

press release
transit station Berlin 2005
translation by Dagmar I. Glausnitzer

action in art in action

February 5th and February 6th, 2005 at Gebauer Höfe, Franklinstrasse 14, Berlin-Charlottenburg

40 international artists from London, Berlin and Paris present their work in a complex collaboration based on the transit station concept.

A huge sculpture of scaffolding is erected at the center of the transit station site, representing the center of attention, the metaphorical center of the idea and the center of constant activity and happening. Works from theatre, music, performance art, fashion, installation, film and video are presented continuously within the time period of 24 hours of the week-end. The viewer is confronted with a multiple "chain" of experiences through dynamic movement in a place.

In the transit station concept conventional categories and their expected levels of visual and performing arts are condensed. Traditional terms are examined in their meaning, limitations and execution.

transit station creates consciously chosen co-incidences when viewer, sculpture and artists share the same space. Viewers have to negotiate the conventional position of the 'pedestal', with its connotations of distance and separation. The viewer:object convention is replaced by personal experience and ever changing perceptions.

The viewer is, in part, passive but, at times, actively involved in the situation of the event. The artwork does exist to some extent in its accepted status as a three-dimensional and separate object, say for example the scaffolding structure. But the Non-stop action within this structure defines the central question of the exhibition: Where is the Art?

Does it help to search for the art or even to find terminology, which distinguishes between the various disciplines? Is the question of intent a matter of individual choice or a cultural directive? Is it possible that the question itself already unifies the understanding in the witnessing of different events?

transit station took place for the first time in London 2003. The Berlin transit station will be followed by Edinburgh in February 2006. Thus, transit station is on tour, travelling through Europe as if embarking on a train journey. This is the key aspect of the idea and in practical terms defines transit station as an exercise in constant change. On the train the various origins of people mix with those who travel and their different languages may adjust or perhaps find a commonality.

transit station was created and developed by Dagmar I. Glausnitzer-Smith in 2003. Exhibition as Event was a culmination of her research project during the two-year Stanley Picker Fellowship at Kingston University, London. She is currently Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Kingston, teaching drawing and performance art workshops. She lived in England from 1991-2003, completing her BA Fine Art Degree at Goldsmiths College and her MA Fine Art Degree at the Royal College in London. Glausnitzer-Smith is working in a collaborative directorship with Charles Ryder, London and together their planning, curating and realisation of the project transit station succeeded with each other's support.

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