

PROF. BERND HERZOGENRATH
(GOETHE UNIVERSITÄT, FRANKFURT AM MAIN)

**THE COLOR OF BREATH,
THE COLOR OF AIR /
WAVELENGTH:
6000 Å NM /
COLOR:
TRANS-
PARENT**

JUNE 17TH, 5PM
AKC - AKADEMICKÉ
KONFERENCEČNÍ CENTRUM,
HUSOVA 4A, 110 00 PRAHA 1

**ORGANIZED BY THE INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC & FACULTY OF HUMANITIES WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CZECH SCIENCE
FOUNDATION (GAČR), PROJECT NO. 22-17984S: FOCAL IMAGES: VIOLENCE AND
INHUMANISM IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND MEDIA CULTURE.**

**THE COLOR OF BREATH, THE COLOR OF AIR/
WAVELENGTH: 6000Å NM /
COLOR: TRANSPARENT**

RESUMÉ:

BRUNO LATOUR HAS POINTED OUT THE NEED TO ASSEMBLE A POLITICAL BODY ABLE TO CLAIM ITS PART OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EARTH'S CHANGING STATE. "WE THE EARTHLINGS ARE BORN FROM THE SOIL AND FROM THE DUST TO WHICH WE WILL RETURN, AND THIS IS WHY WHAT WE USED TO CALL "THE HUMANITIES" ARE ALSO, FROM NOW ON, OUR SCIENCES." IN A FELICITOUS FIGURE OF SPEECH, THE ANTHROPOLOGIST TIMOTHY CHOI HAS TERMED THIS POLITICAL BODY, THAT LATOUR ENVISIONS, 'THE CONSPIRACY OF BREATHERS. DERIVED FROM THE LATIN WORD CONSPIRARE, (CON = "TOGETHER" + SPIRARE = "TO BREATHE"), THIS TERM, IN CHOY'S READING, REFERS TO SITUATIONS WHERE PEOPLE INTIMATELY SHARE THE AIR, "A BREATHING-TOGETHER, EMERGING IN MOMENTS OF DOING AND RECOGNIZING KINSHIPS AND INEQUALITIES OF CAPACITIES TO INHALE, ... COMPOSING A POLITICAL CROWD OF/AS BREATHERS." FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, 'CLIMATE,' OR 'ATMOSPHERE,' IS JUST THAT - OUR SHARED BREATH, AND AS SUCH NOT SOMETHING WE CAN (AND NEED TO) FIX FROM AN OUTSIDE POSITION, LIKE AN ENGINEER WHO FIXES A RUN-DOWN MACHINE ... NO: WE PARTICIPATE IN THIS, WE 'ARE' THE CLIMATE, SO TO SPEAK. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THROUGH BREATHING - THROUGH INHALING AND EXHALING - THE WORLD BECOMES PART OF US, WE BECOME PART OF THE WORLD, IN A RHYTHMIC REFRAIN ... MY BODY FOLDS IN THE AIR, THE AIR ENFOLDS MY BODY. TO BE CLEAR: SUCH A CON-SPIRACY OF BREATHERS IS NOT RESTRICTED TO THE HUMAN SPECIES ONLY. IN FACT, ALL THE AIR THAT ALL ANIMALS INHALE AND NEED FOR BREATHING IS CREATED BY THE PLANT WORLD, AND THE PLANTS IN TURN NEED OUR EXHALED AIR TO PROCESS IN THEIR PHOTOSYNTHESIS TO PRODUCE THE AIR THAT WE NEED TO STAY ALIVE, AND SO ON. SO, THERE IS IN FACT A CONSPIRACY OF BREATHERS AT WORK ALREADY, AT EVERY MOMENT, WHICH 'WE ALL' DEPEND UPON: THE ATMOSPHERE, WHICH WE ALL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN. DRAWING IN-SPIRATION (!) FROM TWO ARTISTS - JOHN LUTHER ADAMS AND TOMÁS SARACENO, MY TALK WILL TRY AND COMPOSE A FUTURE WORLD OF AIR AND BREATH.