

**Kunsthaus Graz**

English

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Universalmuseum  
Joanneum

# **Koki Tanaka**

## Provisional Studies (working title)

23.06.-27.08.2017

Space02

## **Quick Tour**

Koki Tanaka invites people to work together:  
He might, for example, ask them  
to compose a song together  
or to stage a protest march.  
He provides a rough framework  
in which they can collaborate independently.  
The exhibition shows texts, photos and films  
recording each of these projects.

### **Together we are strong?**

Many things in life can only be achieved through teamwork.  
And yet working with other people  
can be difficult.  
Before a group acts jointly  
they have to find a common way forward.  
Different opinions may collide.  
This process is exciting, but also time-consuming.  
This is why it sometimes seems simpler  
for one person to take the lead  
and decide what needs to be done.  
Although this means, of course,  
that all the others give up their right  
to have a say in what happens.

### **Democracy is slow**

Within a group of people,  
can everyone get a chance to speak?  
Do everyone's concerns get heard?  
Will an agreement ever be reached?  
Koki Tanaka is convinced:  
democratic cooperation takes a lot of time.  
It is a seemingly endless undertaking,  
especially as the common goal can change:  
What exactly is it that we want to achieve together?  
As a result, when we collaborate  
there is much that remains tentative, provisional.  
Collaboration is a process with an open end.

### **Provisional Studies: Action #8 Rewriting A Song For Zwentendorf**

The nuclear power station in Zwentendorf is unique:  
The building was finished but it never went into operation.  
During the 1970s  
there were large-scale protests against its activation.  
Eventually, in 1978, a referendum was held:  
50.47 per cent voted against its start-up.

This project brings together  
people who took part in the protests against Zwentendorf  
with young people today.  
The aim is that they write a new protest song.  
This is a collaboration between different generations.  
Who can contribute to the result, and what?  
Who is learning from whom here?  
There is one point everyone agrees on:  
The use of nuclear energy  
is a subject that affects all of us.

### **Precarious Tasks #7: Try to Keep Conscious about a Specific Social Issue, in This Case 'Anti-Nuke', as Long as Possible while You are Wearing Yellow Color**

In the hectic rush of everyday life we often do not find enough time to be actively involved in the things that are important to us. Can everyday life and political involvement be combined?

Koki Tanaka puts out some fabric in a gallery in Tokyo. The fabric is yellow—a color that stands for resistance against the use of nuclear power. Whoever wants can cut off a piece and wear it as a sign of protest against nuclear power. Wearing yellow fabric becomes a silent protest. Political protest can take many forms. It can be loud or quiet, strident or restrained; it can be an 'event' or an everyday action.

### **A Piano Played by Five Pianists at Once (First Attempt)**

Koki Tanaka invites five musicians to compose a piece of music jointly and then play it together on the piano. The five people are of course used to composing and playing music. But here they face a new challenge: they must accept the others' way of working and possibly change their own. In the end, there is not just one composer or performer, but many. Are they all happy with the result?

### **Daytime Task**

Is cooperation something that we have to practise every day? This exhibition not only invites us to look but also calls on us to act: Can you imagine yourself performing the 'Daytime Task'? How would it change your everyday life?

### **Provisional Studies: Action #6 1985 School Students Strike**

In 1985, thousands of students gathered on the streets of Liverpool: Young people protesting against being exploited as cheap labour. Decades later, the same people reconstructed that protest. What has changed? Are the concerns they had back then still current today? Looking back, some feel proud: They fought for the right to have a say in decisions that affected their future. What was it that inspired them to become politically active?

## **Accompanying programme**

### **Artistic protest, political protest?**

Film and discussion evening

Fri, 23.06., 8 pm

Kunsthhaus Graz, inner courtyard

With: Koki Tanaka, Heidrun Primas, Oliver Hangl, chaired by Barbara Steiner

Excerpts from films by the Riahi brothers, Oliver Hangl and Oliver Ressler

### **Club Kunsthhaus excursion to Zwentendorf**

Fri, 30.06., 2.15 pm

Meeting-point at Kunsthhaus Graz

Become a member of Club Kunsthhaus and visit Zwentendorf with us!

### **Exhibition talks on Koki Tanaka**

Sun, 25.06., 3.30 pm and Sun, 16.07., 3.30 pm

Kunsthhaus Graz

Viktoria Wind of the Folk Life Museum and Christof Elpons of the Kunsthhaus Graz invite you to a joint discussion about citizens' initiatives, politics and art. What can we achieve together, and how?

For further informations please visit our website:

[www.kunsthhausgraz.at](http://www.kunsthhausgraz.at)

**Further texts can be found in the publication on the exhibition,  
available for purchase at the exhibition or in our shop.**

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