

T. Rex: Children of the Revolution

Else Lasker-Schüler: I have brought Love into the World ...

Transit Lounge Else/Lift to the Stars

The internationally active Centre for Persecuted Arts (initiated by the Else-Lasker-Schüler-Society, Wuppertal, supported by the Regional Association of the Rhineland (LVR) and the City of Solingen) was set up in Solingen in 2015. This institution, the only one in the world, does not only document the history of National Socialism and of exile, but also addresses the persecuted contemporary artists.

The way in which a state deals with its artists is a litmus test for democracy. Using the example of the poet Else Lasker-Schüler, the persecution and fate of an artist in exile is shown in all its aspects. In 1896, Else Lasker-Schüler was born in the Bergisches Land, the same area in which the Centre for Persecuted Arts is currently being set up. From there, she started out into the world. She locked Satan into Heaven and God into a smoking Hell and her poems are amongst the most beautiful in world literature. Else Lasker-Schüler also wrote in resistance against dictatorship and displacement. In 1945, she died in exile in Jerusalem.

The Project:

A live-performance, which is to guest in many cities of the world, ends in a multilingual sound installation in the Centre for the Persecuted Arts and culminates in a messenger for the freedom of art and communication. Else Lasker-Schüler magnificent poems form its core.

The spoken word is what counts / Check against delivery

Every artist who gives his voice to the project is part of a permanent art installation that can be experienced in its entirety only in the Centre of Persecuted Arts.

The actors Günter Lamprecht is not only participating but the patron of the whole nproject.

During the live performances new artists will be added as guests.

Transit Lounge Else/Lift to the Stars

is a process-based project that runs in different phases. At its core an actress (Claudia Gahrke) speaks poems by Else Lasker-Schüler live. The other performers in the project are fed in by computer via three other loudspeaker channels (narrated by international artists of all genres).The aim is a multilingual voice cosmos of 1000 + 1 voices (the one being Claudia Gahrke), which in its entirety, portrays Else Lasker-Schüler's poetic cosmos and becomes a chorus audible throughout the world campaigning for the freedom of art. Each of the performers who lends his/ her voice speaks a passage from a poem which he/she selected, in his/her native language.

Art in the Box/ Telephone Box

The final installation is a mutated phone box. In Transit Lounge Else/ Lift to the Stars, the members of the public can select every single one of the 1,000 + 1 tracks specifically by telephone. There is a telephone book with the track numbers of all the artists. You are connected to the whole world via the telephone receiver.

The Home of Art is Freedom.

Organizer and beneficiary is the Else-Lasker-Schueler-Society e.V.

There are the following stations: Berlin (the public dress rehearsal), New York, Los Angeles/Pacific Palisades, Stockholm, Dublin, London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Wien, Zürich.

The artist duo ASTRONAUTENKOST has the overall artistic responsibility for this.

The artists:

ASTRONAUTENKOST:

The artist duo ASTRONAUTENKOST are the director and author Andreas Schäfer and the actress Claudia Gahrke. ASTRONAUTENKOST works at the interface between poetry, visual arts, music and theatre. The artists' projects take place between the EXPO, Zollverein Industrial Complex (Zeche Zollverein), Tel Aviv and Cambridge. Once, the place is a theatre in Chelsea for Heiner Müller, an airport terminal or the Casa Batlló in Barcelona for the poems of Federico García Lorca in tango style. For Fellini they used a trendy club and a disused film studio. One of the artists' last productions was the live radio play LIFE? OR THEATRE? about the painter Charlotte Salomon, who was murdered in Auschwitz. They played LIFE? OR THEATRE? in Tel Aviv, Vienna and Berlin.

Further projects: Settings of Else Lasker-Schüler-poems at the Jewish Museum in Berlin and in Wrocław. An art roadshow for Essilor (Kestner Gesellschaft (Kestner Society), K 21, Württembergischer Kunstverein). „Trans and Form/Sound-Performance“, Haus am Waldsee, Berlin. Live radio play „I'm a Microbe“ („Ich bin eine Mikrobe“) for the Fraunhofer-Gala „Fest der Forschung“ with Herbert Fritsch in Dresden. Dance theatre performance at the Alte Oper Frankfurt for dit. Performances took place at Onlinestar in Munich and at the Congress CONTRACT FUTURE, organized by the Initiativkreis Ruhrgebiet in Essen.

Claudia Gahrke, acting training in the master class with Actors Studio founder Robert Lewis, speech training with Günter Wirth. She is a scholarship holder of the International Forum of Young Theatre Workers, at the Berlin Theatretreffen. Theatre roles: among others: Merteuil in Heiner Müllers „Quartet“ in London and the child in Samuel Beckett's „Eines schönen Tages“ („Quad“) in Berlin, directed by Thomas Ostermeier Meier. Performances in Brussels, Cambridge and during the EXPO2000, amongst others: Ophelia in the „Hamletmachine/ Sound-Performance“, Haus am Waldsee, Berlin. „Kitty Hawk“ in „I'm a Microbe“ for the Fraunhofer-Gala „Fest der Forschung“ in Dresden. Readings amongst others: „About the Eternities between the Many and the Few“ - Alfred Döblin und Else-Lasker-Schüler with Günter Lamprecht. Performances, with Else Lasker-Schüler-settings, took place at the Jewish Museum in Berlin and in Wrocław. Guest appearances with LIFE? OR THEATRE?, by Charlotte Salomon, in Vienna, Berlin and in the Tmu-Na-Theatre in Tel Aviv. Many roles in WDR plays. In 2011 her CD „Die kreisende Weltfabrik“ („The Orbiting World Factory“) appeared, with poems, prose and letters by Else Lasker-Schüler. 2014 recitation of Durs Grünbein for the opening of the exhibition SOCKS FOR LIFE in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Andreas Schäfer is a director and author. He attended the master class directing with Robert Lewis (Actors Studio). Productions in Israel, London, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels and at the EXPO2000. Schäfer writes an essay series on communication and art in the 21st century and reference book contributions. Interviews with Hellmuth Karasek, Prof. Michael Schirner, Bert Neumann, Denis

