



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Goshka Macuga and Mira Calix invite you to the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation at Frieze London 2016 for a series of open discussion sessions.

I am convinced that almost all great men who, because of their accomplishments, are recognized as leaders even of small groups share the same ideals. But they have little influence on the course of political events. It would almost appear that the very domain of human activity most crucial to the fate of nations is inescapably in the hands of wholly irresponsible political rulers.

Political leaders or governments owe their power either to the use of force or to their election by the masses. They cannot be regarded as representative of the superior moral or intellectual elements in a nation. In our time, the intellectual elite does not exercise any direct influence on the history of the world; the very fact of its division into many factions makes it impossible for its members to co-operate in the solution of today's problems.

Do you not share the feeling that a change could be brought about by a free association of men whose previous work and achievements offer a guarantee of their ability and integrity? (...) It seems to me nothing less than an imperative duty!

Albert Einstein, Extract from 'Why War?' correspondence between Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein

In a letter written in 1931, Albert Einstein invites Sigmund Freud to a frank exchange of views on the destructive nature of humankind. The scientist was at the time a leading member of the organization known as the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, founded in 1926 as an advisory body for the League of Nations which aimed to promote intellectual exchange between international scientists, researchers, teachers, artists and other cultural figures. The Institute found purpose, in part, in offering a greater range of intellectual experience towards resolving the problems of a fragmented Europe caught between two world wars. Later, as Europe found peace and gradually formed a union, the institute dissolved.

As the European Union reels from the result of the UK referendum, potentially resulting in the UK's exit from the EU, we again face significant world problems that require a greater diversity of expertise than is offered by current political agents, structures and agendas. Aspiring to reinvigorate the idea and ethos of the Institute, we'd like to invite you to join us to discuss the issues of the day. There are so many that it can feel overwhelming. 2016 has been the most dramatic and for some, quite virulent of years and we feel compelled to create an active reconsideration of the existing order of society.

Join us in an open forum to discuss freely and at leisure the issues that pre-occupy us in an attempt to articulate a series of cohesive, pertinent and pro-active questions on which to build. We'd appreciate your contribution in articulating the questions, the right questions, to address to both ourselves as well as the wider society around us.