

PAF SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2008

01/08/2008 – 10/08/2008 | PerformingArtsForum

St. Erme, France

www.pa-f.net

The «Universities» at PAF are a project initiated in the year 2005 by a number of artists, theoreticians and practitioners during the initial meeting in PAF. The «Summer University» [SU] in August 2008 is the fifth «University» project organized in the building in St. Erme.

The main interest of SU08 is to experiment with and to test the practices PAF is developing and will develop in future: areas of research, modes (methods, procedures, techniques) of production, frames of collaboration, types of projects, discursive engagement by all interested participants. In a few words: all activities that make up knowledge production in the arts, theory and cultural practice, open and specific.

«University» and participation

«University» is the term that replaces «Academy» referring to the Renaissance principle of combining research and education in one location. Secondly, it is called «University» because PAF will be open to all areas of knowledge, even though art is the starting point.

SU08 isn't another international summer academy, offering workshops, lectures, panels etc. under a representative topic for which participants apply. The participants of SU08 are at the same time its organizers, in that they are proposing, organizing, and taking part in different projects and activities during SU08. In contrast to existing academies, SU08 isn't based on the principle of «pay to learn and teach to earn». Every participant pays the same fee (the equivalent of food, lodging and technical organization) to take part, no matter what competence or specific knowledge he/she can offer. The access to SU08 is open, but more specifically determined by each project/activity. (See the program on the website)

The aim behind the open access and self-organization is to enable parallel heterogeneous research platforms, to experiment with configurations, extensions, transformations, interferences, mergings and forkings of projects/activities.

Preparation & Programme

Everyone is invited to propose the project or activity he/she would like to organize within SU08. The only limit of choice is the capacity of the house.

The proposals for the SU08 will be announced on the PAF-website: www.pa-f.net

How to become a participant?

It's as easy as sending an email with or without a proposal to Jan Ritsema: janritsema@mac.com

Report/«press conferences»

A proposed format for sharing knowledge and information is the so called «press conference». Somewhat old-fashioned and too official for the informality of these meetings, «press conferences» can be used as a format for reports made by a group or individual to the others, either on regular basis or by special appointment.

Do you need to make a proposal to take part in the SU08?

No, you can take part without making a proposal.

Expenses

The participation fee is 11 EUR per person per night plus 17 EUR per day for food (three meals a day).

Period

1–10 August 2008 is the core period of SU08, but it is possible to come earlier or stay longer or to join SU08 only some days within this main period.

Contact & Information

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www.pa-f.net





PAF – A Mission Statement

PAF is a place for the professionals and not-yet-professionals in the field of performing arts, visual art, music, film, literature, new media, theory and cultural production, who seek to research and determine their own conditions of work. PAF is for people who can motorize their own artistic and knowledge production, not only responding to the opportunities given by the institutional market.

Initiated and run by artists, theoreticians, practitioners and activists themselves, PAF is a user-created informal institution. It is a platform for anyone who wants to expand possibilities and interests in his/her own working practice.

PAF is located in a former convent school (6.400 m²), in a 1.2 hectare garden in the village of St. Erme, France, approximately 130km northeast of Paris.



PAF is

- a forum for producing knowledge in critical exchange and ongoing discursive practice
- a place for temporary autonomy and full focus on work
- a tool-machine where one can work on developing methods and procedures, not necessarily driven toward a product
- a place for experimenting with other than known modes of production and organization of work, e.g. open source production
- a place for distraction, retreat and conviviality

PAF is not a venue which has the budget to produce, promote and distribute projects, but it is a house offering generous space and unlimited time, a possibility to shape your own conditions of work, as well as contact and exchange of content and other modes of production with the artists and theoreticians working at PAF.

PAF is an institution which continues to develop on the basis of what each person brings through his/her engagement. It has no other aim but to operate on the principles of self-organization, whereby one assumes the responsibility for creating and organizing his/her own work and activity in PAF. One can be working alone in PAF. But PAF also offers spontaneous ways to interact with others, without forcing collaboration.



PAF – Practical Information

Building & Garden

General use of the 6.500m² building (chapel, dining room, media space, etc.) and the garden is free for guests. The house is situated in a large, 1.2 ha property surrounded by beautiful forests and fields. The property contains a cultivated courtyard, wild meadows, a little wood and a hill with a beautiful panoramic view. There is plenty of space for outdoor sports and recreation.



Media Space

A media space is available to all guests. It is equipped with wireless and cable internet connections, VHS players, DVD players, DVD burners, a projector and monitors. The stock of DVDs and videos is in constant growth.

We are in the process of creating a well-equipped library/media stock including books, CDs, DVDs, Videos, Software. We ask everybody who visits PAF to bring their most interesting books and videos as well as videos, texts etc. of their own work in order to donate or copy for the biblio-/mediatheque.



Internet

Wireless LAN/Airport connections are throughout most of the building and courtyard with a cable connection in the media space. The use of the internet is free.

Legal Status/Liability

PAF is an association. Liability insurance is not possible for PAF as long as the necessary restaurations of the building are not realised. Therefore PAF is not and cannot be liable in any way for any loss, damage or personal harm done to you in whatever way.

PAF is not a hotel. It is informal. There is no staff. Everybody is asked to pitch in and clean their traces. The principle: Make things possible for each other.



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How to get to PAF

PAF is located in the village St. Erme/France, 130km northeast of Paris, 240km south of Brussels, 35km from Reims (Champagne) and 20km from Laon (Aisne).

By Car

You can plan your route to PAF on www.viamichelin.com

If you don't find the way in St. Erme, ask for the old Couvent, rue Haute 15.

Everyone knows where it is and can show you the way.

By Train

You can find the train schedule on www.voyages-sncf.com

Option 1: Paris Gare du Nord – Laon (95 min.), Laon – St. Erme (14 min.)

Option 2 (longer): Paris Gare de L'Est – Reims (105 min.), Reims – St. Erme (23 min.)

Please inform us about your arrival time and we will pick you up in St. Erme Gare (2.2km from PAF).

