

2011 - 2016
SOME DEMOCRATIC FICTIONS
a long-term project by claudia bosse
in collaboration with g nther auer

supported:
watermill centre, new york
goethe-institut, tunis
goethe-institut alexandria
festival journ es th  trales de carthage, tunis
frankfurter kunstverein
museum of contemporary art, zagreb
cifas, festival trouble, brussels
ashkal alwan, beirut
Bhive, athens
CLUSTER, cairo
szenenwechsel (robert bosch foundation), berlin
a coproduction with theatercombinat

SOME DEMOCRATIC FICTIONS is a series of interviews starting in january 2011 and investigating as an on site research on different places concepts of democracy, legal forms, ways of life, ideas of freedom as dialogic thinking about political alternatives on different sites. a transnational research and collection of positions which are published as a temporary archive in form of a space-specific installation. portraits from new york, cairo, alexandria, tunis, frankfurt, zagreb, tel aviv, jerusalem, brussels, beirut and athens posing the question how history is constructed - considered from different cultural and geopolitical contexts.



some democratic fictions beirut, material of the installation
thoughts meet space suitcase version for beirut, ashkal alwan

the collection out of voices, fragile thoughts and video portraits is always in progress and produces ideas, gestures and space for contemporary (recent) history – a live archive of today, about people from different countries with different backgrounds and political convictions. a transnational multi-narrative which unfolds the “view on our time” in the in between spaces of the individual statements.

out of the collected material from the project **SOME DEMOCRATIC FICTIONS** (video / audio interviews as well as soundscapes, photography, objects and pictures) different artistic formats are developed on particular spots as a specific contextualization and medialization confronting (different) material in different ways. temporary installative archives in confrontation with the local environment and enriched by the interviews produced on site. in installations of multimedia spaces where knowledge is unfolded, the collection becomes an archive of contemporary history in a permanent continuation via different perspectives.



projection, material of the installation **thoughts meet space**

THE INTERVIEW is the tool of encounter, of communication, of concentration. the interview in presence of a video / audio recorder is the frame of an artificial space of an encounter of people and their thoughts in an intimate, concentrated interview setting. a frame for the production of ideas, sentences, expression, gesture and language. the people are of different backgrounds, ages, lives and professions. by collecting their narratives, they became part of this international collection of (political) thoughts, which become accessible as temporary archives in an installative form or integrated in other artistic formats.

the interviews are based on a questionnaire that is adapted for each country and the respective context. (see page 8.)

how do narrations, thoughts, expressions differ because of different geopolitical and cultural spaces of experience. or is it more because of individual reasons, why one tends to define terms such as democracy, revolution, freedom, religion, state, capitalism or crises differently?

THE TEMPORARY ARCHIVE as a site specific installation is the form of making this collection public under the label "thoughts meet space". there is no definitive form of readability or global accessibility of the collection. the form of publication is as fragile, local and depending of the situation as the circumstances in which the interviews are made. differently unfolded knowledge in specific spaces, distributed over several spaces and the different readabilities created as a transnational archive. according to the composition of the material in the space, different constellation are produced, different informations are delivered - which again are informed by the specific context and charged with new significance. the installative archive is a ephemeral archive, which is generated in the very moment of its publication and accessible only for a limited time in the particular form in this specific space. it creates a comparison of spaces between times, geopolitical fields and languages, between the individuals and their specific experiences, between the generations and the comparison to present-day reality. the archive is the interweaving of interviews as image, sound or transcription or the synchronicity of audio and/or video documents as well as objects, images and media. an aesthetic translation of a different possibility of spatially interwoven historiography, as a performative manifestation of language, voice, identity, gesture etc., as comparable elements of a societal agreement.

the installative archive is a spatial narrative which from the present, composed of many voices, will become history. many narrations from various perspectives and political worlds. a spatial multi-narrative.



thoughts meet space *athens*, Bhive athens

RESEARCH / INTERVIEWS - DEVELOPMENT AND PERSPECTIVE

people in various different countries and political contexts have been interviewed since 2011. they also include journalists, artists, activists and scientists. the number of interviews and the selection so far: in new york (15), cairo (13 in 2011 and 21 in 2015), alexandria (11), tunis (2), frankfurt (4), zagreb (11), jerusalem (7), tel aviv (10), brussels (10), beirut (18), athens (19).

