



The **Through the roadblocks: realities in raw motion** conference is co-organised by the Department of Multimedia and Graphic Arts (Art History and Theory Research Lab) of the **Cyprus University of Technology**, the non governmental organisation **NeMe**, and the **Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture**.

**Through the roadblocks: realities in raw motion** aims to examine the complex dynamics and often overlooked inter-connections between inclusion and exclusion, sharing and denial, identity and borders, the status of citizenship and the fundamental aporia of democracy in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. The conference is held during the Cypriot Presidency of the European Union, which is not only a motive to examine the recent history of the divided island of Cyprus, but also a perfect occasion to spotlight the roadblocks, whether real, implied, concealed and repressed which still exist within this region. After the “Arab Spring” and the Occupy movements, the enthusiasm which existed only one year ago has now turned into a long-lasting process of restructuring and reverberations of different policies and developments. As Tomasi di Lampedusa’s famous saying reminds us, does everything, have to change, so that everything can stay the same, or can we really say some roadblocks were knocked down and passed through? Whatever the answer may be, what is the role of art and what happens when art meets politics, and vice versa? Roadblocks and borders exist to exclude and stop crossings; yet, people, ideas, culture and in many cases, trading of political ‘products’ expose the porosity of these enforced demarcation lines. What is the nature of, and the transformations that take place during, these crossings? And, are roadblocks of any kind simply division/ obstruction ‘lines’ or are they spaces that contain (in all meanings of the word) activities that are unique to them? To answer these, and many other questions, philosophers and artists, theorists and activists, from different professional fields and from different parts of the world will meet in Limassol, showing that already this unique event helps to create a shared engine which puts in question different roadblocks.

#### **Evening keynote speakers**

- **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak** (IN/US)
- **Tariq Ali** (PK/UK)

#### **Session keynote speakers**

Lanfranco, Aceti (IT/UK/TR), George Alexander (AU), Srećko Horvat (HR), Nada Shabout (IQ/US).

#### **Speakers**

Klitsa Antoniou (CY), Boris Bakal (HR), Antonis Balasopoulos (GR/CY), Helene Black (CY), Umut Bozkurt (CY), Bernd Bräunlich (DE), Çağlar Çetin (TR), Dimitris Charitos (GR), Yiannis Christidis (GR/CY), Marianna Christofides (CY/DE), Cotis K (GR), Antonis Danos (CY), Yannis Economou (CY), Mayssa Fattouh (LB/QA), Phillip George (AU), Jean-Pierre Hébert (FR/CA), Tahl Kaminer (IL), George Katodrytis (CY/AE), Lara Khaldi (PS), Yazan Khalili (PS), Nesrine Khodr (LB), Gabriel Koureas (CY/UK), Maria Lianou (CY/GR), Peter Lyssiotis (AU), Androulla Michael (CY/FR), Andreas Panayiotou (CY), Katerina Pejovic (SI), Artemis Potamianou (GR), Ghalya Saadawi (LB/UK), Nana Sachini (GR), Guli Silberstein (IL), Sharmeen Syed (PK/AE), Nicos Synnos (CY), Sophia Toumboura (GR), Nikos Trimnikliotis (CY), Susanne Weiß (DE), Yannis Yapanis (CY), Iannis Zannos (GR), Lena Zeise (DE).

The language of the conference is English. Attendance is free and open to all.

- **Conference chairs:** Antonis Danos (CY) & Helene Black (CY)
- **International Coordinator:** Srećko Horvat (HR)
- **Cyprus Coordinator:** Nikolas Defteras (CY)
- **Editor of the Conference reader:** Denise Robinson (AU/UK)

#### **Dates & Venues**

##### **23 November 2012, 11am – 5.30pm**

Presentations by Artists & Scholars: Berengaria Room, Evagoras Lanitis Centre, Limassol, Cyprus.

##### **23 November 2012, 8pm – 10pm**

Evening keynote lecture: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Pefkios Georgiades Amphitheatre, Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus.

##### **24 November 2012, 11am – 5.30pm**

Session Keynotes and Papers, Pefkios Georgiades Amphitheatre, Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus.

##### **25 November 2012, 11am – 5.30pm**

Session Keynotes and Papers, Pefkios Georgiades Amphitheatre, Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus.

##### **25 November 2012, 8pm – 10pm**

Evening keynote lecture: Tariq Ali, Pefkios Georgiades Amphitheatre, Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus.

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<http://www.cut.ac.cy/mga/research/arhistory/Activities/>