

GEBERT STIFTUNG FÜR KULTUR*

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DIE WIEDERHOLUNG DER ZEICHEN

ØYSTEIN AASAN (NO), DAVID HAMMONS (USA), BETTINA SAMSON (F), IZET SHESHIVARI (CH),
SUSE WEBER (D), CHRISTINE WÜRMELL (D), ANDREAS ZYBACH (CH)

25. Oktober bis 21. Dezember 2008

Eröffnung: Freitag, 24. Oktober 2008, 19 Uhr

Presse Vorbesichtigung: Freitag, 24. Mai 2008, 11 Uhr

For the opening exhibition of the yearlong program entitled Correspondences, seven artists investigate the way communities, granted or assumed, make their existence visible in public space. In the last thirty years, many authors have dealt with the idea of community. Philosophers and writers such as Jean-Luc Nancy, Maurice Blanchot and Giorgio Agamben have all attempted to lay out a more precise definition of this form of togetherness. Their problematic develops within an attempt to outline this form of association, which represents neither an insular specificity, nor a simple unity, but a form of dynamic delineation of singularity and plurality.

While reflecting on community, one has to face the fact that perceptions and understandings of this term are extremely varied. In this context the exhibition,

The Repetition of Signs, focuses on the visual dimension of the issue. By displaying signs related to various communities, the artists explore how the existence of this form of togetherness becomes visible.

These signs are what make links between individuals visible. Here, Suse Weber and Christine Würmell present us with signs belonging to various cultures that happen to overlap through globalisation. Izet Sheshivari focuses on the virtual internet community, using images from a classical artistic repertoire in a retroactive mode, whereas Øystein Aasan plays with the entrenched notion of architecture as a representative form of nationhood. Bettina Samson underlines how the fantasy of an unknown, yet sought-after Other can influence the constitutive process of a community.

According to personal experience, we might recognise some signs in the exhibition and relate to them. This moment of recognition allows us to identify how part of our personal experience fits within a shared chain of significations and also heightens our awareness of indirect relationships to communities. Although some communities are part of our daily life, it does not necessarily mean that we belong to them. Nevertheless, our agreement on the signification of certain signs can be understood as the first step towards developing a sense of affiliation with a community. The work by Andreas Zybach underlines this possibility by playing with our understanding of colours.

The piece by David Hammons in the exhibition, African-American Flag, takes over what is probably the most well-known element used to define a nation: a flag. The artist transforms it by transposing the colours of the African flag onto the shape of the American one. He unveils the appropriation of American culture by Afro-Americans, but also the reversed process of transformation of American identity through African Culture. His piece asks the question of how to envision a community that actualises itself in the moment of its dissolution. This piece makes visible the often-conflicted relationship between two cultures and investigates the possibility to represent the heterogeneity of a community. The collection of signs in the show points out that the experience of sharing an understanding of visual references is perhaps the first step towards belonging to a community.

This exhibition is made possible with the generous support of the city Rapperswil-Jona, Kanton St.Gallen, Swisslos, AVINA STIFTUNG, Bundesamt für Kultur BAK, Office for Contemporary Art, Pro Helvetia. We would like to thank Professor Rinkel at Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil, the computer department of the city for their active support, and the Ellipse Foundation for their generous loan.

WEITERE VERANSTALTUNGEN:

Samstag 15. November 2008, 14 - 16.30 Uhr
Familienführung und offenes Atelier für Kinder

Die beiden Kunstvermittlerinnen der Alten Fabrik, Birgit Fritsch und Ursula Meier, organisieren anschließend an die Familienführung ein offenes Atelier für Kinder zum Thema der Ausstellung, das ca. von 15 bis 16.30 Uhr dauern wird.

Sonntag, 7. Dezember 2008, 14 Uhr
Öffentliche Führung

Die beiden Kunstvermittlerinnen der Alten Fabrik, Birgit Fritsch und Ursula Meier, führen durch «Die Wiederholung der Zeichen».

Alte Fabrik
Klaus Gebert Strasse 5
8640 Rapperswil-Jona

Öffnungszeiten: Mi–Fr 17–20 Uhr; Sa–So 14–17 Uhr

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www.kurator.ch