names of the interviewed people new york - january/february 2011

sherry dobbin
carlos lama
eric messin
cliff nordmeier †
isabel sepulveda
robert simonson
jonathan snow
caterina verde
moira williams
dimitri komis
jose enrique maccian
lorien reese
carlos soto
stuart
joern weisbrodt

cairo - october 2011

hana al bayati
hamdy alhussini
edin hassan bahey
dalia basouny
adham hafez
cornelia kaufmann
thomas nader
sadek naemi
omar nagati
moataz nasr
hany temraz
william wells
salem yousry

alexandria - october 2011

luzien arino
abdallah daif
ezz darwiesh
reem hassan
said kabil
alaa khaled
mahinura masri
hadeel nazmy
muhammed rakha
daniel stoevesandt
farouk whaba

tunis - january 2012

esaafi wahid
lotfi hajji

frankfurt - february 2012

klaus g nther
britta peters
daniel loik
thomas biebricher

new zagreb - december 2011/march 2012

jadranka alić
ivan alić
siniša glogoški
sovjetka horvat
petra fabro, ihre tochter
svjetlana lugar
zrinka tatomir
vladimir tatomir
franka horvat
aleksandar kondić
tomislav lukačić

jerusalem - may 2012

ronen eidelman
leo lieberman
guy gutman
mariana janin
matan israeli
riman barakat
yulie khromchenko

tel aviv - may 2012

nira pereg
omer kriegler
dan goldenblatt
meirav elchadef
eyal danon
adi ophir
kidane isaac
maya fenning
maya stern
klaus krischok

brussels - april 2013

richard nono
maurice beya
aime boulawa
assane mbengea
min de maersman
christine
mamma g
gael rodo
jaqueline bimba
marino ziloli



material of the installation
thoughts meet space *suitcase version for beirut*

beirut - october 2013

stefan bakmandandersen
fadi hennawi
nisreen kaj
nagham abboud
mikko mäki
christine thome
monika borgmann
vicken vincent avakian
mariam mosleh
victoria lupton
alexandre paulikevitch
monika halkort
diana menhem
ghassan maasri
patricia nabti
abdelrahim alawji
marwa arsanios
amal issa

athens - october 2014

katja ehrhardt
vassilis matzoukis
platon mavromoustakos
nikitas karagiannis
irini chovas
dimitris galanis
nikos soulis
nikos giavropoulos
marianna asimakopoulou
petros linardos rylmon
sotiris bachtetzi
anna sarilaki
evripidis laskaridis
nikos odubitan
viktorias maniatakou
maria komninou
andreas kourkoulas
michael kliën
vassilis noulas

cairo - january / february 2015

ragheb abushahba
ahmed al attar
khaled ali
samaher alkadi
doa aly
shayma aziz
kaya behkalam
abdalla daif
ezz darwiesh
shady elnoshokaty
ismail fayed
paul geday
amira hanafi
amanda kerdahi
huda lutfi
moataz nasr
sadek neaimi
deborah stokes
william wells
stefan winkler
salam yousry

INTERVIEW EXAMPLE
question script athens, october 2014

for the beginning i would like to ask you for a small introduction of yourself. so, please tell me your name, your age, if you want to, your citizenship, your occupation and since when you have been living in greece?

what is for you democracy?

please describe for me as a stranger the greek society, the participants of this society and are people excluded.

can you please describe the greek state and how it functions?

living in a state in transition. living in a state in danger. what does it mean for you?

do you think greece can become a laboratory for alternative economies and social relations? if so, how?

what is your experience, and experience of people you know of the crises?

how did you preserve and how would you interpret the events and the results of the so called arab spring?

do you think that democracy is an ideal way to govern a state? if yes, why? if not, can you give an alternative?

please describe yourself in 10 short sentences.

what means for you to act politically?

how do you define economy?

what is your association and definition of catastrophe?

what is your association and definition of paradise?

what is your idea and concept of an ideal society?

how do you define territory?

how do you define terrorism?

what is capitalism?

what does religion mean for you?

what is your personal definition of freedom?

how do you describe solidarity and its actual commun practice nowadays?

how is history produced?

how is reality produced?

who is for you „the other“?

what could be future economies in your imagination?

please imagine athens in the year 2050. how will it look alike? how will be the urban landscape? how living will be?

