

TATTOO CIRCUS HELSINKI
13.-15.4.2018



PLEASE READ AND RESPECT THIS!

WELCOME

Tattoo Circus Helsinki supports the global struggle against capitalist(ic) prison-culture and the fight against other forms of repression. Our aim is to create a culture of solidarity with those imprisoned for their struggle. You/they/we are not alone.

Although we acknowledge that supporting prisoners in prison isn't defeating the prison system itself, we agree that there are many ways to strike down prison culture, prisons and other forms of control politics such as state-led repression, surveillance, systemic racism etc. Nonetheless, there are still people in prison -now- who deserve our solidarity; it is a powerful tool to know one isn't alone, one is being thought of, and one's case is receiving monetary support.

We want to point out that repression doesn't just happen in prisons. Much of it happens in 'everyday life', where images of control and security are held up by the state, due to the police and the media. It's important to remember that repressive actions of this kind can happen in 'law-abiding' and 'democratic' nations, and in benign situations, such as in peaceful demonstrations or in someone's home. Two examples are Pyhäjoki anti-nuclear camp (in Finland) and Anti-Fenix campaign (in Czech Republic).

To create a culture of diversity, mutual-aid, trust and liberatory practices we must re-learn critical perspectives on our privileges. Like words and deeds, images and art have a stories, meanings and the power to create strong messages: sometimes critical and mind-expanding and sometimes normative or harmful to the group of people portrayed. Certain symbols, items and images can become especially meaningful to (or hurtful towards) an oppressed group fighting against racism or cultural extinction. Taking up on these kind of symbols merely out of fascination for their beauty or "ethnic-ness" is a repetition of exotifying and "othering" that stems from our colonial histories and privileges. We believe that by looking at the meanings and agendas behind images (including tattoos) with a critical eye, we not only foster respect but make space for diversity, instead of conventional and normative ideals.

The event is a collective effort and everybody contributing, from the artists to the cleaners, are volunteering to support political prisoners.

We encourage everybody to take the responsibility to contribute to a good atmosphere in which everybody is respected. Sexist, racist, trans/homophobic or fascist attitudes, including related symbols will not be tolerated.

SOBER POLICY

Be sober while getting tattooed. Oranssi is a drug free place, so we don't sell or tolerate the consumption of alcohol or other drugs. Not being drunk makes the process of tattooing considerably more pleasant, both to your tattooist and to you. It is difficult to sit still during the tattoo-making if intoxicated. Moreover, if there is a lot of alcohol in the blood, it might cause more bleeding and hinder the ink catching well on your skin and also the recovery of the tattoo. We recommend you to stay hydrated and keep your bloodsugar on a reasonable level, also getting enough sleep before the session would have positive effects.

If you have any questions, feedback or need help/aid/support with anything, you will find somebody of the organizing crew at the infotable by the entrance. Please also get in contact if you would like to help out with any task, we might need that.

ACCESSIBILITY

The main floor of Oranssi is wheelchair accessible. There are two toilets for all genders, one of which is wheelchair accessible. Part of the tattooing, stick'n'poke workshop and all other weekend programs will take place on the accessible main floor.

However, some of the tattooing takes place in an upstairs studio that so far only has a staircase access. If you can not use the stairs and you plan to get a tattoo, we ask you to kindly contact Tattoo Circus so that we can guarantee access to the artist's workspace.

NOTE: We ask everyone participating to avoid use of strong scents during Tattoo Circus, to minimize the risk of allergic reactions and illness.

**Fight repression!
Solidarity is our weapon!**

Tattoo Circus Helsinki -collective

PROGRAM

FRIDAY 13th

12:00-20:00 Tattoos, only reservations

SATURDAY 14th

10:00	<i>Doors open!</i>
11:00	Tattooing starts!
11:00–15:00	Stick n Poke workshop
12:00–14:00	Tarot card workshop
14:00	The Rise of Far-Right in Poland
14:30–16:00	Tarot card reading
14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00	SHAC-campaign and animal rights prisoners
16:00	Music: Ulla Kolla
17:00	Introducing two anarchist trans prisoners in Turkey and US
17:30–19:00	Tarot card reading
18:00	Performance: A Celebration of Oddity
19:00	Solidarity bingo
20:30	Music: Blondit Amazoönit
21:00	Tattooing ends for Saturday
21:30	<i>Doors close!</i>

The whole program will be held on the 1st floor or outside of Oranssi. Distros, graffiti wall and letter writing all-day long during the whole weekend.

SUNDAY 15th

10:00

Doors open!

11:00

Tattooing continues!

11:00

Brunch

13:00

Repression of the Kurdish movement in Europe

14:00

Hair Workshop

16:00

Repression of antifascists in Russia

18:00

Tattooing ends!

