



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

July 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Reference Letter for Moritz Dittrich

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of reference for Moritz Dittrich. I am a Senior Tutor in the School of Architecture at the Royal College of Art, and the co-founder and former Director of the international urban culture centre Theatrum Mundi at the London School of Economics. I currently lead the Master of Research (MRes) Architecture programme at the RCA, the first truly interdisciplinary programme at the university, in which Moritz is currently studying and expected to complete in September 2019.

I do not exaggerate when I say that Moritz ranks among the most engaged students I have taught during my years of work at universities across the UK and Canada. Moritz displays a quiet curiosity and a fearless determination when engaged intellectually. An open, generous and collaborative thinker, Moritz bridges disciplines of architecture and design, with social and cultural theory, urban history and critical digital futures. I see Moritz already enacting the qualities of an inspiring and socially active public intellectual within what is fast becoming a transdisciplinary future.

Moritz's independent research project focuses on the question 'who owns the city', and approaches it not solely from the question of land or property, but from a question of intellectual property – that is, 'who owns the "idea" of the city?' The work is grounded in urgent debates about the smart city, digital democracy, and the future of economic and social life within the Anthropocene. His MRes project is being completed by thesis, comparing two cases (one in Toronto and one in Barcelona), and I can already see it being a direct benefit to live debates in the field.

Moritz's academic history speaks for itself, from architecture at the Bauhaus University Weimar, to internships in Aarhus and Copenhagen to his current research in the MRes programme at the RCA. On top of the rigours of the formal academic programme, Moritz also participated in the AcrossRCA programme 'Sense-Ability - Multisensory Accessory Design', the FuelRCA project 'Developing a Participatory Practice', the Critical and Historical Studies 'Aesthetics and



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Philosophy Seminar Series' by Jonathan Miles, the re:publica19 digital conference in Berlin, and the Mayor's Entrepreneur Competition.

Over the year, Moritz has expanded his understanding of the value and challenges of interdisciplinary work, and developed strong research methods across social science and architectural/art and design disciplines. As part of the transnational alliance 'We Cannot Work Like This', Moritz co-organised, project managed, and led workshops and symposia in London (January 2019) and Mechelen (May 2019). Along with colleagues at the RCA, and HISK, Moritz developed and performed two art interventions as an invited participant in the Contour 9 Biennale in Mechelen, Belgium.

Moritz is a natural leader at the RCA among colleagues and peers and continually works to share knowledge. He is fundamentally concerned about inclusion and diversity and is an empathetic and generous scholar, always helping those around him to succeed.

I have no doubt that this will be the case in future endeavours as Moritz's approach to learning is collaborative, critical and open. Please don't hesitate to be in touch should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adam Kaasa
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Programme Lead for MRes Architecture
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