ARTIST PHILOSOPHERS.
PHILOSOPHY AS ARTS-BASED RESEARCH (2014–17)

1 Corinna Kirchhoff, Wolfgang Michael, Nikolaus Gansterer at ARTLAB #1 TQW Studios January 16th 2015.
2 Nikolaus Gansterer at ARTLAB #1 TQW Studios January 16th 2015.
3 Susanne Valerie Granzer at ARTLAB #1 TQW Studios January 16th 2015.

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From the very beginning of European philosophy in ancient Greece, the relation between philosophy and arts has been highly problematic. On the one hand we find “artist-philosophers” like Plato or Nietzsche, whose philosophical investigations used artistic practices to demonstrate their thoughts; on the other hand philosophy has been extremely hostile to such practices, especially since Plato himself banned a wide range of arts from his ideal state ruled by philosophers.

Philosophers, since then, have often even opposed arts, claiming that they were doing science (reasoning) rather than “art”—which they equal with “poetry”, based on fiction and pure imagination. Through his conception of the “Künstlerphilosoph” (artist-philosopher), Nietzsche probably questioned this Socratic image of philosophy most profoundly by calling a new kind of post-Socratic “philosophers to come” ready to perform philosophy in an almost “anti-Platonic” manner by precisely crossing-over the disciplines of arts and science. Not to mind their gap, but in order to find a new (anti-Platonic) relation between philosophy and arts that will produce a different kind of philosophy and new forms of philosophy-based art in the end. In accordance with this historical demand, our PEEK-project aims to develop a research performance in which philosophy is methodologically and conceptually demonstrated as a matter of arts-based research rather than a “pure” science. This aim ought to be realized by organizing the research-festival “Philosophy On Stage #4” at Tanzquartier Vienna, where artists, philosophers and scientists will collaborate to demonstrate on stage their theory on the concept of artist philosopher both in a scientific and an artistic manner.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT
Three art-labs, three conferences, the research-festival “Philosophy On Stage #4” and several publications are planned to investigate the following key questions:

→ What makes philosophy an arts-based research practice?
→ What is the gift of arts-based research to the arts and to philosophy?
→ How does Nietzsche’s concept of the artist-philosopher call us to crossover art and philosophy?
→ Which forms and international networks exist at present? [Mapping the research field]
→ From where does the need to perform philosophy derive, from a historical, methodological, global perspective?

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