PRESS RELEASE

STUNTS
Distributed, Playful & Disruptive

Location: Kunstquartier Bethanien, Studio 1, Mariannenplatz 2, 10997 Berlin  
Schedule: 12th of December 2015 (16.30-20.45). In English language.  
After conference at SPEKTRUM, Börknerstraße 12, Berlin-Kreuzberg (from 22.00).  
Admission: 5 Euro.  
Details: http://www.disruptionlab.org/stunts

Sixth event of the Disruption Network Lab, directed by Tatiana Bazzichelli, in cooperation with Kunstraum Kreuzberg /Bethanien. In collaboration with SPEKTRUM art | science | community, and Aksioma Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana. With the support of the Free Chelsea Manning Initiative Berlin. Media Partners: Furtherfield, taz, ExBerliner.

Speakers:

John Law (original member, Suicide Club and the Cacophony Society; co-founder, Billboard Liberation Front and Burning Man Festival, USA);  
Mustafa Al-Bassam (alias Tflow, former core member of the hacker group LulzSec, UK);  
Jean Peters (Inteleexit campaign, co-founder of Peng!

collective, DE); Marie Lechner (journalist and researcher, FR); M. C. McGrath (founder of Transparency Toolkit, USA/DE), Andrea Natella (former Luther Blissett conspirator, creative director of KOOK Artgency and guerrigliamarketing.it, IT); Ruth Catlow (co-founder of Furtherfield, UK).

In the era of big data and in the context of increasingly surveillance of corporations and government agencies, asymmetries in society become evident. How to respond in a constructive way to the threat of being tracked during our online (and offline) moves? And most of all, which kind or artistic responses can we imagine, if we want to maintain a playful and disruptive approach? Artists, hackers, hoaxers, mythmakers, storytellers and disrupters meet to discuss how to challenge closed systems from within, turning around the idea of “opposition” into the one of creating distributed, playful and disruptive interventions.

A stunt is an unexceptional act requiring particular skills, often performed by people in extreme or difficult situations. The idea of political stunts as an artistic and activist practice means to generate criticism by “performing the machine” which we want to fight - a strategy adopted by many hackers and artists. The concept of “political stunts” goes along with the act of exposing control mechanisms that can effect both institutions, and media corporations. To reveal social injustices or misconducts by corporations and governments from within becomes an artistic strategy.

This event proposes both to expose and to dissipate this tension through a network of multiple, distributed, playful and disruptive practices. The goal is to make people aware of such mechanisms, opening up a critical perspective and a common debate.

More Information: Disruption Network Lab (www.disruptionlab.org)  
Tatiana Bazzichelli (Artistic Director and Curator) tbazz@disruptionlab.org  
Daniela Silvestrin (Curator and Project Manager) daniela@disruptionlab.org  
Kim Voss (Production & Social Media) kim@disruptionlab.org

A project funded by Hauptstadtkulturfonds Berlin. In cooperation with Kunstraum Kreuzberg /Bethanien.