

Markus Ambach

Lecture 20.11.

**Acting freely in occupied spaces
On artistic practice between art, city and planning**

Within a society of consensus that considers all news to be good news, the question of instrumentalisation takes a back seat. (Self-)Critique and participation has become a staple of the socially compatible wish list of city marketing agencies, cities and municipalities. How is it possible, beyond the virtuality of city council empathy, to open up spaces for action in city centres – spaces in which the urban environment can be encountered at eye level to the syntax of the city together?

Markus Ambach is an artist, project author and initiator of numerous projects in public space, artist-generated project spaces and exhibitions. He lives and works in Düsseldorf, where he runs *The Chain*, a project space at the intersection of the private and public sphere, since 2010. In 2012 he realised *Der urbane Kongress (The urban congress)*, a project for how to deal with the stock of art in public space of Cologne (with Kay von Keitz). Markus Ambach teaches at the Universität der Künste in Berlin