Scheck, Tom Stromberg, Heike-Melba Fendel, Jan Hoet, etc. Since 2009 he is the executive editor of the magazine showcases. In 2012, an interview with the title „Durch den menschlichen Kosmos“ (“Through the Human Cosmos”) was published. In 2011, he directed the CD production „Die kreisende Weltfabrik“ (“The orbiting world factory”) with texts by Else Lasker-Schüler. In 2014 he is curating the exhibition SOCKS FOR LIFE, among others with works by René Böll, Elfriede Jelinek, Robert Wilson, Ruprecht von Kaufmann and Andrea K. Schlehwein in the European Parliament in Brussels. He received an European Best Event Award for that in.

Sound design & VJ:

Jojo Wolter is a composer and musician.

14 LP / CD releases with the legendary punk band S.Y.P.H.

Projects with Holger Czukay and Michael Karoli (CAN), participation in the documenta 7 and documenta 8, music recordings for “No Frank in Lumberton”, a documentary film about the filming of “Blue Velvet”, by Peter Braatz. Compositions for various theatre productions. Since 2008: bass player + producer for "UWE X."

Costumes:

Christine Mayer studied fashion design at the University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg, after an apprenticeship as a furrier. Encounters with exceptional people, theatre works and meditations, serve Christine Mayer as inspiration for her collections made of recycled materials. She has received the Berlin Fashion Award numerous times and she has founded her own label: the MAYER. Peace Collection. The designer is also successful as a costume designer for opera and theatre. Among others, she has worked for: The Komische Oper Berlin, the Schauspielhaus Frankfurt, the Deutsche Theatre Berlin, the Staatstheatre Stuttgart as well as for the ballet of the Staatsoper Hannover.

Sound Transducer:

Microtech Gefell M900 and UM900

(According to Heiner Müller, innovation always comes from the province.)

Cooperation-partners:

Else-Lasker-Schüler-Society, Centre for Persecuted Arts, Uniplan, büro für tanz | theater | produktionen (Millstatt/Österreich), SRH Hochschule der populären Künste (hdpk), Berlin

Centre for Persecuted Arts:

For this institution at the Kunstmuseum Solingen, the “Centre for Persecuted Arts GmbH” was founded in 2015 by the two Shareholders, the Regional Association of the Rhineland with 66% and the holding company of the City of Solingen with 33%. The location of this institution is the Kunstmuseum Solingen.

This “Centre” is an institution, the only one in the world, with pictures, books and personal documents from the German cultural history of the period from 1914 to 1989. The central topics are both German dictatorships of the 20th century and their consequences.

The art collection consists of the community foundation (around 500 images) from the Gerhard Schneider Collection (Sammlung Gerhard Schneider), acquired in 2004, and collections from the Kunstsammlung (Art Collection Solingen). This is primarily the „Georg-Meistermann-Collection“

(„Georg-Meistermann-Sammlung“). Georg Meistermann initiated the Bundeskunstsammlung (The Federal Art Collection) and his statement is the museum's guiding principle: “Exhibitions of works by both defamed and your artists should be organized annually and receive funding from the German Länder”...

The bridge between the persecution of literature and visual art is created by the painting poet Else Lasker-Schüler. The Centre received 23 original images from the Else-Lasker-Schüler-Society, which were confiscated as “degenerate” from the Berlin National Gallery in 1937. It is the largest collection of her drawings outside Israel. The Else-Lasker-Schüler-Foundation “Burned and Banned Poets/ Artists” has contributed the collection of exile literature “Sammlung Jürgen Serke”. The presentation concept is based on authors, whom the journalist Jürgen Serke has portrayed in his books „Die verbrannten Dichter“ (“The Burned Poets”), „Dichter, die eigenmächtig blieben in der DDR“ (“Writers Who Chose to Stay in the GDR”) and “Böhmische Dörfer” (“Bohemian Villages”).

Prior to the opening, international culture forums of the Else-Lasker-Schüler-Society, took place in Berlin, Israel, Poland, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Italy and Austria. In exhibitions, the Museum/ Centre has presented itself in Belgium, France and in various cities in Germany. Patrons of more than 20 Else Lasker-Schüler-forums, who have “advertised” the Centre, among others were: the State Presidents/ Ministers Václav Havel, Ezer Weizman, Shimon Peres, Johannes Rau, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Aurélie Filippetti and Mary Robinson, UN- High Commissioner for Human Rights.

ASTRONAUTENKOST | Es gilt das gesprochene Wort.

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