VERSIONS OF PUBLISHING THE SOME DEMOCRATIC FICTIONS MATERIAL AS TEMPORARY ARCHIVE UNTIL NOW:

after the use of the american interviews in the installation **dominant powers – landscapes of unease** (may 2011 in and outside the cartographic institute, vienna), some egyptian interviews became a part of the performance **dominant powers. what is to be done then?** in vienna and tunis, as well as in zagreb museum of contemporary art accompanied and intermingled with the installation **biographical landscapes of new zagreb**. this installation explored the concrete urban environment of new zagreb with the help of some residents, their memories and the conditions of their lives. the interviews of the local participants where encountered in the space of the museum with some other produced earlier in egypt. in february 2012 the archive was partially used in the public space installation and performance **burning beasts** in frankfurt. for this project in the displaced car bodies inside the city centre audio interview material of the archive was implemented together with sounds of music and descriptive reconstruction of media pictures representing failure of political orders. in april 2013 the material of the collection was enriched by interviews recorded in brussels, which also became part of the performative installation **galerie royale centrale - rewriting history**. the installation was created in dialogue with local shopholders, in their shops at galerie d'ixelles and confronted specific documents of the colonial history fromt he african museum tertvuren with the individual history of the people working there. **thoughts meet space** in may/june 2013 was an installation in 18 different spaces where the interviews were confronted with media scenarios of spelling reality. here, for the first time, the majority of the archive material became part of this artistic operation called "thoughts meet space", as a virtual space of three-dimensional thought presented in the old customs canteen in vienna accompanied by 2 performances in relation to the installation as a coproduction with tanzquartier vienna. the installation **thoughts meet space suitcase version for beirut** in ocotber 2013 was a continuation of this artistic operation and presented parts of the collected material as well as images, objects and interviews created on site in beirut. all this material, including the interviews produced in beirut became a part of the overall-project project (**katastrophen 11/15**) **ideal paradise** and the performances **what about catastrophes?** (april 2014)in coproduction with tanzquartier vienna and **catastrophic paradise** (september 2014) in coproduction with FFT dusseldorf in the framework of the series "DECOLONIZE! performative strategies for a (post)colonial age". **thoughts meet space athens** is first of all a chronological presentation of a multimedia travel threw 11 rooms of the neoclassical villa in residency by Bhive combined with interviews made in athens and new created objects. the installation **thoughts meet space cairo** in cooperation with CLUSTER - cairo laboratory for urban studies, supported by szenenwechsel berlin (robert bosch foundation) will be a re-development of the installations in vienna, beirut and athens. in april / may 2015, at the donaufestival in krems the performance and installation **a first step to IDEAL PARADISE** created a workroom about rituals and political thought.this work was the first sketch for the series **IDEAL PARADISE** that is the final of the overall project (**katastrophen 11/15**) **ideal paradise**. in the last production of this series, **the last IDEAL PARADISE**, parts of the interview collection were confronted as video projections and audio stations with the material of the series **IDEAL PARADISE**.

EXAMPLES of the publication of the SOME DEMOCRATIC FICTIONS material in different constellations

the last IDEAL PARADISE

choreography by n claudia
bosse / theatercombinat

interviews from cairo and
athens were used as sound
installation

17th - 19th november 2016

in the framework of
"international coproductions.
living dead - spukgestalten im
theater der gegenwart", FFT
dusseldorf

a production by
theatercombinat, a
coproduction with FFT
dusseldorf, supported by wien
kultur.



thoughts meet space *cairo* in
vienna
research and installation by
claudia bosse

with **confronting documents.**
confronting history
installation with live perfor-
mance

interviews from cairo, 2011 and
2015 and today, were used as
transcripts, videos of the tran-
scripts, video projections and
sound stations. the material wa
sconfronted

4th/5th november 2016

tanzquartier vienna

a production by theatercom-
binat, supported by change of
scene, a programme by robert
bosch foundation, in coopera-
tion with international theatre
institute and wien kultur. the
research in vienna is supported
by tanzquartier vienna.



thoughts meet space cairo in vienna is a laboratory and a walk-in installation as a continuation of the same-named installation that was taking place in cairo at hotel viennoise in january 2015. the starting point were research trips of the artist and choreographer claudia bosse with the sound artist g nther auer in october 2011 and january/february 2015 in cairo and alexandria. during these trips they were conducting interviews on the subjects concepts of freedom and democracy, legal forms, ways of living which became part of the interview collection **some democratic fictions**.

