

EXHIBITION
Memory of Eisenbart
Efa Mühlethaler and Françoise Caraco
«AGAINST EXPECTATION»
28. Jun – 13. July 2013

Counter Space is a new exhibition and project space in Zurich that presents art and cultural initiatives from different regions of the world. «AGAINST EXPECTATION» gives, within the framework of the project series «Memory of Eisenbart», an insight into the collective work of Efa Mühlethaler (* 1962, CH) and Françoise Caraco (* 1972, CH).

With «AGAINST EXPECTATION», the artists transform Counter Space at different levels into a space for research and production, in order to eventually use it as an exhibition space for the site-specific work. The structure is a montage of various elements, which are not really suited for the actual space but detached in-between reality and fiction and at the same time reminding of the space. The elements selected relate to an ascertainable past as much as an impending future.

For example, the gravel yard next door at Seeburgpark in Zürich reminds one of the plot of a Villa, demolished in the 1970s. Reports suggest that a cellar can still be found underneath. Today, a pavilion-like construction divides the parking area from the adjacent building complex within which Counterspace is located. Hints, speculations and traditions intensify in this way into a location-specific meshwork and overlay the existing space with an imaginary landscape.

An archive, which is not associative but chronologically ordered, is created, in which the visitor can be immersed. A computer generated voice reads newspaper passages, video fragments convey impressions and the atmosphere of the environment; as an intervention, a ceremonial burial and the encasement in concrete of a capsule consisting of the collected data takes place on the gravel yard.

The work deals with an extended memorial heritage: A political commitment resulted from the destruction of the Seeburg Villa; thanks to this commitment, the debate over the monument protection became an issue. It was not until the city residents' initiative that the city council bought the park for 20 Million Swissfrancs in the 1990s. The sellers ordered a ban on construction until 2030. The memorial heritage refers, therefore, to a past that is infused with collective components.

This heritage can be fostered during the ceremonial burial of the capsule by the physical work and dedication. The capsule is figuratively a cultural reminder and prefiguration of a future society, which is condensed, but from a critical perspective freezes into an unredeemed state.

What happens next? «AGAINST EXPECTATION» describes the current state and a way of reading that is still unfinished.

Artists: Françoise Caraco (* 1972, Basel, CH) lives in Zurich, 1992 – 97 BA Photograph, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) and 2008 – 11 MA of Arts, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Zurich. Awards/Prizes: 2012 Kunststipendium Kunstcredit Basel, 1999 Werkstipendium Kanton Zurich, 1998 Eidgenössischer Kunstpreis. Exhibition (selection) 2013: „Werk-und Atelierstipendien der Stadt Zurich 2013“, Helmhaus Zurich, „Fergangenheit Fake Fiktion“ Corner College, Zurich, 2012: “Warnicht sagen was passiert um“Kunstverein Freiburg, „retten halten löschen“, Vorzimmer Zurich, „Kunstkreditausstellung 2012“, Erlenmatte Basel. (www.francose.caraco.ch)

Efa Mühlethaler (* 1962, Bern, CH) lives in Bern and Zurich, 1994 – 97 BA Art, Schule für Gestaltung (SfG), Basel. 2009 – 11 MA of Visual Communication and Iconic Research, Academy of Art and Design (HgK), Basel. Exhibition: 1999 „Elfmeter“, group exhibition at Wankdorfstadion Bern. 2000/2001 Kantonales Stipendium Bern. 2004 Gallerieske, Bangalore/Indien. 2004 Progr, Zentrum für Kulturproduktion, Bern. 2008 artpicnic, Kunstweg Wabern, Bern. Since 2005 div. video production for theater and exhibition. Since 2007 leader of the department of further education at F+F School of Art and Media Design, Zurich.

Event:

Picnic at the Park

7. July 2013, 2pm – 5pm

Seeburgpark Zurich, Zollikerstrasse/Mühlebachstrasse, Tram 2, 4 or bus until Höschgasse. Tram 11, Bus 31 or Forchbahn S18 until Hegibachplatz.

Counter Space: Counter Space strives to ask a range of questions: How do we imagine an art space that is close to artistic practice? How can we reduce the pressure to produce that characterizes our entertainment society? Hence: how to create new cultural and artistic connections and fields for experimentation? Our objective is to find criteria for the definition of an art space that is close to practice and to put them in to a current discourse.

Address:

Counter Space, Kirchenweg 4, 8032 Zurich (Interim)

Opening hours: Thursday-Sunday, 3 pm to 10 pm

info@counterspace.ch

www.counterspace.ch

With the support of Präsidialdepartement Stadt Zürich, Kanton Zürich Fachstelle Kultur and Burger Collection



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