

Returning to homecomings

Testing a topography of memory – collective, muscle, short-term, long-term, explicit, declarative, episodic, semantic, implicit, procedural, etc. – where the borders between then and now and then become blurred, a cycle of thought is set in motion.⁴ Here the thought is an exhibition, a symposium, an exhibition. An etcetera is implied.

Inspired by both Georges Perec's "Espèces d'espaces" (1974) and Hreinn Friðfinnsson's "House Project" (1974-), the exhibition series models revisitation as a multi-layered reflection on locality and identity.

The two-day symposium "homecomings, etc." brings together architects, artists, curators, scholars, and writers to open up concepts of return and delineation in artistic practice. Bridging two group exhibitions, the symposium's content reflects on what has taken place in 2013 and likewise lays the groundwork for the next display and events for Spring 2015. Day One focuses on traces of practiced return, expounding logics of encounter with homecomings of thought and experience, over time. Conversation is invited to travel and extend with an unfolding evening of artistic contributions. Day Two opens the dialogue toward prospective visions of "homecomings, etc." in search of defining the very reading and writing of place, of subjectivity, of etcetera.

Reinstalled at Aedes Network Campus Berlin, Eric Ellingsen's film, rope, and sound piece "ROPEWALK (a knot sketch)" (2013) suspends a self-homing score in the symposium's soundscape.

Friday night's parallel events at BOX Freiraum in Friedrichshain test the malleability of homecomings through multiple senses of recall, returning to the previous venue with three new artistic works: an installation by Øystein Aasan "GATES / IN (NOT) SO MANY WORDS" (2014), Tatiana Echeverri Fernandez's piece "Intercalation" (2014) performed by Michael Burditt Norton, and a salon, "Coming Home" (2014), by the artists Marco Thiella & Chiara Zanella.

"homecomings, etc." is organized by Cassandra Edlefsen Lasch and Annabelle von Girsewald. Funded by the Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin Foundation.

Notes

- 1 An exhibition series bridged by a symposium, curated by Cassandra Edlefsen Lasch and Annabelle von Girsewald. In Fall 2013, "homecomings" featured: benandsebastian, Anton Burdakov, Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson, Tatiana Echeverri Fernandez, Eric Ellingsen, Jean-Pascal Flavien, Hreinn Friðfinnsson, Elín Hansdóttir, Florian Neufeldt, and Sophia Pompéry.
- 2 The symposium takes place at Aedes Network Campus Berlin, Christinenstraße 18-19, 10119 Berlin. The installation, performance, and salon take place at BOX Freiraum, Boxhagener Straße 93, 10245 Berlin, from 6pm.
- 3 Admission is free. Talks and interviews will be in English unless otherwise stated.
- 4 The list derives in part from the main strands of a model of memory developed in 1968 by Richard Atkinson and Richard Shiffrin, termed the "process of memory" or "modal" or "multi-store" or "Atkinson-Shiffrin" model; it remains a popular model for studying memory.

homecomings, etc.¹ Symposium^{2, 3}

Friday 10 October – Saturday 11 October 2014

Katharina Wendler is the director of Safn Berlin, a public exhibition space that hosts the private art collection of Pétur Arason and aims to create a platform for Icelandic art in an international context. Wendler has been researching the artist Hreinn Friðfinnsson since she completed a study semester in Iceland and is currently writing her MA thesis on the use of time and temporal structures within his artistic practice. Next Spring she will curate an exhibition of his works at Safn Berlin.

Cassandra Edlefsen Lasch has worked in contemporary art since 2007 in Berlin. She is the Editor at PRAXES Center for Contemporary Art since its foundation in 2013. With neugerriemschneider, she managed projects and exhibitions with artists such as Jorge Pardo. "homecomings" furthers her curatorial and editorial collaborations with artists working around text, architecture, design, and visual and performing arts—following traces of context in its myriad translations.

Annabelle von Girsewald is a Berlin exhibition maker from the US. In 2005, in her Frankfurt apartment, she initiated an ongoing series of exhibitions, bringing together artists whose practices grapple with themes such as identity and the meaning of home. She curates "The Bakery" an evolving project with the visual artist and musician Egill Sæbjörnsson. Furthermore she has worked with artists such as Keren Cytter, Klara Lidén, and Ulla von Brandenburg.