in the one-week research **confronting documents. confronting history** claudia bosse and g nther auer develop multimedia setting with video and audio documents from egypt. in the second week the artists interviewed in cairo – video artist kaya behkalam, theatre maker and cultural manager abdalla daif and the artist huda lutfi – will work in and with this generated installative setting and present their their today's view on the same questions confronting themselves in a live performance with the video documents from the past.

in the performative installation **confronting documents. confronting history** the interviews from 2011 and 2015 will collide in different media interconnections and with the current positions of some of the formerly interviewed cairo based artists kaya behkalam, abdalla daif and huda lutfi. it is about a confrontation of interview documents from 2011 and 2015, of historic documents as individual interviews with different visions and experiences by several people in the aftermath of the egyptian revolution; and of interviews that were recorded after the coup of general al-sisi who established a new regime in egypt. the juxtaposition of these materials from different times breaks open the changed perspectives, political developments, relations, estimations, disappointments. the juxtaposition of thoughts spoken out in a live situation in a dialogue with the documented material by themselves (kaya behkalem, abdalla daif, huda lutfi) as a additional layer enables a leap in time in its mutual interrogation of document and present. an attempt of an examination, of reflection, of actualisation and relocation of history and its description. through the artistic approach on the documentary material a space of present time evolves which is confronting the invitees with themselves and the changed perception of political systems and at the same time, confronting ourselves with the recent time.

catastrophic paradise

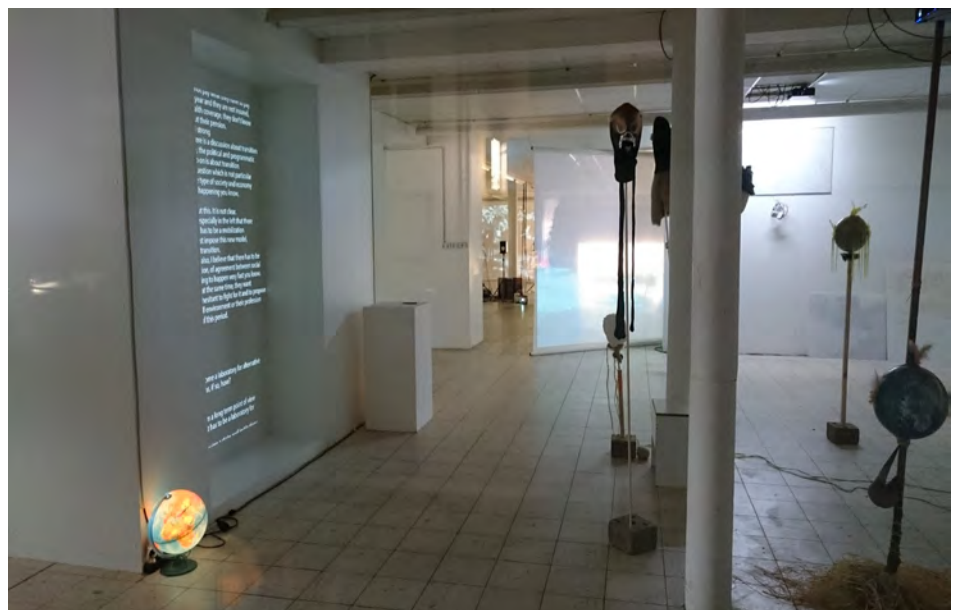
performance and installation
by claudia bosse /
theatercombinat,
wunder der prärie, zeitraumexit

interviews used as transcripts,
sound stations, videos of the
transcripts

public rehearsal probe: 18th
september
performances: 19th/22th-25th
september 2015
installation: 21th -24th
september 2015

ehemalige videothek,
meerfeldstraße 55, mannheim

a coproduction by
theatercombinat and FFT
dusseldorf. supported by
kunststiftung NRW within
the framework of the series
"DECOLONIZE! performative
strategies for a (post)colonial
age" and NPN national
performance network, co-
production fund for dance
financed by the federal
government commissioner for
culture and the media (BKM)
on the basis of a decision made
by the german bundestag and
by wien kultur.



**a first step to IDEAL
PARADISE**

installation and performance by
claudia bosse/theatercombinat

interviews from athens and
cairo used as a 57 minute
sound composition with
sound stations and acoustic
interventions in the entire
space

installation: 30th april - 2nd
may 2015
performance: 25th/26th april
2015,
atelier kunstmeile krems,
donaufestival

a production by
theatercombinat in
coproduction with
donaufestival. supported by
wien kultur.



