



Vienna, on May 5th, 2015

#openschool – a flying classroom for a new, neighbourly culture of education

On behalf of the MAK Vienna and the exhibition 2051: Smart Life in the City, the #openschool (written with three o's) experiment encourages active participation when it comes to the subject of education: In the school of tomorrow, information is no longer handed down by a teacher, connections are created between people - experts, curious minds, friends and neighbours.

The year 2051: Everybody is good at something, everybody knows something. On the internet, information is ever-present. In the school of tomorrow, there are no classes, no separation between teachers and students, no lesson plans. The school of tomorrow doesn't happen in a fixed location. Everybody can teach and learn everywhere. It's all based on connections. Therefore, strengthening the neighbourhood plays a central part.

Everybody can become a part of the #openschool-crowd surrounding Van Bo Le-Mentzel and Jakob List Barth and help to shape our mobile minischool.

Our kickoff event is happening on May 16, 2015, between 1 und 4 pm, at the MAK Forum, Österreichisches Museum für angewandte Kunst (Austrian Museum of Applied Arts), Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna. The starting pistol for building our mobile minischool will be fired at the same location during the opening of the Vienna Biennale on June 11, 2015.

The initiators

Van Bo Le-Mentzel (38) is a Berlin-based architect as well as a visiting professor at the HFBK Hamburg. As a former refugee, Van Bo mainly occupies himself with topics such as participation and justice, but also German design and open source. Van Bo is the inventor of the One-Sqm-House. Aside from #dclass, a conference on education, he is also the founder of the Open Academy Of The Fine Hearts, an educational project based in Hamburg.

The #openschool is based on Van Bo's theory of Crowducation. It is a verbal creation made up of crowd and education.



Jakob Listabarth (21) studies graphic design and comes from a family of teachers. He is part of the so-called Generation Y that has a critical stance towards the educational system and knowledge gained in institutions. He met Van Bo at #dclass, whose look and website he designed. Together, they now want to build their very own school.

The concept

#openschool is a meeting place for the neighbourhood that can be constructed at different public spaces out of temporary architecture. Wherever the #openschool sets up camp, people will be able to laugh and to cry together, to love and to fight, to build and to repair, to found and to fail, to cook and to eat, to dance and to train, to garden and to nourish, to play and to laze around, in short: They will be learning.

The #openschool is anything but elitist. It is free, open-ended and relying on good neighbourly relations. Core elements are recurring events called Speakout Mondays. Here, renowned individuals, neighbours and specials will be holding talks.

What's important to the initiators is the process of developing something together. This is why there are no strict creative guidelines. The #openschool is developed with neighbours for neighbours and should be seen as an experiment. It can't be foretold if it will work out, but one thing is clear: With this experiment, Van Bo Le-Mentzel and Jakob Listabarth encourage to actively shape education.

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