

CROSSING

Katharina Lökenhoff, Nov. '18

As an artistic research project "Crossing" is dedicated to find new and sustainable life strategies by crossing borders.

On the foundation that it is not the artists duty to give answers but to ask questions, this includes documentary- interviews with international artists in very different places, like Iceland, South Africa, Finland, Egypt and Libanon.

The social changes, in my opinion, require a reflection on dealing with the issue of fear. Thus, in my interviews I try to explore how other artists react to the experience of uncertainty creating their own strategies, not only in a rational but intuitive way, in their art practice.

The starting point of my work is the experience, that many problems caused by "globalization" can be due to an experience of separation. Not feeling the connection to others or the world causes fear, the main reason (and not only the effect) of most catastrophes that are happening in the world right now. The basic question of my artistic research will proceed from this Archimedean point, therefore: How can we develop the intense experience where we are not separate from our so-called 'environment'? How can we achieve to reflect the specific kind of analogy between the human being and his/her living space at the level of a fundamental connection – as expressed, for example, in the view of the relationship between the microcosm and the macrocosm.

How can we strengthen this connection through art?

In reference to Josef Beuys's "Social Sculpture" in my project the artistic process is the main source looking for transformation of the society in a sustainable way.

The interpersonal exchange on the foundation of creating is the specific transformative potential of "Crossing" and the basis of the innovative character of the project. As an international language, art is a possibility of crossing the thresholds between cultures and individuals in an exchange with surprising innovative answers.

The results of the exchanges with international artists will be presented in an exhibition, my blog and a catalog.

Also in my concrete artistic work it is always about this question: How can we develop the skills of connecting in order to be really viable?

My own approach to the subject of crossing the threshold is through a colour experience. Working with an intense reference to the body with large coloured fabrics, I focus on the qualities of colour as the equivalent of what constitutes life around and in us.

For a forward-looking connection with the environment, it seems necessary to be aware of the distinction between 'real' and 'virtual' surroundings, to face it and to enter into a dialogue about it.

Adequate to this topic I'm working with the material of a waxed skin, silk material dipped in beeswax. Its haptic and visual appearance mirrors the theme of crossing borders in the phenomenon of the skin as a membrane. Searching for special human energies I try to develop new large coloured pictorial fabrics as a relation between body and soul.

From the previous process, the following consequences arise:

As future enabling methods in times of Digital Reality we can

1. strengthen our connection to nature,
2. enjoy playing like a child,
3. realise, that life is worth investigating, and
4. to accept that to lead others, I have to learn to lead myself.

It is the aim of the project to show that cultural life/ - survive can be redefined and made possible through exchange rather than demarcation.