



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

19.7.2011 – triage live art collective – Strange Passions

<http://11moments.org/passions>

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INTERVIEW #4: We would now like to introduce you to Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy from triage live art collective, an artist group from Melbourne, Australia. They will present their work "Strange Passions" in Berlin as part of the Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival. Hi Katerina, where are you at the moment?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

In Melbourne after a time in Sydney working on a new work as part of Underbelly's Live Art Residency on Cockatoo Island.

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Before we start to talk about your new work, I would like to ask you to define in one sentence what "Strange Passions" is about. Can you do that?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

"Strange Passions" is focused on enabling strangers to meet in a safe yet challenging context where they can put forward ideas they are passionate about.

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When I was thinking about strange passions in general and personal ways, I wasn't sure if I really have some myself. Maybe because I can only think about extraordinary stuff: which kind of strange passions are you looking for in your project?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

I think that really depends on each person – I have strange passions about climate change but also about pop music and even the subject of facing death. So we hope to cater for a vast range of passions. We'd like people to feel able to enter the dialogue regardless of the depth or simple pleasure of their passions.

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For me your project has a lot to do with intimacy. Isn't it difficult to open ourselves to a stranger? How are your experiences concerning that?



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Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Intimacy is at the core of all our projects – and "Strange Passions" in particular. In a recent version of the project we realised that when people wore 1/2 masks the passion of the conversation escalated – so we are thinking about using this disguise element as starting point and if people want to see each other they can negotiate the un-masking.

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Is it different to realise that project in Australia, Europe, Africa or the United States? Do people have similar strange passions everywhere?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Yes they do. It's fascinating to see the differences culturally between what one group will divulge and discuss and what another will not. Some people feel liberated, other a little trapped to begin with but no-one has said no – at least not yet.

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Can you give us an example for that?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Well in one session two people sat together and had each assumed that the other was 'the performer' when we intervened and told them that they were both there for each other. They laughed and began to dialogue. This idea of having things done for you on a stage or in a room is what live art challenges.

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What can a participant in Berlin expect?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

We're encouraging people not to wait for the miracle – but to maybe trust, commit, and create their own intimacy, moment and exchange. They can expect bilingual comedy, human warmth, a desire to facilitate their meeting, our interest in them and what they experienced.

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Are people getting so excited that they can't stop talking with each other?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Absolutely. We always tell people that they can continue as long as they both agree once the



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official meeting is over. Others just sit and leave when told, and others sit in silence.

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Do you have a website where we can find more information?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

We will be uploading the research material shortly onto a new page of our website titled "Strange Passions" and also posting updates as we continue to refine the process.

www.triageliveartcollective.com

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Please inform us on this site, when you are ready. But regarding our festival theme: How do you define a radical moment for yourself?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

I think that all art should be a radical moment.

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What does it mean to you personally?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

I also believe that the best art is without doubt a radical or revelatory moment – between people or within oneself, a form of bildung.

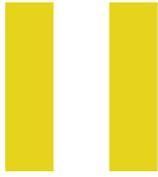
It has always been that for me as an artist and witness. Performance has been a profound agent in my life.

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Have you ever experienced a moment when time stood still? When was the last moment like that for you?

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Last year I was away from my partner and our children for 3 months. I'd won an award to travel and we couldn't all go. When I saw them at the airport after 12 weeks I was so overcome by their beauty. It was like being reunited after death. Feeling their bodies and sensing their souls ... that was a huge transcendent moment.



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Thank you for sharing this moment with us and thank you for the interview. I am looking forward to meet you in real life!

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Me too! I think that you must all be very interesting people in that office 10,000 miles away.

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Let's find that out...

Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy

Yes. It will also be a radical moment ...