



Grenzgänger #1 / Passe Frontières #1

Uta Pütz, Camille Roux, Axel Töpfer

18.10. – 10.11.2013

Kunstverein Freiburg e.V.

Press

Friday, 18.10. at 10:00

Opening

Friday, 18.10. at 19:00

The “Grenzgänger” project is a three-part exhibition project linking three cities, three countries and three artists. Given that the idea of place was crucial to the project's conception, it is appropriate that the contribution of each of the three artists participating in the first part of the project, at Kunstverein Freiburg, is a meditation on the location of the exhibition, and takes the particulars of the Kunstverein's architecture, its history, and its surroundings as narrative cues.

Site-specificity is a common thematic ground between the three proposals, and should make for a coherent single presentation incorporating three artists' work. The building housing the Kunstverein has a colourful history which has fascinated many artists exhibiting there. It was built in the 1930s as a public swimming bath.

Axel Töpfer (* 1977 in Königs Wusterhausen, lives in Basel, CH) has engaged in a correspondence with the local authorities to seek permission to excavate an area close to the building in order to discover the healing springs which the sign *Marienbad*, at the facade of the neighbouring theatre, suggests might be found there. He intends to exhibit the correspondence in conjunction with an installation combining local earth and some Art Nouveau tile fragments like those decorating the facade of the local theatre next door. He acts as an artist/archeologist, seeking buried narratives as much as inventing new ones.

Words and places, and their overlap, are also crucial to **Uta Pütz's** (* 1969 in Aachen, lives in Karlsruhe, G) proposal. The room in which the exhibition will be presented lies between two floors of the building. Pütz will label a door opening from the exhibition space to the first floor with the word “Hoch” on one and “Hinaus” on the other side. She will also present a video work appropriating a short film from YouTube which shows a young person at the computer demonstrating how an alphabet can be created out of neon letters purchased over the internet. Using the YouTube translation function to subtitle the boy's almost incomprehensible mumble into perfect

German, the language of Pütz's film self-reflexively comments of a clip which is itself concerned with language. The locationless world of the internet is grounded by its connection to her other work, with its use of language to engage with the specific location of the gallery.

Camille Roux (* 1982 in Paris, lives in Strasbourg, F) has conducted several interviews with people who have each been involved in various ways with the Kunstverein – a group of elderly people who were involved and one of them even working at the Kunstverein in the 1960s; a current member of the board, who has a long time experience with the history and the development of the exhibition house; and a young girl who was previously an intern. These three groups of witnesses, describing their experiences and memories, will create a rich testimony to the site's past and present, when they are presented as a patchwork of recorded voices in a video showing the building of the Kunstverein's inside and outside.

The exhibition project is sponsored by

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Programme at Kunstverein Freiburg e.V.:

Friday, 18.10. at 19:00

| Opening

Wednesday, 06.11. at 19 Uhr

| Kunstsalon: an evening with the artists and curators

Further venues 2014:

Locations / curators: Kunstverein Freiburg e.V., Freiburg i. Br. (D) / Caroline Käding
18.10.-10.11.2013

Kaskadenkondensator, Basel (CH) / Andrea Domesle
30.01.-23.02.2014

Accélérateur de particules, Strasbourg (F) / Sophie Kauffenstein
April 2014

For photographic material on the venue at Kunstverein Freiburg e.V. contact:

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Opening times:

Tue - Sun 12:00 - 18:00 | Wed 12:00 - 20:00 | Mon closed
Entrance 2 € / 1,50 € | Thursdays free entrance | Members free entrance

The Kunstverein Freiburg e.V. is supported by