

**TITTLE: OMG, It's Really a Public Union Ceremony!**

**TYPE: Happening**

**ORGANIZED BY: Dilara Akay**

**VENUE: HAYAKAARTI**

**DATE: 28th June 2014**

**DURATION: Between 17:00-19:00 hrs.**

**DESCRIPTION:**

Culture, is the realm that involves all diversities of our lives. And we experience the pressure of power mechanisms in culture most of all. In other words, the language we use being in the first place, all our institutions, art, literature and popular culture tools are fields where this pressure is intensely felt/implemented. These circumstances threaten our cultural autonomy as individuals, i.e our right to decide about our lives all by ourselves. Instead of receiving support for our cultural diversity, we all become subjects of an overall discourse which is both standardizing and similarizing. Unfortunately this condition adds to our feelings of anger. Therefore we need to increase joyful, affectionate “common” spaces where we will be able to contentedly live out our humanistic emotions, identities and orientations; and yet have to persistently demand for the redefinition of a pluralistic democratic life for the world of our future.

This very activity, proposes to stake a claim and reflect on the extraordinary feeling of “love” which is the one and only defensive tool, way of resistance in our common life. It draws attention to the diversity of “affection”, which corresponds to the actual emotion intended with the usage of the word “love”, and therefore searching for new fields of affection ready to be rediscovered, emphasizes the importance of multiplying these and the significance of maintaining peace. With an inspiration from questions asked in Alain Badiou’s book *In Praise of Love*: “What happens if the world is tested starting from two instead of one? What kind of a place becomes the world if it is examined, realized and lived starting from not similarity but difference?”; and underlines the importance of encouraging a collective thinking on Badiou’s words on love, i.e: “[Love] is a construction which includes all sorts of things, everything, if lived starting from a perspective of experience, diversity. [And] the world is full of new developments and love must also be something that innovates. Risk and adventure must be re-invented against safety and comfort.” This happening aims to give inspiration to us to look at the world, with our free will, “not from the perspective of One but from the perspective of Two”, and to see and appreciate that world as independent individuals, free of the oppression of cultural and traditional institutions; finally to find new and proud ways to prepare our future with this diversity of life.

The activity, with the participation of the audience, will take place as a happening; in which voluntary participants (either by themselves or together with the ones they choose) will have a chance to sign the forms prepared by the artist for the purpose of making a Love/Loyalty/Coexistence Agreement—with persons, animals, symbols, concepts, etc. This agreement proposes to restructure our “common” love spaces starting from ourselves; by providing an adventurous and persistent co-existence ground in today’s world which values profit and safety above all.

*Translation: Tuna Poyrazoğlu*