around the world as an exhibition and a program of live events and discussions.

In 2011, the resulting collection was gifted to the Media and Information Centre (MIZ) at the Zürich University of the Arts (ZHdK). Since the opening of the university's new premises in the Toni-Areal in 2014, the archive is accessible as a permanent reference collection on public display.

[https://www.zhdk.ch/miz\\_curating](https://www.zhdk.ch/miz_curating)

Initiated by Barnaby Drabble and Dorothee Richter, the archive was developed in partnership with the following venues, collectives and institutions:

**Plug-in (Basel), Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva, Künstlerhaus Bremen, O.K Centrum für Gegenwartskunst (Linz), Spike Island Art Space (Bristol), Halle für Kunst (Lüneburg), International Project Space (Bournville), Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art (Sunderland), Artlab at Imperial College (London), Sparwasser HQ (Berlin), Edinburgh College of Art, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (Milan), Festival der Künste & Museum für Gestaltung (Zürich), INSA Art Space (Seoul), Association Drash & Point Éphémère (Paris), Rakett (Bergen), West Cork Arts Centre (Skibbereen) and Galerija Miroslav Kraljevic, Zagreb.**

The Archive consists of material gifted by the following curators, artist-curators and collectives:

Arts Initiative Tokyo, Rosanne Altstadt, Amasté, Artlab, Anthony Auerbach, B+B: Sophie Hope & Sarah Carrington, Marius Babias, Basekamp, Ute Meta Bauer, Lorenzo Benedetti, Tobias Berger, Ursula Biemann, Beatrice Von Bismarck, Blok, Lionel Bovier, Tim Brennan, c a l c, camouflage, Ele Carpenter, Daniela Cascella, Vaari Claffey, Barbara Clausen, consonni, Copenhagen Free University, CRUMB, Alice Creischer & Andreas Siekmann, D.A.E: Peio Aguirre & Leire Vergara, Catherine David, Joshua Decter, Clémentine Deliss, Claire Doherty, Barnaby Drabble, Sergio Edelsztein, Eichelmann, Faiers & Rust, EIPCP, Octavian Esanu, Jacob Fabricius, Elena Filipovic, Fiteiro Cultural, Freee, Mark Garry, Sönke Gau, Catalin Gheorghe, GMK, David Goldenberg, Horst Griese, Frederikke Hansen, Kent Hansen, Maria Hlavajova, Justin Hoffmann, Manray Hsu, Andrew Hunt, Per Hüttner, Instant Coffee, International 3, K&K, Christoph Keller, Alexander Koch, Annette Kosak, Holger Kube Ventura, Kuda.org, Kuratorisk Aktion, Daniel Kurjakovic, Simon Lamunière, Kelly Large, Maria Lind, Locus +, Chus Martínez, Bernd Milla, Elke aus dem Moore, Nina Möntmann, Heike Munder, Lise Nellesmann, Tone Olaf Nielsen, Hans Ulrich Obrist, NEID, Paul O'Neill, Marion von Osten, Sarah Pierce/The Metropolitan Complex, Planet22, Tadej Pogacar, Prelom, Aisling Prior, Protoacademy, Catherine Queloz, Reinigungsgesellschaft, RELAX, Dorothee Richter, Maria Riskova, Stella Rollig, Sabine Schaschl-Cooper, Annette Schindler, Katharina Schlieben, Eva Schmidt, Trebor Scholz, Marco Scotini, Yukiko Shikata, Nathalie Boseul Shin, Gregory Sholette, Joshua Simon, Lisette Smits, Reinhard Storz, Bettina Steinbrügge, Szuper Gallery, Toasting Agency, TNC Network, Attila Tordai, Trinity Session, Mark Tribe, Unwetter, Value, Sencer Vardaman, Yvonne Volkart, Stevan Vukovic, Gavin Wade, Florian Waldvogel, Cristine Wang, Astrid Wege, Lee Welch WHW, Jan Van Woensel, Ina Wudtke, Florian Wüst, Tirdad Zolghadr, Tal Ben Zvi.

