

**Are you an artist with a foot in activism,
a community organizer, or a small business owner?
Are you someone who questions the status quo?
Are you interested in uncovering structures
of power and exclusion?
Are you the *exception and the rule*?**

This fall, the Museum of Arts and Design has commissioned London-based artists Karen Mirza and Brad Butler to present *The Museum of Non Participation: The Guest of a Citation*—an installment of the artists’ fictional museum and ongoing body of work that confronts (non) participation and the socio-political in art works, in conjunction with *Cheat Out to the Audience: Risk & Reward 2013*. For this presentation of the project, Mirza and Butler are inviting local residents to workshop and stage one of Bertolt Brecht’s short “learning plays” *The Exception and the Rule*. The “rule” implies a legal language or a directive, while the “exception” evokes being ungovernable or searching for an alternative to either the state or the free market.

Together, they act as both a statement, that “the rule cannot exist without the exception,” and a question, as to what a state of exception might be. Through the story of a merchant and his servant, *The Exception and the Rule* explores themes of capitalism and economics, labor and hierarchy, legislation and state ideology, hiding and secrecy, and the lack of union rights. The artists invite you to eat, talk, rehearse, and perform together in order to explore and enact how these themes play out in our daily lives, as well as to consider how these can be extended to the audience as active participants.

The Exception and the Rule is one of Brecht’s several *Lehrstücke* or teaching plays. Brecht himself translated the term as “learning play” intended to educate people primarily about socialist politics. Typically, this form of political theater privileges function above content and foregrounds collective teaching and learning through various modes of performance. It attempts to break down any division between author and audience through reflexive gestures that reveal the “mechanics of theater.” Through this and other plays, Brecht developed a way for non actors to learn through playing roles, adopting postures, getting rid of the divide between actors and audience, and focusing on process rather than a final project.

Working in the same vein, Mirza and Butler encourage you to enter into the project with the spirit of mutual enrichment and collaboration, where personal experiences/expertise and collective interpretation ultimately converge in the public presentation of the play.

Dates and Times

Monday November 11, 3pm – 10pm

Tuesday November 12, 3pm - 10pm

Saturday November 16 10am – 5pm

Sunday November 17 10am - 5pm

Monday November 18 7pm: Dress rehearsal

Tuesday November, 19 7pm: Public presentation of *The Exception and the Rule*

We ask that applicants commit to being present for all sessions,
your regular participation is essential for the group to work as a whole.

Apply Now!

To participate in the workshops and restaging of the play, please send:
- a brief biography
- a short 250 word description of your interest in the project
to public.programs@madmuseum.org by October 15, 2013.

Applications are free and open to anyone, however registration will be limited to 10 individuals.
Hospitality and a small stipend will be offered to the selected participants.

See more on the artists at
www.museumofnonparticipation.org

See information about the performance at
www.madmuseum.org/monp

a commission for Performa 13 by the Museum of Arts and Design