Hreinn Friðfinnsson is widely thought of as one of Iceland's leading conceptual artists. His "House Project", started in 1974, has been one of the main inspirations for the "homecomings" project. He has had solo exhibitions at: The Hafnarfjörður Centre of Culture and Fine Art (2012), Bergen Kunstmuseum, and Malmö Konsthall (both 2008), Reykjavik Art Museum, and The Serpentine Gallery, London (both 2007). In 2012 he participated in the 30th Bienal de São Paulo and represented Iceland at the 45th International Art Exhibition Biennale di Venezia in 1993. Friðfinnsson lives and works in Amsterdam since the 1970s.

Jean-Baptiste Decavèle is an artist, filmmaker, and photographer living in Paris, France. He has exhibited extensively in Europe and North America. In 1999 he received the Villa Médicis Hors les Murs award for his project "Entre Ciel et Mer, Voyage Aide-Mémoires" and again in 2001 for "Nostalgie, la Demeurance et l'Îcône", with South-African writer Tatamkhulu Afrika. His work has always been based on collaborative processes, e.g., with Belgian artist Nico Dockx ("A Dog Republic", "Crossing informations", and "Etc.") and with the architect Yona Friedman, with whom he has been sharing some good time since 2006.

Eric Ellingsen prefers to use bio-spaces to squat bio-poems. One type of poem he writes is KNOT poetry. KNOT poetry is a genetic poetic mutation of an Ethiopian technique of poetry, in which the same phrase is repeated over and over again. As you hear new words in the same phrase lean into those new words. Do this until you think three minutes is passed. KNOT bio poem #4: It's 4D fences

Dr. Melanie Franke is an art historian and author. She is currently a lecturer in Art History and Cultural Studies at the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Basel. She recently edited "Erzählen und Wissen: Narrative Strategien in der zeitgenössischen Kunst" (2013). The book, which features interviews with Eric Ellingsen, Omar Fast, Tue Greenfort, Carsten Nicolai, and Simon Starling, explores ways in which contemporary art allows for criticism of prevalent narratives, while still using narrative techniques.

Luis Berríos-Negrón is an artist and architect exploring spatial and knowledge production. He was commissioned artist at the 3rd Bienal da Bahia in Brazil (2014). He represented Germany with curator Matthias Böttger in the São Paulo International Biennial for Architecture (2013), exhibited in Paul Ryan's "Threeing" project at DOCUMENTA, and in the "Future Archive" at the Neuer

Berliner Kunstverein (both 2012). He received first prize in the Parsons-Kalil Award for Smart Design (2002), first prize in the M.I.T.-Schnitzer Award for the Visual Arts (2004), and most recently the Royal Danish Council for the Arts International Visiting Artist stipend (2013). Berríos-Negrón lives and works in Berlin.

Hans Ulrich Obrist is one of the most prolific and revered curators of his generation. With his work on “The Interview Project” he has recorded over 2000 hours of discussions with artists, curators, philosophers, filmmakers, scientists, and musicians. He remains dedicated to the importance of finding a platform for unrealized projects; his archive, amassed over years of research, cumulated in the book “Unbuilt Roads: 107 Unrealized Projects” (1997). The project was shown again as a public archive at e-flux and DAAD-Galerie in 2009. Obrist is presently the Co-director of Exhibitions and Programmes and Director of International Projects at the Serpentine Galleries, London.

Adam Budak is currently the Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art, Prague. He has curated a large number of international exhibitions, such as “Architectures: Metastructures of Humanity, Morphic Strategies of Exposure”, an exhibition in the Polish Pavilion of the 9th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (2004), “Anabasis Rituals of Homecoming” (2009, Łódź), “Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson – Asymmetry” (2013, Rotterdam), as well as the Estonian Pavilion at the 5th International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia (2013). As a part of the collectively curated Manifesta 7, Budak curated “PRINCIPLE HOPE” (2008, Ravenna).

