



# On Art and Resistance: Book Launch NO Rhetoric(s)

8 March 2024, 4.15 PM - 6.00 PM with Apéro  
Lerchenweg 36, Bern, Unitobler F-121

## With special guest Mieke Bal

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Professor (2005-2011)  
Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), University of Amsterdam

Reflecting on the politicization of art and the aestheticization of politics; which are their overlaps and tensions? To what extent are political or artistic practices really resistant? How does a rhetoric of «no» intersect with a «no» to rhetoric?

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## Program

Video Presentation

### It's About Time! Reflections on Time and Urgency (2020)

According to Mieke Bal, the title of the film is deliberately ambiguous: it is a «theoretical fiction» based around Bal's concept of «pre-posterous history», which she developed in her book on Caravaggio and contemporary art. The exclamation mark points to another message: it's about time we do something about the world!

Keynote Mieke Bal

### Art and/as Thought: Image-Thinking for Art's Political Relevance

Regarding the critique of the concept and practice of "artistic research", it is necessary to consider how to resist the imposition of research on art-making, as well as the simplification of thought. To make art politically relevant, the resistance to the indifference to the world is crucial: viewers can become witnesses instead of passive contemplators. It is not enough to deploy the imagination, albeit indispensable, but also, to coin a new verb, we must *image* what we imagine.

Roundtable and discussion

### Thinking Through Contemporary Global Art: A Roundtable

- Sara Alonso Gómez (Aix-Marseille University)
- Kendell Geers (South African Artist and Curator based in Brussels)
- Charlotte Matter (University of Zurich)
- Isabel J. Piniella Grillet (IHTP, Paris / CGS, University of Bern)
- Nadia Radwan (University of Bern / University of Neuchâtel)