Tattoo Circus Helsinki will close until next year.

MEALS & BRUNCH

There's free food for all artists etc. working for Tattoo Circus. All others we ask recommended donation 3-5e to cover the costs. Brunch recommended donation 10-15e. Brunch includes full plate of classic brunch food and glass of juice, coffee and tea. Ask for special dietary requirements. All meals are vegan.

GRAFFITI WALL

Did you bring spray cans? Create some great graffiti for political prisoners! SuviLahti area has many graffiti walls. It's very popular and unfortunately it gets repainted very often. Would be nice if you can take a photo of your art or ask people to come for a solipicture for prisoners! Please do not paint Oranssi's walls, it stinks inside!

DISTROS

ABC VANTAA, ABC HELSINKI, ABC TAMPERE: AMMR -distro with zines, pamphlets and pins, MUSTAN KANIN KOLO: Anarchist infoshop & antiquarian bookshop

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

HAIR WORKSHOP

Let's hang out, do our hair and fuck their fascist beauty standards. Borrow some equipment with your friend or just receive unprofessional hair and make up acts. And yes, there will be glitter.

PERFORMANCE: Blondit Amazonit

Blondit amazonit was born in mid-summer heat with the planet Mars hovering above. Blondit amazonit is a glittery queer punk pop show from outer space. Laconic song texts combined with an extravagant stage presence make them a must-see for all nerdy queers and friends. Blondit amazonit promotes queer rights and equality in performance and action. Blondit amazonit musicians are Meiju, Paula and Ripa plus the Mystic Sausage Dog, powered by stardust.

PERFORMANCE: Ulla Kolla

Ulla Kolla finds inspiration in forest folk music and sings about trees, dogs and lovers from the past.

PERFORMANCE: A Celebration of Oddity with Laura Loon

Laura Loon questions what it means to be normal in this comedy freak show. Doctor Loon examines the mental health of her patients to discover inner struggle, self irony, and her bendy purple power as the cure! In the end, she cures not only her patient but also herself. **Content warning for blood and sexual content.**

Laura self-identifies as a "freak" and wants to reclaim the word from its normative past which 'othered' those based on standards of ability, beauty and race. She has performed before in Tattoo Circuses in Berlin and Rome. Although the performance includes blood (her own), she does not support any kind of abuse towards humans or animals!

PRESENTATION: Introducing two anarchist trans prisoners in Turkey and US

Marius Mason is an imprisoned transgender anarchist, serving 22 years for acts of eco-sabotage. Marius is incarcerated at Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, a small, high-security facility; he receives few visits, his mail is monitored, and he is intensely socially isolated. Since he came out as transgender, he has engaged in a painfully slow process of medical screenings to see if he will be permitted to have access to the WPATH standards of care for transgendered people (hormones, surgery, and the right to legally change his name to a gender-appropriate one of his choosing).

Diren Coşkun is an lgbti+ activist and anarchist who was arrested during an ID check at the Diyarbakır Courthouse in Turkey, on August 14. She was told that there was a judgement on her for charges of “being a member of an illegal organization” and “propagandizing for an illegal organization”. Because she refuses to be in the same ward with men, she has been put in solitary confinement. She demands access to healthcare and trans-specific healthcare as well as to be removed from solitary confinement. Diren has been discriminated and harassed by prison authorities. On January 25th she began a hunger strike/death fast in her struggle for these demands. She finished hunger strike after 27 days on February 21st after she started to get vegan food and promised improvements concerning the health care issues.

The presentation will be in Finnish, translation to English available if needed.

PRESENTATION: The rise of far-right in Poland

11.11.2017 – Polish Independence Day. 60,000 far-right supporters are marching down the streets of Warsaw under the banners of “Death to enemies of the homeland”, and “The white power, Ku Klux Klan”. Once again, with the silent approval from the government and from the indifference of Polish liberals, fascist ideology could take over more than just the streets. The annual Polish independence day demonstrations have become a sad symbol of the current situation in Poland where patriarchy, social conservatism, as well as neoliberal policies and rising xenophobia have become fertile ground for the implementation of authoritarian and nationalist policies by the ruling Law and Justice party, and the growing power of fascist organizations.

