

thoughts meet space *cairo*
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
change of scene (robert bosch foundation / international thetare institute ITI), berlin
al-ismaelia real estate
a coproduction with theatercombinat

thoughts meet space uses material of a series of encounters starting in january 2011 interested in concepts of ways of life, ideas of freedom as dialogic thinking about political alternatives on different sites. a transnational 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.



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 (encounters 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 encounters 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**

thoughts meet space cairo wishes to re-encounter artists, citizens and theoreticians following 2011 and canvass them on their current thoughts, perspectives and alternatives. thoughts meet space cairo looks at the series of interviews that began in january 2011 and scrutinises lifestyles and expressions of freedom as a kind of thinking out loud about political alternatives. these materials will be elaborated upon and translated into a transnational archive in the form of a spatial installation. thus far the collection has gathered narratives and portraits from new york, cairo, alexandria, tunis, frankfurt, zagreb, tel aviv, jerusalem, brussels, beirut and athen. questions posed include: how can history be constructed when influenced by different concepts of society and differing geo-political and cultural contexts?

the collection will then be expanded further with second series of interviews from cairo. a ten-day preparatory trip to cairo was made in august 2014 and will be followed by a six-week working visit in january / february 2015. the aim is to interview the artists and citizens whom claudia bosse and g nther auer already interviewed in cairo in october 2011, as well as meeting with other people, thinkers, citizens, migrants and artists. interviews will be about political attitudes, personal convictions and thoughts on freedom, religion and biography, the self and freedom.

in cairo parts of the collection will be open to the public in the form of an installation - a talking space of thought: a temporary walk-in archive will place sections of the existing collection face to face with the newly-produced video and audio recordings, photographs, pictures, objects and found-footage from cairo. the performative installation in hotel viennoise in downtown is a material, thought and space laboratory that experiments with media and social connections through image, sound, projection, objects, writing, thoughts and bodies. a combination of a performative assemblage, spatialised associations and an installation room - a multi-media thought-room - it looks at varying aspects of the present and disseminates them throughout the room. (for reference please see the project thought meets space in beirut, vienna and athens).

this multi-media installation will take place in cairo drawing on, and in cooperation, with local artists. production support and cooperation regarding the space is under the auspices of orient production and ahmed el attar. participation in the organisation and contextualisation of the project is by means of an advisory board created within the various individual positions as well as institutions.

members of the project advisory board:
ahmed al attar / orientproduction
kaya belkalam / AUC
shady elnoshokaty / ascii
ismail fayed and omar nagati / CLUSTER

networking between regional artists and cultural operators as well as the contacts made during the research trip in 2011 will lead to the creation of a local network. recordings of the conversations as audio and video documents and transcripts of the interviews will be part of the installation, which will be further bolstered by the presence of the participants and their performative interventions. thus thoughts meet space cairo becomes a social sculpture that opens up a communication process, creates video and audio interviews and makes them available to the public as an installation and as a temporary archive, so creating a place for meeting, for the open exchange of thoughts and actions.

the interviews from cairo are and will be part of a transnational collection of thoughts. using this material allows for artistic formats which, when confronted with the regional context and expanded by the interviews done locally, turn into widespread knowledge within the space. by publishing it within the space, the collection manifests itself as an archive of contemporary history in permanent progression through each different perspective and ongoing event.

IN CAIRO 5 DAYS REFLECTION ZONE TO ACTIVATE THE INSTALLATION WITH ARTISTS FROM CAIRO

in cairo, the installation will be accompanied by a 5 day event called **reflection zone** that functions as a discursive and performative salon with contributions of artists and theoreticians based in cairo. as a performative and discursive salon **reflection zone** activates the installation space with acts, reflections, lectures and performances