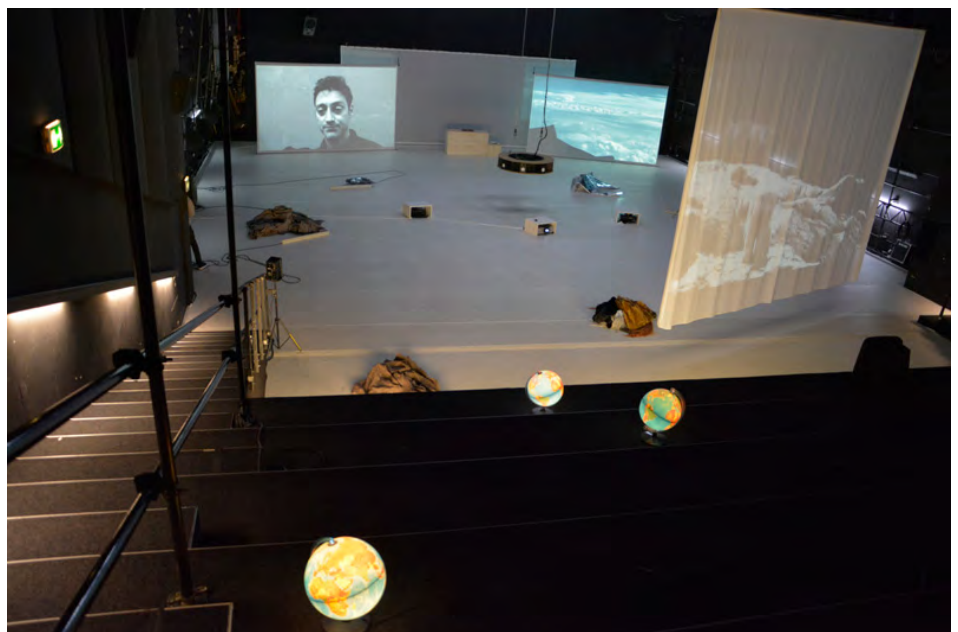
catastrophic paradise

performance by claudia bosse/
theatercombinat

interviews used as video
material

20th/21st march 2015
austrian premiere at
tanzquartier vienna

a production by
theatercombinat and FFT
dusseldorf. supported by
kunststiftung NRW within
the framework of the series
"DECOLONIZE! performative
strategies for a (post)colonial
age" and NPN national
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by wien kultur.



thoughts meet space *cairo*

installation and open archive
by claudia bosse

interviews from beirut, athens
and cairo used as sound
stations and as transcripts,
videos of transcripts and video
projections

29th january - 5th february
2015 at hotel viennoise, cairo

production by theatercombinat.
supported by szenenwechsel
/ robert bosch stiftung and
international theatre institute
ITI, wien kultur, in cooperation
with TransDance14: FOREVER
HaRaKa (egypt), advisory
board of the project: ahmed
al attar / orientproduction,
kaya behkalam / AUC, shady
elnoshokaty / ascii, ismail
fayed and omar nagati /
CLUSTER. thanks to austrian
cultural forum, CIC and habiba
allam



thoughts meet space athens

installation by
claudia bosse

interviews of all destinations
used as sound stations, videos,
transcripts. every destination
of *some democratic fictions*
was displayed in a single room,
following the chronology of the
collected material

20th-25th october 2014
in residency at Bhive, athens

production theatercombinat,
supported by wien kultur, BKA,
the austrian embassy in athens
and AthenSYN katja ehrhardt



catastrophic paradise

installation, performance by
claudia bosse /
theatercombinat

interviews used as multi
channel composition for a
sound and light object, videos
of transcripts, video projections
and sound stations

24th - 27th september 2014
botschaft am worringer platz,
dusseldorf

a production by
theatercombinat and FFT
dusseldorf. supported by
kunststiftung NRW within
the framework of the series
"DECOLONIZE! performative
strategies for a (post)colonial
age" and NPN national
performance network, co-
production fund for dance
financed by the federal
government commissioner for
culture and the media (BKM)
on the basis of a decision made
by the german bundestag and
by wien kultur



what about catastrophes?

