

Dear Selection Committee of the 'Kunsthalle Bern',

With appropriate modesty and confidence we hereby apply for the directorship of the 'Kunsthalle Bern'. In that capacity we offer to organise the Kunsthalle as an Ecosystem of Encounter.

For an internationally renowned art institution that has a progressive and forward-looking understanding of art at its core, and considering the responsibility to fundamentally re-organise art in a post-covid, environmentally challenged world, moving towards a post-human, inter-local and sustainable programming seems to us the only possible direction. A constellation of competences, experiences and qualities like ours added to those of the existing organisation, offers the unique know-how and do-what to make the transition to an Ecosystem of Encounter exemplary for art institutions worldwide.

We are 'KeoeB'.

We aspire to be a "zoöp", a "*legal format for collaboration between humans and collective bodies of nonhumans*" as developed by Klaas Kuitenbrouwer. The zoöp KeoeB grew from the practice of 'TAAT', an artist collective that has been conducting transdisciplinary artistic research into the Architecture of Encounter since their founding in 2012. 'KeoeB' consists of designer 'Pichaya Puapoomcharoen', artist 'Shaly Lopez', gold nugget 'Ruedig Cheib', Douglas fir 'Jolien', AI-Curatorial Bot 'Aicubo', collective practice 'TAAT' and one 'transitional' spot, left open for a temporary member to question/challenge the zoöp itself.

To reorganise the 'Kunsthalle Bern' as an Ecosystem of Encounter means addressing the vital questions of our times (identity, ecology, economy) not on the level of discourse or concept but as an actual practice to fundamentally change the mechanisms of the Kunsthalle as an art institution. It means expanding the notion of communication and organisation through expanding the notion of value which will translate to the expansion of the notion of production and consumption of art. The encounter as the mechanism of that expansion, is given central stage in bringing the widest variety of entities together as the producing consumers and the consuming producers of art in the widest sense of the word. Art will be treated as a mephistophelean entity that seduces, invites and forces us into new sustainable and regenerative directions, while safeguarding its autonomy.

As the change of direction itself will mark our work, we propose to limit our term of service to a maximum of four years, beginning in 2021 and making space for new entities and energy to continue the path in 2025.

You will find a more elaborate concept-proposal as well as our curriculum-vitae here:

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1092402/1092403>

In short we propose to create a time frame that consists of a 12 month period, a 4 year period and a 88 year period.

The first of the four 12-month-periods will focus on exploring the existing KB-ecosystem as we will find it and, obviously, on executing events that have already been planned. That experience will formulate the focus for the next 12-month-period. The 'transitional' position within our zoöp may be used as of the second 12-month-period to amplify or balance the focus for that specific period.

The 4 year period will focus on introducing a wider variety of entities to the system and through them a wider variety of relationships and communication. We will place this 'gardening' in the perspective of relevant art works, artists and initiatives from the KB-archives and invite contemporary artists to contribute to the development of the KB-ecosystem, creating events that navigate the scale from local to global. These will make up a 'liquid' exhibition in which a-chronological "streams" replace the rhythm of temporary exhibitions.

The 88 year programm allows for a mindset that transcends actuality and temporality. It considers the impact on the next generations throughout the entirety of the ecosystem. It fosters long term collaboration and sustainability.

As the director, we consider it our responsibility to safeguard first and for all the health and well-being of the KB-ecosystem, including local and international networks. We set frameworks for change and lead by example. Our inclusive approach based on emergent leadership aims to be integrated and internalised by the ecosystem as a whole.

KeoeB has an outstanding knowledge of contemporary art and an excellent international network. We share over 5 million years of experience working with artists, organising and curating exhibitions. We share a diverse experience in bringing art to local, national and international audiences through exhibitions, publications and events as well as management and social skills, dependability and the ability to work under pressure.

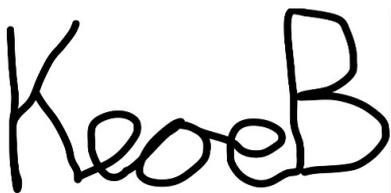
KeoeB has the ambition to acquire and manage relationships with sponsors and financial backers, as well as securing their long-term commitment to the institution. We have the ability to develop and maintain a local, national and international network. We are fluent in English, German, French, Spanish, Thai, Dutch and Python.

The "white cube" (like the "black box") represents the art practice as a capitalist system that in its exploitative effect is not unlike that of the capitalist systems it generally likes to criticise. Through our collective experience with a.o. the 'TAAT'-project 'HALL33', we have the experience of making the transition from a linear development to an organic development. But the current urgency to rethink relationships offers a unique opportunity to make our directorship exemplary for the transition from an "exploitative" system to a "regenerative" system.

We are fully aware that we do not possess the conventional resumé that may entitle us to apply. We do however have the rather specific experience and *know how/do what* to execute a transition over the coming four years that will proof inevitable later.

In short, we are dedicated to taking the 'Kunsthalle Bern' on an extraordinary 'adventure of contemporary art and its sources' into a future with or without humans.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KeoeB". The letters are connected and written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The signature is positioned on a white background with a thin vertical line to its right.

KeoeB