

Degree Program: Master of Arts
Program Division: Space strategies
Art school Weissensee Berlin

Curatorial approaches to site specific performance, action and intervention in the public realm

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Mentors: Theory: Frederic Schröder / Extern examiner: Dr. Ana Maria Rabe
Praxis: Prof. Maren Strack / Extern examiner: Dr. Nina Möntmann

Master Abstract

The role of the art curator gained importance during the last 20 years, following by interesting experimentations in the 90'. The main curatorial impulse was re-exploring urban public space. Another major characteristic was the dominating political engagement. This combination of socio-political site specificity called for a more performative art since social and political issues usually evolve people and relationship in the public realm.

This Master is a practice based research which deals with the discursive field of curatorial practice of site specific performances action and intervention in the public realm.

The purpose of the theoretic part was to find out what are the existing common strategies or models to curate performance, action and interventions in public space. For the practical part of this study I curated art project at the Holocaust Memorial for the murdered Jews in Berlin. I have invited the Israeli artist and performer Moran Sanderovich, the German performer-producer Birgit Auf der Lauer and the Argentinean artist, curator and producer Valeria Schwarz to develop projects at the memorial. This results a night guided tour, a performance and intervention.

The Holocaust memorial is a public space built on a private area belongs to the German government and managed by the Holocaust Memorial Foundation. This makes it one of many *in-between* public/private spaces. Art projects of any kind are forbidden and the request for permits to take photos and film video in the memorial for future public screening is doomed to be refused as part of the policy of the memorial foundation. Due to this strict position I have applied the *Hit and run* curatorial approach to produce there my project. This approach is often used for Socio political art interventions carried out in sensitive urban places with critical intentions.

The open to the public project presentation will took place at the Organ Kritische Kunst (OKK) space in September 14 2012 Wedding Berlin. It included presentation of the curatorial projects and the artists, the preview screening of a 30 min. Documentation video produced by Noam Gorbat and Paul Holdsworth & Daniela Garcia del Pomar and talk with the artists, philosopher and Author Ana Maria Rabe, Journalist Thorsten Schmitz (Süddeutsche Zeitung).

Location

The memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe is located in the heart of Berlin at the Georgenstraße 23 10117 Berlin. Between Brandenburger gate and Potsdamer Platz is the most important memorial of the holocaust. It was designed by American architect Peter Eisenman and sculptor Richard Serra, who later withdrew from the project. Bellow the memorial there is an underground information centre; both are managed by the foundation for the memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe. (Die Stiftung Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas) The memorial is a column field consists 2,711 concrete slabs, or stelae (die Stelen), spread out over five acres in a sloping maze in memory of the six million Jews killed in Germany's extermination against the ethnic Jewish minority during World War II. Interesting debate was taking place around the memorial which forced politicians and opinion-makers to reflect on how Germany can best remember and commemorate the Holocaust.

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Born in 1972 in Israel and live in Berlin. Between 2007 and 2009 she co-curator at ScalaMata exhibition space in Venice, where she organized and coordinated interdisciplinary projects such as '60 seconds FreeDoMe of Movement' (2006) "Parallel Worlds", and "Memory space" (2009) site specific performance series in 10 different locations at the 53 Art Biennale in Venice. She holds B.ed in theatre directing and acting teaching (Kibbuzim College Israel 2000), BA in Theater (Haifa Israel 2001), and recently graduated her MA at the space strategies (Raumstrategien) Master program at the Weißensee Art School Berlin. She performs and teaches internationally.

among her prominent performances: "Tourist Trap", "Public relations", "The Lots / Lot 1-4", "Untranslatable words" (2011), "Performance Heart", "The bloody Trilogy", "Naznazim" (2010) "Bringing stars to the skies- Poetically correct", "The nature of a red dot" "Illegal Movement", „Globalise Body“ (2008) "Fiktionsbescheinigung" (2007) "Over exposed" (2007) „Mute“ (2003)