

**knowledge
is never
neutral**

**explorations of competitive
cultural nationalism . workshop**

2-6pm Saturday 30th March 2013

Atrium space, Trongate 103, Glasgow G1 5HD

transmission gallery

The Strickland Distribution



knowledge is never neutral

Transmission Gallery
www.transmissiongallery.org

The Strickland Distribution
strickdistro.org

knowledge is never neutral is a series of projects organised by The Strickland Distribution taking place from September 2012 to June 2013 within and outside the gallery space. Taken together, these projects set out to explore the circumstances that surround cultural and knowledge production. We look to situate this production within a wider set of social and historical relations, and to reflect on our practices across these relations. We invite you to join us in these processes.

Creating spaces for participatory dialogue – for listening and being listened to – the projects include a public walk, co-research inquiry, facilitated workshops, film screenings, reading and discussion groups, publication launches and the ongoing documentation and reconsideration of outcomes deriving from these projects.

The Strickland Distribution is an artist-run group supporting the development of independent research in art-related and non-institutional practices. Art-related includes research forms that directly implement artistic practice as a means of research method. Non-institutional includes forms of grass-roots histories, social inquiries and projects developed outside of academic frameworks and by groups and individuals normally excluded from such environments. The Strickland Distribution operates in the public sphere, seeking to stimulate and contribute to public education, discourse and debate around the topics and themes addressed through its projects.

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A half-day, facilitated workshop to consider recent critical explorations by curatorial practices which engage with nationalism(s) in North/Eastern Europe.

We propose an ‘outwardness’ in listening and looking, in locating ourselves within a wider European dynamic. To put that dynamic to the test and our lived relation within it. To gain insight for reflecting on the specificity of our experiences here in Scotland.

We’ll inquire into the work of curators in countries - as differently as Finland, Norway and Estonia - which appear to be undergoing strengthening assertions of national identity formation, perhaps not dissimilar to that which we are currently experiencing in Scotland today.

What we do share with our neighbours are the conditions of neoliberal globalisation, which (while historically contingent) are being presented to us as a ‘national challenge’. And through this ‘national gaze,’ culture (alongside a renewed ‘search for traditions’) is increasingly being re-purposed as a competitive factor of ‘national economic growth’.

Our explorations in this workshop will not attempt to address Scotland directly, but instead try to create a space in which to reflect on and inform our perhaps similar contemporary experiences to those of our North/Eastern neighbours.

The workshop will consist of a short series of international presentations (15-20mins) each followed by facilitated discussions of the issues arising from them.