

Things we sense about each other

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7.5.– extended until 19.9.2021

Press preview: Thursday, 6.5.2021, 11 am

Opening: Thursday, 6.5.2021

Press release

The Badische Kunstverein is the hub of a wide-ranging exhibition, research, and events project that focuses on images and counterimages of Europe. Currently in planning in conjunction with the exhibition *Things we sense about each other* at the Kunstverein, featuring 21 international artists, is a traveling academy which will be launched in June 2021, and will be localized in the cities of the various project partners under the title *Things we share with each other*. In cooperation with tranzit.at from Vienna, eight co-curators from Sarajevo, Poltava, Kiev, Baku, Prague, Minsk, Yerevan, Krasnodar, and Bucharest were invited to realize the exhibition and enter into a long-term dialogue as a trans-European network.

The exhibition showcases artistic works that critically address divergent perspectives of an emancipatory and democratically conceived Europe, something that is being called into question along the margins (but also at the center) to an increasing degree. The artists explore the significance of objects or things which – depending on who interprets them, who claims them, and who resists their putative meanings – are the bearers of divergent and often antagonistic attributions of identity. With the rhetoric of inclusion and exclusion – in conjunction with the displacements and distortions of ecologies and economies, an increasingly nationalist politics of identity, technological upheaval, and the massive transformation of the shared lifeworld – threatening to tear European societies apart, objects often serve as substitutes for fundamental assumptions about the “Other.”

Integrated into the exhibition alongside the art projects will be a number of such conflictual objects themselves, which symbolize diverse ideas and visions of Europe from various political, cultural, and social perspectives. Whether everyday objects, political symbols, texts, or cryptograms, these semantically charged things act as antagonistic but also mediating and conciliatory artifacts in a dialogue between a multiplicity of European societal and cultural constellations. In many instances, they confront us as shapeshifters that are detached from any single horizon of negotiation, but whose significance evolve perpetually. The participating artists expose the problematical status of these things to full view, at the same time investigating the transformative potential of a history that is embodied in objects. What allows a specific object to function as a representation of a specific cultural complex, and: What does its materiality reveal? How and to what degree do discourse about and classifications of this materiality color our perceptions?

Planned as the project's 2nd chapter, and to be launched in June of 2021, is a travelling academy, conceived as a nonhierarchical research group, to be based temporarily in Karlsruhe,

and located subsequently in the different countries associated with the project. The academy will consist of the curators and artists who are contributing to the exhibition, in association with other activists, museum professionals, ethnographers, and visual studies researchers. In workshops, seminars, and panel discussions the themes of the exhibition will be deepened and linked with local actors and their discursive priorities. As a consequence of restrictions resulting from the pandemic, together with crisis conditions in Belarus, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, the academy will function (at least initially) as a hybrid, digital structure with local branches in the participating institutions, and will later travel directly to the cities of a wider Europe.

Both exhibition and academy are conceived as a democratic platform designed to join local and international networks with one another in dialogue, to initiate long-term communities, and to explore possible forms of a transnational European society.

The exhibition is being curated and organized by: Larissa Agel, Damir Arsenijevic, Anja Casser, Yvonne Fomferra, Leyli Gafarova, Michaela Geboltsberger, Veronika Janatková, Anna Karpenko, Eva Khachatryan, Serhiy Klymko, Georg Schöllhammer, Raluca Voinea, ZIP Group

A project of tranzit.at and Badischer Kunstverein.

Things we sense about each other is part of the 25th European Culture Days 2021 in Karlsruhe. A graphic novel and a special issue of the magazine *springerin* will accompany the exhibition.

Updated information about the program of the academy will be available through a special program flyer, as well as on our homepage.

In cooperation with:

tranzit.at

As part of the 25th European Culture Days Karlsruhe

EKT:2021
EUROPÄISCHE KULTURTAGE KARLSRUHE

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Badischer Kunstverein is supported by: