



*The Center for Ethnography presents the Aesthetics and Cosmopolis Series – Part Two*

# L'INTERNATIONALE: AN OUTLINE FOR THE MUSEUMS OF THE COMMONS

With

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It could not have been a worse time to begin a transnational collaboration between six art institutions from the opposite ends of Europe. By the end of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the era of globalization was pinned between the negative polarities of personal insecurity and environmental degradation. The early promises of pulling the global masses out of poverty and opening up cultural exchange had been punctured by a resurgence of neo-nationalism and economic precarity. Democratic principles and cultural values were increasingly subordinated to the ultra-competitive policies and economic priorities of neo-liberalism. In the cultural sector there was growing despair that the Enlightenment principles had not only failed to address the complexities of universalism, but could no longer define the directions of a national project. Even the foundations of the European project as a cooperative venture were collapsing. Everywhere the sovereignty of the nation state, as the primary mechanism for organizing society and representing culture, was in ruin. It was, in this time of crisis, that a small group of museums and contemporary art institutions began a conversation on “rethinking our European heritage”. This group grew to become the confederation of six museums that called themselves: L’Internationale.



**Wednesday, November 13, 2019**

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**SSPA – Room 2112**

Light appetizers for early arrivals

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