The aim of this lecture will be to analyze the current situation in Poland and explain the reasons behind the rise of far-right there. **The presentation will be in English, translation to Finnish if needed.**

PRESENTATION: SHAC-campaign and animal rights prisoners

The SHAC campaign (1999-2014) was perhaps the world's largest animal rights campaign ever. What was the campaign about and what can we learn from it? Why are activists sentenced to prison still years after the campaign has ended? The lecture introduces the latest animal rights prisoner *Sven van Hasselt*, and will briefly tell about other AR-prisoners too. There's also a possibility to send support mail to prisoners. **The presentation will be in Finnish, translation to English if needed.**

PRESENTATION: Repression of the Kurdish movement in Europe

The Kurds are said to be the peoples without a state - living within the borders of Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria - they have faced subjugation of all sorts, such as being denied citizenship and one's own language, to more extreme forms of brutality such as the demolition of Kurdish towns and genocide. Many Kurds have left these countries and now make up a large diaspora within Europe. This presentation will take from the speaker's personal experiences to explore the Kurdish freedom movement, the repression that Kurds face in Europe, and how to show one's solidarity.

This presentation is organized by the Kurdish Cultural Center and Yhdessä Rojavan Puolesta. **The presentation will be in English, translation to Finnish if needed.**

PRESENTATION: Repression of antifascists in Russia

The end of 2017 - beginning of 2018 opened a new landmark of repressions against anarchists and antifascists in Russia. Nowadays it's possible to be accused and charged as terrorist and to get ten years of prison only because of your political views. We will make a brief excursion into the history of anarcho-antifa-repressions in modern Russia and examine the ill-fated "case of the terroristic community" and occasions that accompany it. **The presentation will be in Russian, translation to Finnish or English.**

PRISONER LETTER WRITING

Throughout the Tattoo Circus weekend ABC Tampere (AMMR) will provide a space for letter and postcard writing to prisoners. Come and do some easy but important prisoner support!

BUY A BOOK FOR A PRISONER

At the letter writing point, there will be a list of books different prisoners have on their wish list. You can give money for a book or a prisoner you choose. Info about prisoners will be available.

STICK N POKE

D.I.Y tattoo workshop where you can learn to make tattoos with the stick&poke method. No previous experience needed, we will guide you through all the stages. You can think of or sketch a (simple) tattoo already beforehand. You can tattoo yourself or bring a friend. We have all the materials needed.

To cover the costs we ask for a donation, 5-20eur is recommended. The participants commit to hygiene guidelines given by the workshop organisers. Respect the sober policy. Sign up for the workshop at 10:30 at the Oranssi venue, on each morning. The places will be filled in the sign-up order.

SOLIDARITY BINGO

Helsinki Anarchist Black Cross makes the bingo balls spin again for the support of anarchist prisoners and for your joy. Come and experience the ecstasy of bingo with our new machine! One slip costs one euro and the prizes are various surprises concerning prisoner support and/or prison critique.

TAROT CARD WORKSHOP: "Tarot for radicals and other weirdos"

In esoteric tarot there is a hierarchy: the cards tell the future, the reader interprets the cards, and the querent listens helplessly. In humanistic tarot, the cards helps reader and querent have a conversation about present and past, needs and goals, what sets us free and what holds us back.

Traditional tarot often has highly normative interpretations of each card. Radical tarot steps away from the norm by, for example, looking at the Lovers card and realizing it's no longer about a straight, cisgender, monogamous, or even romantic relationship.

Come learn the basics of radical humanistic tarot. There will be decks to borrow, but bring your own if you can! **The workshop will be in English.**

TAROT CARD READING

In the reading of ten tarot cards you enter into your life's affecting factors, to the past and future with the help of a Rider-Waite deck. The reading is an efficient tool in exploring oneself and in perceiving ones situation in life. You can participate in to the reading even just for the curiosity. The reading takes 15-30min. It's also possible to get a short, consultative few card's reading. Through discussion you'll find out, what's the best option for you, and all it takes then, is to try it out. The donations depend on the reading, for the short readings 1-3 e and for the longer ones 5-10e according to your choice.



TATTOO ARTISTS

And last but not least, you'll have the amazing chance to get a new tattoo, from experienced tattoo artists. Ask for details of how to get a tattoo from **reception or info table**.

Check out what anti-prison related tattoos the different artists offer. Some have flash-sheets and just do walk-ins or others do custom works and have weblinks to their previous work at our webpage:

www.tattoocircushki.noblogs.org/tattoos

www.tattoocircushki.noblogs.org/flash-2018



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TALI BAAL

(Helsinki)

LEECH

(One Spirit Collective, Arnhem)

SPENCE

(ZZ Tattoo, Bremen)

PARASTOU

(London)

TEX RIGOLETTO

(London)

KUUTTI

(Tampere)

KAIJA PAPU

(Tampere)

TANYA ANTI

(Moscow)



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Tattoo Circus Helsinki thanks everyone for participating.

If you want to give us feedback, want to take part in prisoner support activities or next years's Tattoo Circus, contact us:

tattoocircushki@riseup.net



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