

Utrecht, 31 October 2022

SUBJ: Dinner party briefing

Dear xxx,

Thank you for expressing your interest in joining us for a semi-real semi-fictional dinner party. We are so excited to welcome you! The BAK team has provided you with practical information, but we wanted to also be in touch to share some notes on the framework we will be entering into when we enter the BAK theater this weekend.

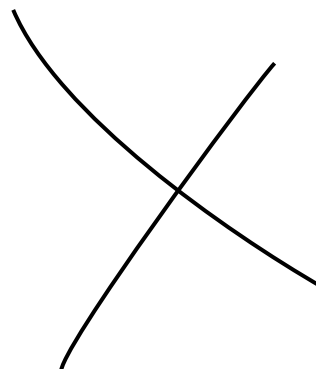
As we've been imagining, the upcoming dinner party will be our third encounter—the first was, in fact, the application where you so beautifully articulated responses to questions about your experience of structural conditions and imagined treasure of cultural heritage. In our time together, we are going to activate different aspects of speculative and negotiation-driven character development zones. The fraught project of solidarity circulates through these activations, taking as its dramaturgical partners cultural heritage and (infra)structural conditions, which determine value systems of remembrance and preservation. Your further participation at the dinner party, through dialogues and annotations that build on your responses, will contribute enormously.

In preparation, we imagine this invitation letter as our second encounter. Here you will find a recently-penned not-yet manifesto that maps a constellation of keywords to consider. Also, in the addendum below we've included a 'briefing', which is intended to provide you with a sketch of the framework for our fiction: the purpose of the gathering, its temporal and spatial coordinates and the party's guests.

If you've any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at zonecollective.annotation@gmail.com.

Until soon!

the Zoning Play Complex team
(Biljana, Kirila and Megan)



Purpose of Gathering

Eight characters, each represented by a workshop participant, meet for the first time in person and begin workshoping a proposal for the creation of a new center for cultural heritage preservation. In this preliminary discussion, the aim is to get a sense of the different positions around the table on the questions: What constitutes a “treasure” of cultural heritage? And, what constitutes “preservation”? Once positions are laid out, dialogues toward a collective articulation of the center’s mission statement begin. A workshop menu offers two distinct—if not also entangled—strategies for approaching negotiation: mutual aid and alliance-building.

Note: While the new center for cultural heritage preservation will be the motor for conversations, for the Complex team, it is imagined as a vessel through which different practices of solidarity and understandings of cultural heritage can emerge.

Time and Place

The gathering is imagined to take place somewhere on the peripheries of the European Union neighborhood in a city called Capital sometime between 2010 and 2015. The backdrop is the post-recession period of austerity measures; the global rise of movements for direct democracy; the re-discovery of performance and media histories within visual arts institutions; and the looming reality of neo-fascist governments on the horizon (some horizons being closer than others). This list is far from exhaustive, and the Complex team invites participants to add on to it and share over dinner.

Dinner guests

The eight characters to be activated as the dinner party guests include:

- **PINK KNIGHT** She is the mythified museum director.
- **STEADFAST SONATA** She is the curator who stayed.
- **O DIANE** She is the aesthetic interventionist.
- **TALKIE-WALKIE** She is the curator who left.
- **MR. CLEAN** He is the interventionist museum.
- **FULL GHOST** He is the cousin of an art critic.
- **FORMER JAMS** They are a multimedia architect and the architect’s architecture.