

Anna Witt
works 2013-2011

Radical Thinking 2

2013, Vienna Central Station

2-channel video installation



“Radical Thinking” portrays people at the new central station in Vienna. The people taking part were asked to take their time and imagine some radical ideas; radical in the sense of fundamentally rethinking a concept not only of private, but also social and political nature. The pictures on the monitor show them while they are thinking. The ideas were anonymously written down and set together in a collective manifest, which is shown as a running text on a second monitor.



forever and all data is deleted. Everything would collapse and no one would have any information anymore. Nikola Tesla's theory on the problem of increasing human energy happens and his "world energy system" is implemented. Mortality has outgrown and the Golden Age, according to the idea of ancient mythology is reintroduced.



Breaking New

in collaboration with Uglycute
2013, Duisburg Marxloh
Performance, Installation



Over the period of the Emscherkunst, from June to October 2013, a performance took place in Duisburg Marxloh. The performers, a group of experienced crafts people from the region, worked in public space to build new street furniture out of found rubbish. The objects were created in the streets of suburban Marxloh. There, they were also left back, free to use for the residents.

Marxloh has an active public life. People gather on the streets, families cook outdoors and vegetable dealers present their goods on the sidewalks. Nevertheless, the town today is still strongly influenced by the nearby steel industry and the post-industrial change has left its traces. The region suffers from depopulation. Many shops are empty, even entire houses stand empty. Notable are the numerous bulky items on the streets, which puts the process of emigration figuratively on the road. This visual phenomenon brought me to the idea to see the bulky waste as a „new“ resource. Found, mostly household items such as cabinets, old sofas or bed frames were used as basic material to build new furniture for public space. With my interest in this „material“ I had the idea to collaborate with the Swedish designers Uglycute. The collective works between design, art and teaching. Their main interests are experimental production processes and the impact of design on society. During a joint visit to the region, their idea of the design was grown, which provides to add another element to the objects. The furniture was covered with elastic fabric. The material was copper-colored and gave the furniture a glamorous look, different from the expected recycling esthetics of bulky waste. The performers worked in small teams distributed in the city. Over the entire period about 130 new objects were produced. The activity of the performance was integrated into everyday public life and the furniture kept the precarious status of their source material. They were not mounted and could be taken, destroyed or repositioned at any time. The production process and the pieces of furniture were documented and archived in a vacant former nightclub in Duisburg Marxloh.







Allt kan hända/Everything can happen

2013, Hallonbergen, Stockholm
Performance, HD Video, 12 min.



The project is connected to the idea of creating a platform for reflection in the form of a text. During a couple of weeks in January and February, Anna Witt lived in Sundbyberg and spent time in Hallonbergen speaking with people about their living conditions. After a while the conversations were extended to both a larger political context and to a possible future. Her response to these conversations has been formulated in a manifesto. Manifestoes are historically connected to a certain cultural scene or to a political agenda whereas the Hallonbergen manifesto voices a multitude of perspectives and levels. Concrete topics in Hallonbergen, private matters and global concerns face each other and create a private but at the same universal future agenda. Through the annotation like language, the address of the manifesto remains open. During the parade the manifesto was carried through the streets in a public performance that took the form of a choreography where participants were holding up sculptural letters. People gathered in different ways to formulate sentences so that the whole manifesto was delivered in parts as the parade moved through Hallonbergen.



„On-the-scene“

Full HD Video, 8 min,
Hebrew with English subtitles



For the project I did interviews with young people in Vienna, asking them what they know about Israel. Their knowledge is not „first hand“. It consists of fragments gathered from news, school education and imagination, reproducing the European attempt of being extremely diplomatic in the use of official language towards Israel. At the same time this objectivity is broken through the use of everyday language, lack of complex knowledge, youth interest and the insecurity to take position, which is connected not at least to the own countries history. The interviews were edited together in form of a „news live correspondence“ on a record. The text was translated in Hebrew in front of the camera from a simultaneous interpreter „in the role of a news correspondent“ in Tel Aviv. By adopting the official image of media, the project not only focus on the personal problematic of taking position towards complex political situations from outside, but also on the paradox game of international relations and media reflection.



Die Rechte des Gehsteigs

2012

Video, 6 min



Well, the human chain is blocking the pedestrian.

The Video shows pictures of political and artistic actions in public space. The choice of pictures is collected from international media. In a voice-over one can hear an Austrian policeman speaking about the juristic situation and criminal proceedings in each situation.



Let's hope it's authorised.



But fire on a roadside.
Unthinkable.

Hoheitszeichen

2012, Intervention on camping sites at the Wolfgangsee

HD Video, 7 min.



Starting with the question, how national identity manifests in daily life, I did a research in the microcosm of a camping site in a touristic area in Austria. I wanted to find out, why so many campers like to decorate their little space with a national flag. During my research I found out, that most of campers do not know themselves, they just imitated the others. I decided to create a sportive competition with the campers at stake of their flagg.



The Eyewitness

2011,
Full HD Video, 15 min



In Eyewitness a group of children between 8-10 years spend time in a room where the artist had arranged a display of a selection of blown-up news footage from Reuters press image archive showing current political situations from around the world.

The children were asked to reflect on the images, without getting any information about the background or the situation that the image was taken from. They were asked to simply react to what they saw. The discussions recorded by the artist were barely guided. The outcome is a blur of facts, acquired opinions and the children's own ideas.



or the people where protesting.



Maybe he is born in a country like Afghanistan.

Beat House

2011, Charleroi,
Performance



For an artist residence in Charleroi I realized a collective performance with the inhabitants of one of the biggest housing blocks in the city. At a fixed date they opened their windows and played on high volume a CD with their own heartbeats, which I recorded with an ultrasound scanning beforehand. For 20 minutes the hum of all inhabitants heartbeats could be heard outside. The sucking and pulsating noise created an unfamiliar intimate insight to the human organism and gave the impression of a mysterious machinery.