installation, performance by
claudia bosse /
theatercombinat

interviews used as multi
channel composition for a
sound and light object, as
widespread sound station on
the stand and as moving boxes
that were equipped with sound
files

10th-13th april 2014

a production by
theatercombinat, in
coproduction with tanzquartier
vienna, supported by wien
kultur



thoughts meet space

suitcase version for beirut
multimedia installation by
claudia bosse

verwendung der interviews
aus tel aviv, jerusalem, tunis,
kairo und beirut als begehbare
hörstationen, transkriptionen,
und projizierte transkriptionen
und videointerviews

23rd-29th october 2013
in the framework of **some
democratic fictions BEIRUT**

research residency at ashkal
alwan 7th-31st october 2013
on invitation of ashkal alwan
- the lebanese association for
plastic arts, a coproduction with
theatercombinat, supported
by wien kultur, residency
supported by BMUKK

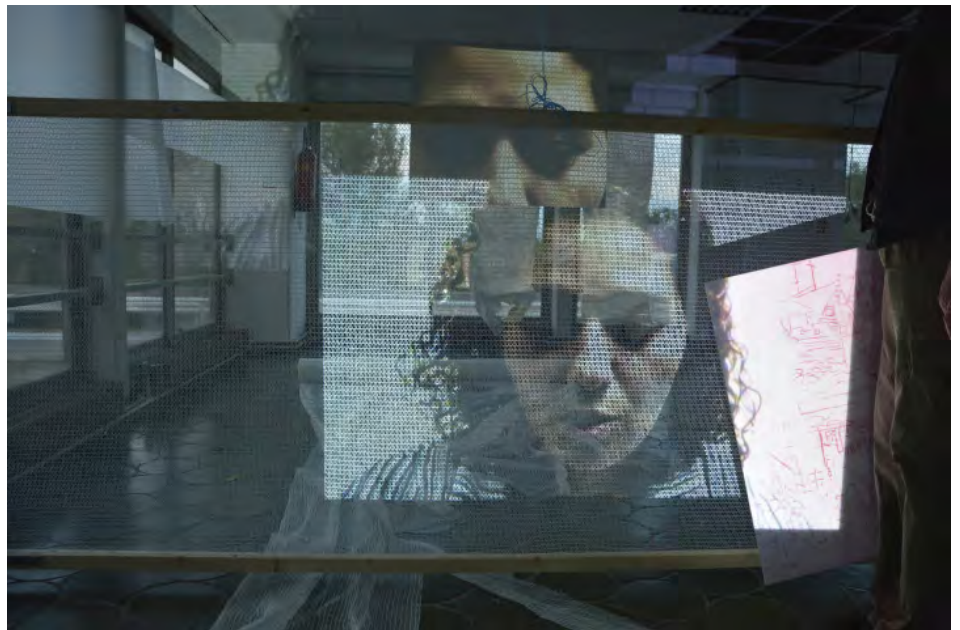


thoughts meet space
installation by claudia bosse

interviews from cairo, brussels,
israel used as video projec-
tions, transcripts and sound
stations

26th-29th june 2013
opening and closing act
on 26th und 29th june 2013

a production by
theatercombinat, a
coproduction by tanzquartier
wien, supported by wien kultur



**galerie matonge - rewriting
history**

installation by claudia bosse

interviews from brussels used
as an installation in a shopping
mall where the interviewed
people work

23th-27th april 2013

a collaboration with festival
"trouble" 2013, CIFAS



**biographical landscapes of
new zagreb**

art transfer, live installation
by claudia bosse

interviews from zagreb used as
videoprojection of the inter-
viewed people who were pre-
sent during the installation and
videos from cairo

30th june 2012 - 2nd july 2012
MSU zagreb

a production by
theatercombinat for the
museum of contemporary art,
zagreb



BURNING BEASTS

installation and performance by
claudia bosse

interviews used from frankfurt
that were played with speakers
and megaphones

installation: 13th-18th february
2012 / performance: 17th/18th
february 2012, in public space,
frankfurt

a work for frankfurter
kunstverein, as part of the
exhibition "demonstrationen.
vom werden normativer
ordnungen"



