

Monday 18 March 2013 - 12:00 o'clock (at noon)

Lecture by **Jonatan Habib**, theorist and curator (SE)

"Humour, Joy and Laughter. In Theory."

*Taking Things Seriously.* The intellect is with most people an awkward, obscure and creaking machine, which is difficult to set in motion: they call it "taking a thing seriously" when they work with this machine and want to think well oh, how burdensome must good thinking be to them! That delightful animal, man, seems to lose his good humour whenever he thinks well; he becomes "serious"! And "where there is laughing and gaiety, thinking cannot be worth anything": so speaks the prejudice of this serious animal against all "Joyful Wisdom." Well, then! Let us show that it is prejudice!

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *The Gay Science*, § 327

This lecture will start by sketching a history of humor theory followed by a reflection on Taste, Humour, Play, Joy and Laughter. The objective is to reflect on artistic practice through these notions – and to address the question of pathos as knowledge.