The following pages provide impressions of a selection of the venues to which the archive travelled and the Archive in its final resting place at the University of the Arts in Zurich.



**Curating Degree Zero Archive in Basel**  
31 January – 8 March 2003

[plug.in]  
St. Alban-Rheinweg 64, Basel  
[www.iplugin.org](http://www.iplugin.org)

With generous support of:  
Migros Kulturprozent & Birsig Stiftung

Production: Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva  
Exhibition Design: Elektrosmog, Annette Schindler,  
Wolfgang Hockenjos, Patrick Parisi

The organisers wish to particularly thank [plug.in] for their work on the initial production of the archive, and the initial design of the website.





**Curating Degree Zero Archive in Bremen**  
8 August – 15 September 2003

**Künstlerhaus Bremen**  
Am Deich 68/68, Bremen  
[www.kuenstlerhausbremen.de](http://www.kuenstlerhausbremen.de)

Exhibition design: Elektrosmog, Barnaby Drabble,  
Dorothee Richter  
Additional Design: Hops Bornemann  
Developed with support of: Kulturstiftung des Bundes

With the additional program  
**Short Presentation and Discussion  
on Critical Curating**  
with Barnaby Drabble, Helmut Draxler, Frederikke  
Hansen, Dorothee Richter, Stella Rollig,  
in Cooperation with the art project "No Man is an  
Island", GAK Bremen



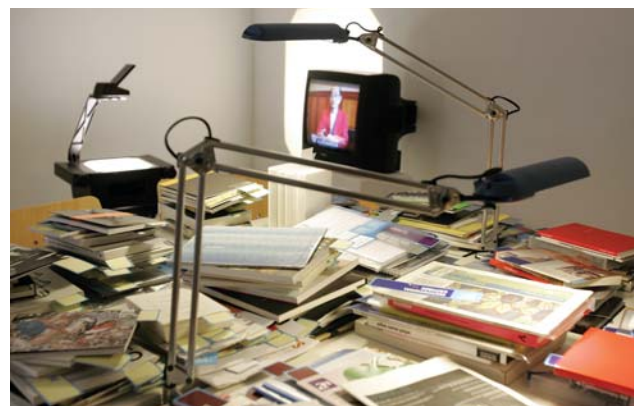


**Curating Degree Zero Archive in Lüneburg**  
12 February – 6 March 2005

**Halle für Kunst**  
Reichenbachstr. 2, Lüneburg  
[www.halle-fuer-kunst.de](http://www.halle-fuer-kunst.de)

Installation designed and re-interpreted by  
Reinigungsgesellschaft (Martin Keil and  
Henrik Mayer)

With the cooperation of the University Lüneburg





**Curating Degree Zero Archive in London**  
27 May – 26 June 2005

**Artlab at Imperial College, London**  
Installation design and archive re-interpretation  
by Artlab, Jeanine Richards and Charlotte Cullinan.

Discussion Event: 6th of May 2005  
"Curating is part of my practice"  
at Serpentine Gallery, The Sackler Centre of Arts  
Education  
with Henrik Schrat, Paul O'Neill, Lise Nelleman and  
Artlab, Jeanine Richards + Charlotte Cullinan



**Curating Degree Zero Archive in Korea**  
20 December 2006 – 4 February 2007

**Insa Art Space**  
Arts Council Korea, 90 Wanseo-dong, Jongno-gu,  
Seoul, Korea  
[www.insaartspace.or.kr](http://www.insaartspace.or.kr)

Display and re-interpretation  
by Sasa(44) & MeeNa Park

Opening talk and discussion 4pm December 20th



**Curating Degree Zero Archive in Croatia**  
29 October – 15 November 2008

**Galerija Miroslav Kraljević**  
Zagreb, Croatia  
[www.g-mk.hr](http://www.g-mk.hr)

Curators Ana Janeski and Ivana Mestrov invited the Curating Degree Zero Archive to Zagreb. The installation of the archive in the Galerija Miroslav Kraljević in collaboration with the group of young curating students and designed by Dora Budor & Maja Cule.





