

Crossing the threshold : Artistic research project by Katharina Lökenhoff

I'm planning an art-travel-project on the subject of crossing borders.

The social changes, in my opinion, require a reflection on dealing with the issue of fear. The starting point of my work is the experience, that many problems caused by "globalization" can be traced to an experience of separation. Not feeling the connection 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.

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.

In addition, I will explore the visited places with my video camera and would like to develop my answer in an Anti-Fear -ritual/Installation.

It is particularly important for me to work out the character of the different ways of perception within both working methods. What is the difference between the quality of colour in both approaches? 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.

After a long period of a parallel work process between creating, exhibiting and teaching the project is also crucial for the clarification of one's own artistic processes, for the reconnection with the creative sources and in the way of focussing on the essentials.

Already agreed places for „Crossing the threshold“ are Iceland (NES, Artist Residency, Skagaströnd), Finland (Arteles Creative Center Haukijärvi), Argentina (ACE, Buenos Aires) Italy (Numerovernti, Florenz) und Ethiopia (Finks Hawzien, Society for Integrated Development), South Africa (Gratmore Art, Cape Town) and Thailand (Sam Rit Residency).

Also I am invited to the Off Biennale “Something Else“ in Cairo.

The results of finding new methods will be presented in an exhibition, a blog and a catalog in summer 2019. It is the aim of the project to show that cultural life/ - survive can be redefined and made possible through exchange rather than demarcation.