

# The splendour of change

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Christophe Meierhans has an alternative. Jan Lietaert

We need to be realistic. There is no other choice. That is what we hear every day. There are the laws of the economy, and there is politics, which apply them. Because, again, there is no alternative.

It turns out that the performance *Some use for your broken clay pots* actually does have one. Brussels-Swiss multi-artist Christophe Meierhans spent a good year and a half looking for it, and presents it based on a constitution of no less than 350 articles: his own democratic model. For now it is a utopia, but not a fiction. Those who want to join can just put down their signature after the performance.

Meierhans for president? In his proposal there is no head of state, let alone political parties or elections. This new democracy works on disqualification, similar to the way the Greeks used to write the name of a leader they wanted to see replaced on potshards. Here, grassroots democracy gets a concrete face, on simple transparent slides.

The idea that a democracy can only function if each member feels constructively connected to it also drives the lecture-performance. Everyone can ask questions, Meierhans has a sound answer to everything. He convinces you; also of the lack of democracy in our current participatory.

Afterwards no one is discussing acting skills. This show realizes that which in theatre is sometimes a mere sales pitch: artists think an alternative. Our democracy truly does have a choice.