

## The market hall as a public place for artist's interventions

We have selected market halls as the core topic for the **Mapping the Local** block seminar for the 2019 fall semester at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts. Market halls evolved from the ancient Greek agora because of their multiple functions as a social space, a market place and a public space (a place for assembly) that enabled collective discussions about the political, ethical, artistic and ecological life in the city.

Both as a place and a metaphor the market hall enables us to approach a large pool of topics and artistic practices:

- besides being an important source of food, in many cities market halls have become tourist hot spots and architectural attractions (both historical and contemporary);
- as a symbolic shopping site, market halls point to issues relating to the qualities of commercial food products, the role of company/global food chains (Tesco), EU food regulations, the sustainability of agricultural processes, climate change and the *green new deal*, etc.;
- as a core topic the market hall also relates to a wide variety of artistic practices that have evolved on an international scale; these are civic and artistic initiatives connected to temporary and permanent communities that have considerable social, economic and even political relevance nowadays.

The content of the 4-day block seminar will consist of lectures and presentations, visits to market halls in Budapest, to independent community/art projects as well as film screenings and tutorials in order to support the realization of collaborative projects by small groups of students.

The 4-day seminar will close with a public presentation by the group projects and research.

Prior to the beginning of the seminar, to assist students with their preparation for the program, we will compile a reading list with useful resources (texts, projects, web links).

Students and teachers participating in the block seminar can decide, during its duration, how their projects, methods and their artistic processes can be presented and publicized: with a publication or exhibition that will be decided upon by the participants.

Information on the previous seminars: [website](#)