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**PRESS RELEASE**

**POPPOSITIONS  
ART FAIR — 2017**

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*“Don’t Agonize,  
Organize!”*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE! THE 6TH EDITION OF POPPOSITIONS TAKES PLACE FROM 20-23 APRIL AT ING ART CENTER**

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- *After 6 years, POPPOSITIONS has become the leading critical fair for contemporary art.*
- *Being independent, experimental and niche, POPPOSITIONS gathers the artists and galleries before their breakthrough.*
- *This 6th edition is more than ever an exhibition – assembled by curator Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk – rather than a combination of individual white booths.*
- *This year POPPOSITIONS is located right at the heart of Brussels' museums quarter on Place Royal, opposite from the Royal Fine Art Museum, Magritte Museum, BOZAR, and near other fairs such as Independent and YIA.*
- *POPPOSITIONS takes place at the ING Art Center, acting from within significant institutional structures to encourage new, experimental and critical approaches to the art market.*
- *With only 21 participants, POPPOSITIONS is more about content than about commerce.*
- *The fair is a true discovery for both professionals and amateurs, collectors and art lovers.*



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The sixth edition of POPPOSITIONS, taking place at ING Art Center from 20 to 23 April, will gather 21 selected galleries, project spaces and artist initiatives and a discursive program of talks, discussions and lectures.

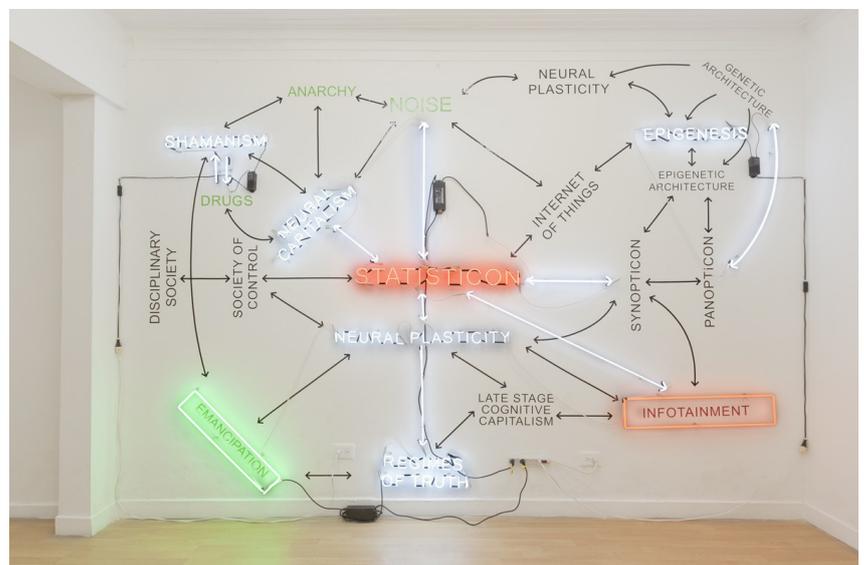
The 2017 edition is hosted at Hotel Coudenberg (ING Art Center). The building is located right at the heart of Brussels' museums quarter on Place Royale, opposite from Royal Fine Art Museum, Magritte Museum and BOZAR, at a walking distance from the Sablon neighbourhood. As a commentary on the nature of the site, POPPOSITIONS is not looking to erect additional walls, but rather go beyond the esthetic of the white booth and respond to that what is given, to make an integral presentation in which matters coalesce and diverge. How can we punch a hole in the echo chamber of contemporary art? Bypass the continuous reaffirmation of the neoliberal logic that governs the art market?

Conceived as an experiment with the art fair format, POPPOSITIONS annually aims to prompt and trigger experimental and innovative approaches to the art market. It takes the shape of a curated exhibition and an ongoing critical dialogue as to collectively emphasize matters of shared concern, rather than business as usual.

In that, POPPOSITIONS strongly believes in a collaborative and responsive approach, by being quick on its feet and working together with those initiatives, artists, curators and collectors that jointly pursue to rise to the occasion and grapple with the complexity of our current social and political climate. It attracts wide support from the art sector and serves as an inspirational format for new alternative art fairs throughout Europe.

