

CHANTAL MOUFFE

2019 09/26 - 2019 09/26

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN A POST-POLITICAL AGE



Red Discussion 2, Chantal Mouffe 2 by Nada Prlja Ink on paper
50x35cm

In conjunction with the exhibition Mot Pictures (<https://www.icia.se/sv/all-exhibitions/motbilder/>), (2014), ICIA - Institute for Contemporary Ideas and Art in Chantal Mouffe offered a lecture where, among other things, she talked about artistic strategies in the political landscape. ICIA had the pleasure to once again invite you to an evening with Chantal Mouffe and subsequent conversations with Sinziana Ravini.

Lecture and talks were conducted in English.

Presented in collaboration with Gothenburg Literature House and Tankekraft publishing house.

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2019

Time: 18:30 - 21

Place: ICIA kunsthall, Järnmalmgatan 5, Ringön, Gothenburg.

Chantal Mouffe has long talked about the danger of what she calls the "consensus illusion", which is based on the desire to erase the right and left scales in favor of a neoliberal social democratic center politics. In this post-political age, citizens lose the opportunity to choose between different political projects and their only role is to endorse the "rational" neoliberal hegemony formulated by the central parties as the only reasonable one. Confidence in the democratic project is being eroded and voter participation is declining. Mouffe has warned early on that it will lead to an increased right-wing populism that puts the political elite against the people. In Europe and other parts of the world, we are seeing the emergence of this development at a furious pace. In Sweden, we are right now at a time when former alliances have been replaced by new bloc formations, with a conservative right standing on one side and the left on the other by a centerpiece desperately clinging to neoliberal middle politics. This center dismisses its opponents as populists or extremists and thus contributes to an antagonistic rather than an agonistic political climate,

something Mouffe and many others deem necessary for democracy. In 2018, Chantal Mouffe came out with the book *To the defense of left-wing populism* (translated and published in Swedish by the publisher Tankekraft, 2019).

What strategies can we find to formulate a resistance to the increasing class differences of the time, social inequalities and racism as right-wing radical voices grow larger every day? How do we mobilize? What can the role of art be in this time? These are some of the questions this evening revolved around.

CREDITS:

Chantal Mouffe is a professor of political theory at the Center for Democracy Studies at the University of Westminster in London and has been a central voice in the European social debate since the 1980s. Some of her most notable books are *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy* (1985 with Ernesto Laclau); *On the Political* (2005) and *Agonistics - Thinking the World Politically* (2013) and *To the Left Populism* (2018) which have just been published in Swedish (Tankekraft publishing house).

Sinziana Ravini is an art and literature critic living in Paris, a theory teacher at Sorbonne, editor-in-chief of the *Palette* together with Fredrik Svensk, curator of "novel exhibitions", and a researcher in psychopathology at the University of Paris Diderot with an ongoing dissertation project on the relationship of religion to laughter. Last year she published the novel *La diagonale du désir* (Editions Stock) which will be released in Swedish next year.

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