

Event: ALAIN BADIOU
The Dialectic in Politics: Affirmation, Negation, and the Affirmative Part of the Negation

Date: Monday, November 11, 2019, 7 PM

Location: 88 Eldridge Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10002

Miguel Abreu Gallery and Sequence Press are pleased to welcome Alain Badiou on Monday, November 11th, to deliver a lecture titled, *The Dialectic in Politics: Affirmation, Negation, and the Affirmative Part of the Negation*.

The classical theory of dialectics manifests the idea of contradiction between two terms. For instance, the historical dialectic is the development of the contradiction between a dominant class and a dominated (or exploited) class. But this vision ends up reducing the dialectical process to negation only, to what Hegel himself calls “the work of the negative.” This is the view present today everywhere: we must “fight against” the established order.

Badiou will argue that, so conceived, the dialectic is always a dialectic of failure. For what counts ultimately is not pure negation, but what is affirmed from within the negation itself. Thus, as shown by the victories and failures in politics, there are not two terms, but three: the affirmation (the power of the enemy), the negation (the uprising and the struggle against this power) and what the negation contains of affirmation (the Idea of an entirely new affirmation).

Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Alain Badiou is a French philosopher, formerly chair of Philosophy at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris and founder of the faculty of Philosophy of the Université de Paris VIII with Gilles Deleuze, Michel Foucault and Jean-François Lyotard. Badiou has written about the concepts of Being, Truth, Event and the Subject in a way that is neither postmodern nor simply a repetition of modernity. Badiou has been involved in a number of political and militant organisations, and regularly comments on political events in the press and on television. Badiou argues for a return of communism as a political force. The “Immanence of Truths, Being and Event 3”, his latest major work, was published in French in 2018 (Fayard). “Matter and Form, Self-evidence and Surprise: On Jean-Luc Moulène’s Objects” was released by Sequence Press in May, 2019.

This event is co-sponsored by The Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University.

For more information, please contact the gallery:

Miguel Abreu Gallery
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Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 10:30AM–6:30PM or by appointment

Subway: F to East Broadway; B, D to Grand Street; J, M, Z to Delancey / Essex Street