Having been established in 2011 as a counterpoint to mainstream art fairs, POPPOSITIONS has previously addressed questions of artistic agency, self-organisation, cynicism and criticality in order to shape its profile within the cultural and economic landscape. With the 2017 leitmotiv Don't Agonize, Organize! inspired by philosopher Rosi Braidotti, the forthcoming edition of POPPOSITIONS seeks to respond to the political turmoil we are currently experiencing on a geopolitical scale. We believe that art needs to be more political than ever. Not as a genre, but as a field that must extend and apply itself without invitation, to trigger responses where none have been called for, and to confront what we take for granted.

To further amplify and shape its programmatic focus, Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk (The Office for Curating, NL) has been appointed as the artistic director of this year's edition. This year's jury consisted of artist Kasper Bosmans, artist and curator Jo-ey Tang and curator Elise Lammer, with the support of curator Niekolaas Johannes Lekkerkerk. With the leitmotiv as a leading principle, the jury has sought for proposals that steer and reinvent the political imagination by proposing diverse forms of political opposition that are rich in alternatives, concrete in propositions, and delivered through everyday projects. On this premise, the jury has selected the following 21 project spaces, artist initiatives and galleries that re-envision what it means to be grounded, accountable and active as part of a community with shared hopes and aspirations:



Warren Neidich, *The Statisticon*, 2016. Neon sculpture, 12 ft x 9 ft. Courtesy of the artist and MIAMI Practicas Contemporaneas, Bogotá.

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## **PARTICIPANTS POPPOSITIONS 2017:**

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### **ARCHIRAAR GALLERY (Antwerp, BE)**

Roman Moriceau (GERMANY, 1973)

### **LE CUBE – INDEPENDENT ART ROOM (Rabat, MA)**

Abdessamad El Montassir (MOROCCO, 1989)

### **CULTUURCENTRUM STROMBEEK (Strombeek-Bever, BE)**

Yannick Ganseman (BELGIUM, 1984)

### **DIENSTGEBÄUDE (Zürich, CH)**

Yoan Mudry (SWITZERLAND, 1990)

### **DMW ART SPACE (Antwerp, BE)**

Johan Gelper (BELGIUM, 1980)

### **ALDAMA FABRE GALLERY (Bilbao, ES)**

Virginia Gamna (ITALY, 1989)

### **FOKU – ESTONIAN UNION OF PHOTOGRAPHY ARTISTS (Tallinn, EE)**

Paul Kuimet (ESTONIA, 1984)

### **FORMATOCOMODO (Madrid, ES)**

Engel Leonardo (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1977)

### **RIANNE GROEN (Rotterdam, NL)**

Miko Veldkamp (SURINAME, 1982)

### **KIM? CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE (Riga, LV)**

Indrikis Gelzis (LATVIA, 1988)

### **KRUPIC KERSTING KUK (Colonge, DE)**

Irena Eden (GERMANY, 1974) & Stijn Lernout  
(BELGIUM, 1972)

### **LAMART OFFSPACE (Antwerp, BE)**

Flurin Bisig (SWITZERLAND, 1982)

### **MASSIMODELUCA (Venice, IT)**

Paolo Brambilla (ITALY, 1990)

### **MAUVE (Vienna, AT)**

Birke Gorm (GERMANY, 1986), Bernhard Rappold  
(AUSTRIA, 1979) & Thomas Whittle (UNITED  
KINGDOM, 1988)

### **THE OFFICE OF AESTHETIC OCCUPATION (California, US)**

Warren Neidich (UNITED STATES, 1958)

### **RUNDUM (Tallinn, EE)**

Kristina Ollek (ESTONIA, 1989)

### **SALÓN (Madrid, ES)**

Momu (SPAIN, 1982) & No Es (SWITZERLAND, 1979)

### **SUNS AND STARS (Amsterdam, NL)**

Floris Schönfeld (UNITED STATES, 1982)

### **SYNDICATE (Cologne, DE)**

Secum Cheung (UNITED KINGDOM, 1984)

### **VITRINE (London, UK/Basel, CH)**

Sam Porritt (UNITED KINGDOM, 1979)

### **Ў GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART (Minsk, BY)**

Jura Shust (BELARUS, 1983)

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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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### DON'T AGONIZE, ORGANIZE POPPOSITIONS 2017

April 20-23, 2017

ING ART CENTER  
Kunstberg — Koningsplein 6  
1000 Brussel

Press day:  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of April  
12:00 – 18:00

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*Paul Kuimet, Grid Study, 2016, installation view. Courtesy of the artist and Contemporary Art Museum of Estonia (EKKM).*