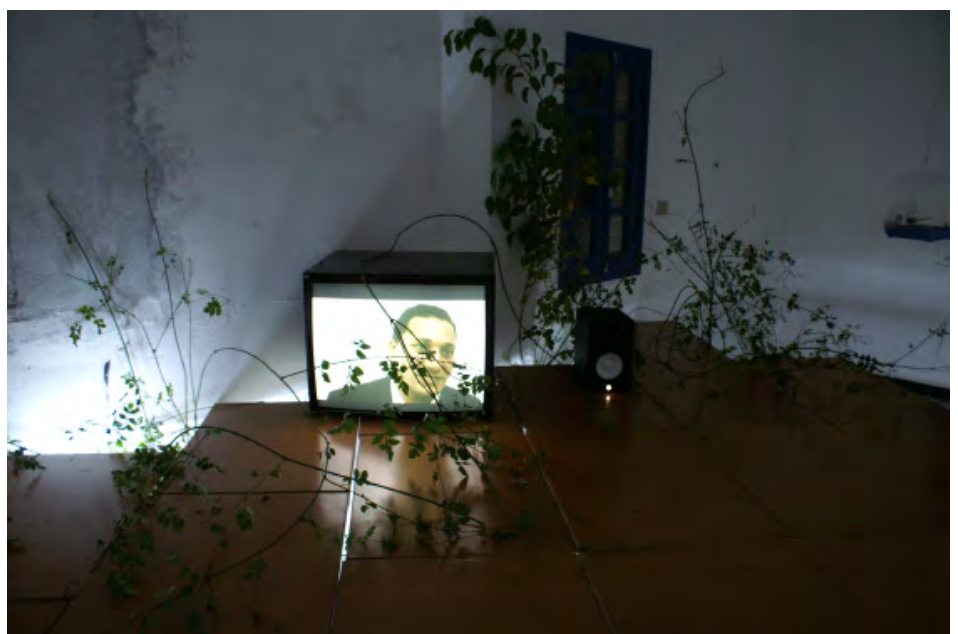
**dominant powers.
que faire, alors?**

installation for the
performance by claudia bosse /
theatercombinat

interviews from cairo were
repeated and could be
heard through telephones
that became part of the
performace

10th/11th january 2012, insti-
tut supérieur d'art dramatique
tunis

a production by theatercom-
binat, on invitation of festival
journées théâtrales de cartha-
ge tunis



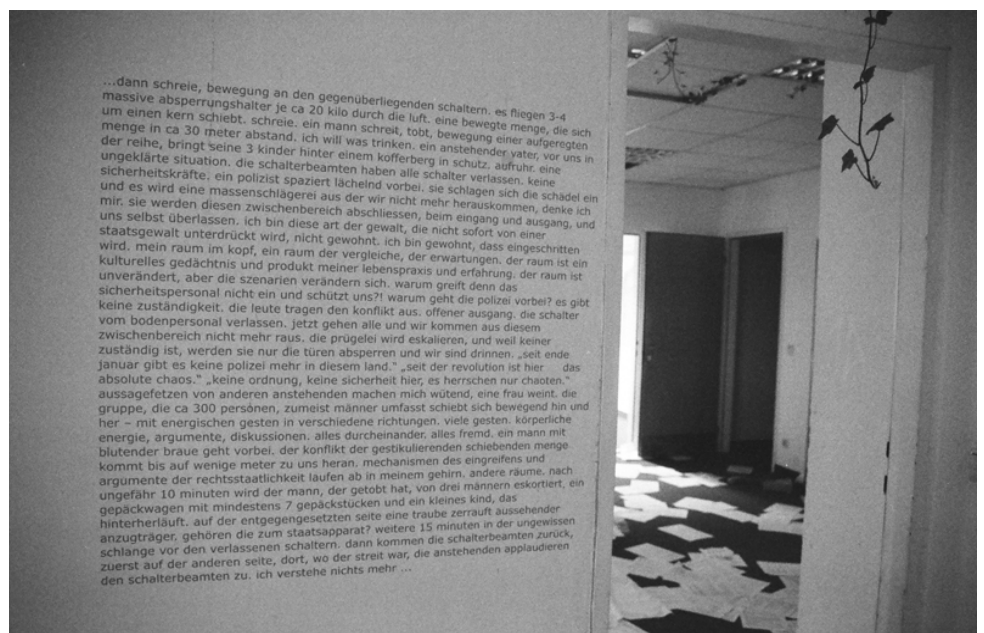
**dominant powers.
was also tun?**

installation for the
performance by claudia bosse /
theatercombinat

interviews from cairo were
repeated and could be heard
through telephones that became
part of the performace