Dr. Ursula Ströbele is an art historian, author, and curator. She is currently a research associate at the Institut für Kunstwissenschaft und Ästhetik der Universität der Künste, Berlin. Ströbele has recently curated the thematic group shows, “(Ver-)handlungsräume”, Haus am Lützowplatz (2014) and “Mise-en-Scène. Skulpturale Rhetorik”, KWADRAT (2012), both in Berlin. She recently published “Mise en Scène – Skulptur und Narration: Untersuchungen zu Anish Kapoor” (2013). November 2014 she is curating “24h. Skulptur” at Sexauer, Berlin.

Sophia Pompéry works with video, photography, and installation. In 2012, she became a fellow of the DAAD art program and completed a six-month stay in Istanbul. She has had solo exhibitions at ARTER Space for Art in Istanbul (2012), Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden (2013), and Galerie Dix9, Paris. Her work is currently on show in the exhibition “Schwindel Der Wirklichkeit” [Vertigo of Reality], Akademie der Künste, Berlin. She lives and works in Berlin.

Mareike Riedel holds a degree in Law and an MA in Literature, Linguistics, and Journalism, both from the University of Leipzig. Currently she is a Ph.D candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle. Her doctoral project is centered on the accommodation of Jewish law in several European states and analyses in particular which models of integration, cooperation, and/or separation have been established.

Kirsty Bell is a critic and writer based in Berlin. As well as being a contributing editor for “frieze” she writes regularly for “Art in America”, “Mousse” and “Art-agenda”. She has held numerous interviews with contemporary artists worldwide. Her first book, “The Artist’s House: from workplace to artwork”, is based on a series of interviews and site visits with living artists about the role of their home in relation to their work, and was published by Sternberg Press in 2013.

Valérie Chartrain is a writer, curator, and also the co-founder and co-editor of “Pétunia”, a feminist art and entertainment yearly publication presenting diverse textual forms ranging from theoretical texts to diary entries to pure fiction or comics. Recently co-curated exhibitions include “Momentum” at gallery PSM, Berlin (2014) and “Pro choice” at Fri-art, Kunsthalle Friburg (2013). She has current contributions in “Spike” magazine and diverse academic journals. She lives and works in Berlin and Paris.

Friday 10 October 2014

9:30 Registration

10:00 *Cassandra Edlefsen Lasch* and *Annabelle von Girsewald*: “Returning to homecomings”

10:15 *Katharina Wendler*: “Erzählung, Natur, Zeit – Themen im Werk von Hreinn Friðfinnsson” (in German)

10:45 Break

11:15 *Cassandra Edlefsen Lasch* and *Annabelle von Girsewald* with *Hreinn Friðfinnsson*: “Returning to ‘House Project’: an interview with Hreinn Friðfinnsson”

12:00 *Jean-Baptiste Decavèle*: “y w”

13:00 Installation by *Eric Ellingsen*: “ROPEWALK (a knot sketch)” (2013)

13:15 Lunch

14:30 *Dr. Melanie Franke*: “do it” (in German)

15:30 Break

16:00 *Luis Berríos-Negrón*: “Weaving and Unweaving in the 4th Dimension: Abstract Machines and Social Pedestals”

17:00 *Cassandra Edlefsen Lasch* and *Annabelle von Girsewald* with *Hans Ulrich Obrist*: Screening “Homing Curation: an interview with Hans Ulrich Obrist”

18:00 Transition to BOX Freiraum?

19:00 Performance by *Tatiana Echeverri Fernandez*: “Intercalation” (2014) with *Michael Burditt Norton*
Installation by *Øystein Aasan*: “GATES / IN (NOT) SO MANY WORDS” (2014)
Salon by *Marco Thiella & Chiara Zanella*: “Coming Home” (2014)

Saturday 11 October 2014

13:30 Registration

14:00 *Adam Budak*: “Anabasis. On Rituals of Homecoming”

15:00 *Dr. Ursula Ströbele* with *Sophia Pompéry*: “geHEIM – Vergangene und Zukünftige Projektionen” (in German)

16:00 Break

16:30 *Mareike Riedel*: “Shabbat Spaces: The Powers of the Eruv”

17:30 *Kirsty Bell* with *Jean-Baptiste Decavèle* on his work with Yona Friedman: “MerzWorlds: extensions, collaborations and simple truth”

18:30 Inviting Remarks

19:00 *Valérie Chartrain*: “The Pétunia Prism”