

## Art Writing Workshop by Ignacio Szmulewicz

Place: U10 Art Space, Belgrade  
Dates: Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd January, 2025  
Hours: 12-14:00

### Description

The workshop is an invitation to write about art. But, in a world full of violence, war, diaspora, climate crisis, why do it? Why not just resign to all creative process? Why insist on art criticism or critical thinking at all? I believe in the transformative power of art. By this I mean the power of looking at the world from another perspective through images, or words, that can illuminate, focus or paint reality with peculiar colors.

More than ever, write to think,  
to open up a conversation,  
to give voice,

In the workshop we will discuss three aspects: a) the context in which or from which art writing emerge, what I call the ethical understanding of reality; b) the point of view from which the art writer shares his/her thoughts; c) the rules of art writing structures (magazines, editors, audience), how to occupy, bend or break them.

### Excercises

- read something you like (one or two paragraph of any author) and explain why do you like it, give especific reasons based on their writing,
- read something (one page in English) yours that you trully like and explain why. The others have to share their thoughts on your piece,
- write a paragraph on who you are, how will you describe yourself, try to make it on style, or like a story,
- select a work of art of the current or last exhibition at U10, that you wish to write about and explain why do you like it,
- search and select a magazine, printed or digital, that you wish to write and tell the group why you choose it.

### Final delivery

- write and read a pitch for that magazine (300 words, angle, main ideas, reasons why the work or exhibition is important, small description of the pieces, personal point of view). This one to be presented at U10 community accompanied with a set of 3-5 images.

### References

Jill Steinhauer, *Critics Page*, Brooklyn Rail:  
<https://brooklynrail.org/2024/12/criticspage/jillian-steinhauer/>

Olivia Laing, *Everybody. A book about Freedom*, 2021.

Ignacio Szmulewicz, *The Tortoise, Ice and the Cargo Ship: a Curator's Note*. On Dismantling the Nation: Chilean contemporary art:  
<https://www.fulcrum.org/epubs/pc289m76c?locale=en#/6/32%5Bch15%5D/4/2%5Bc10%5D/10/10/1:248>

Ignacio Szmulewicz, Unplugged Games: Poetry as Resistance in Yanko González Cangas, at Momus Magazine:

<https://momus.ca/unplugged-games-poetry-as-resistance-in-yanko-gonzalez-cangas/>

Ignacio Szmulewicz, Critics' Pics, Seba Calfuqueo, At Art Forum:

<https://www.artforum.com/events/seba-calfuqueo-548355/>

Kate Brown, *Dispatches from Dystopia. Histories of Places Not Yet Forgotten*, 2015.

Podcast "Harlem is everywhere", hosted by Jessica Lynne. Available on Spotify.

Sven Lindqvist, *Exterminate all the Brutes*, 1992.

**Ignacio Szmulewicz** is an art historian, curator, and critic based in Santiago of Chile. He is a PhD student of Architecture and Urban Studies at Catholic University. He holds a BA in Art History and Theory from University of Chile, and an MA in Architecture from the Catholic University. He was the Director of the Documentary Center for Visual Arts at the National Center for Contemporary Arts (2017-20) and has published books including "Arte, ciudad y esfera pública en Chile" (Metales Pesados Editions, 2015), "Fuera del cubo blanco" (Metales Pesados Editions, 2012), and "El acantilado de la libertad" (Kultrun Editions, 2015). He was the guest curator of "Bienal en Resistencia" and the curator of "Santuario: arte contemporáneo en Valdivia," "Lejos, muy lejos," and "Collective Roadmap". He writes regularly for La Panera Magazine and Artforum.