23th november - 4th dezember
2011, DOMPOWpalace vienna

a production by theatercombinat,
on invitation of festival journées
théâtrales de carthage tunis



**dominant powers -
landschaften des
unbehagens**

installation and
artistic research by
claudia bosse, g nther auer

interviews used as video and
large-scale projections

10th/18th-24th may 2011,
kartographisches institut,
vienna

a production by
theatercombinat, supported by
wien kultur



claudia bosse (D / AT)

is an artist, choreographer and artistic director of theatercombinat. after studying theatre directing at ernst busch school of dramatic arts she works in the field of (experimental) theatre between installation, (space) choreography, urban intervention and generates POLITICAL HYBRIDS which are always specific settings of space with special constellations for different kinds of public. claudia bosse develops international installations and works for museums, architectures, theatres and urban spaces. she teaches, gives lectures, publishes, initiates or takes part in research-projects and continuously works together with artists and theoreticians from different genres.

after the four-year series PRODUCING TRAGEDY (2006-2009 with theatercombinat) and productions in geneva, vienna, dusseldorf and braunschweig, and the series POLITICAL HYBRIDS (since 2010) with works in new york, vienna, tunis, zagreb, dusseldorf, etc., she currently develops **(katastrophen 11/15) ideal paradise**, a long-term project with different artistic formats until 2015. parallel to that a multi-narrative collection called **some democratic fictions** is formed out of video and audio interviews that have been created in different geopolitical contexts (since 2011 in nyc, cairo, alexandria, tunis, frankfurt, zagreb, tel aviv, jerusalem, brussels (matonge), beirut, athens etc., in collaboration with guenther auer) and are published in temporary site-specific archives.

project selection: **the last IDEAL PARADISE** performance in dusseldorf, **IDEAL PARADISE** a nomadic urban composition in vienna, **IDEAL PARADISE clash** choreography in vienna, **a first step to IDEAL PARADISE**, installation, performance donaufestival 2015; **thoughts meet space athens**, installation bhive athens 2014; **thoughts meet space beirut**, installation ashkal alwan beirut 2013; **thoughts meet space**, installation customs canteen vienna, coproduction tanzquartier; **BURNING BEASTS**, urban intervention frankfurter kunstverein 2012; **biographical landscapes of new zagreb**, installation and intervention museum of modern art zagreb/MSU 2012 and urban space; **structures of circumstances**, installation/ urban intervention kunsthhaus graz; **der raum der raum das bild das bild das bett der baum und die entblössung der leiber**, installation for leopold museum vienna 2011, **tears of stalin**, a three-part urban intervention prague quadriennial 2011, as well as performances **catastrophic paradise, what about catastrophes?, designed desires, dominant powers. what has to be done?, bambiland08 + 09** (as urban intervention, nestroy prize 2009).

more projects and cooperations here: www.theatercombinat.com, <http://claudiabosse.blogspot.co.at/>

guenther auer (AT)

born in 1965, media artist, studied composition and electro-acoustic composition of the vienna university for music and performative arts. he worked in different contexts with different artists on numerous projects. since 2009 he is collaborating above all with claudia bosse (all the projects of the series **IDEAL PARADISE, catastrophic paradise, what about catastrophes?, designed desires, dominant powers. was also tun?, vampires of the 21st century, dominant powers – landschaften des unbehagens, je veux un mot vide que je puisse remplir, 2481 disaster zone, rehe und raketen**) 2012/2013 he was a senior artist at the academy of applied arts in vienna.

theatercombinat represents a highly experienced production company for independent art and theatre work. founded in 1996 in berlin and based in vienna, austria, since 1999, the artistic formation led by director and artist claudia bosse assembles actors, performers and dancers as well as theorists, sound and media artists, architects, visual artists and technicians in order to engage in research into theatrical concepts, pushing theatre beyond its limits in search of new, collective and adventurous ways to communicate with the spectators, the space and the organisation of the public.

the productions create new, experimental spaces for action and perception between theatre, installation, choreography, performance and discourse. the site specific works are developed within time frames of one week up to four years in cities like zagreb, tunis, berlin, dusseldorf, new york, vienna, hamburg, podgorica, prague, brunswick or geneva and contain urban interventions, space choreographies, hybrid theatre works, choral speech choreographies, theatrical concepts for different concepts of the public as well as discourse about theories of practice.

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