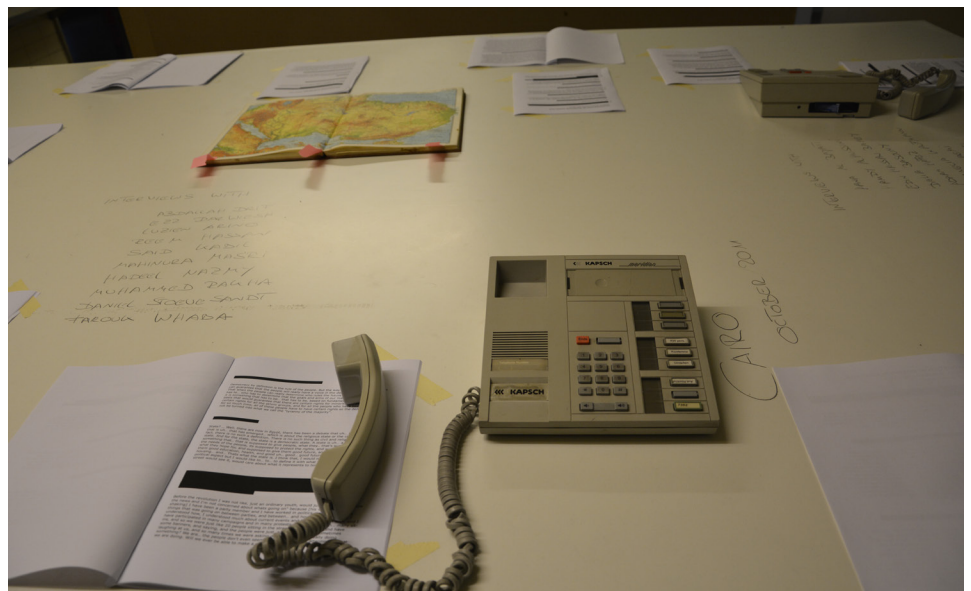
with contributions of doa aly, kaya behkalam, abdallah daif, shady elnoshokaty, ismail fayed, adham hafez, paul geday, ezz darwiesh, huda lutfi, samaher na'ama alkadi and others.

all the guest are invited to deal with the frame and the subjects of the installation: the construction of history, the grammar of an archive, recent changes of the urban landscape of and social performance in the city, and the (artistic) methods in the appropriation or re-appropriation of the reality in times of paradigm shifts and transformation.

THE ENCOUNTER is the tool of communication, of concentration. the encounter of people and their thoughts in an intimate, concentrated 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 instalative form or integrated in other artistic formats.

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 **freedom, religion, state, capitalism** or **crises** differently?

THE COLLECTION is developed out of different perspectives and individual narrations concerning the changes and economic shifts (in northern africa, europe, in middle east and the us) starting in 2011. the collection is searching for perspectives of understanding what is happening today and tries to document through these narratives different zones of convictions, ethics, hopes, perspectives and conflicts.



thoughts meet space, customs canteen vienna

our travels were supported by partners like watermill centre, new york; goethe-institut alexandria; goethe-institut tunis; festival journées théâtrales de carthage, tunis; frankfurter kunstverein; museum of contemporary art, zagreb; CIFAS + festival trouble, brussels; ashkal alwan, beirut; Bhive, athens; szenenwechsel (robert bosch foundation), berlin and BKA austria.

an archive is a situation,
an archive is constituted from a collection of things, thoughts and concepts.
an archive is a constellation of material, of documents
it is fluid
each constellation of its material recreates the criteria of its readability,
its narratives and combinations
each constellation of the documents and material re-informs the documents
themselves, because the presence of the document with other documents is
the present of its constellation, and the present of its interpretation in this
space at this precise moment.
an archive is always the present of its perception
(working notes claudia bosse)

THE TEMPORARY ARCHIVE as a site specific installation is the form of making this collection public. 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 encounters took place. 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 encounters 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.



what about catastrophes?, tanzquartier vienna

DEVELOPMENT AND PERSPECTIVE

since 2011 we met people in various different countries and political contexts. they also include citizens, artists, activists and scientists. the number of encounters so far: in new york (15), cairo (13), alexandria (11), tunis (2), frankfurt (4), zagreb (11), jerusalem (7), tel aviv (10), brussels (10), beirut (18), athen (19). 2015 a trip is planned to cairo.

new york - january/february 2011
cairo - october 2011
alexandria - october 2011
tunis - january 2012
frankfurt - february 2012
new zagreb - december 2011/march 2012
jerusalem - may 2012
tel aviv - may 2012
brussels - april 2013
beirut - october 2013
athen - oktober 2014



material of the installation
thoughts meet space suitcase version for beirut

VERSIONS OF PUBLISHING THE MATERIAL AS TEMPORARY ARCHIVE UNTIL NOW: after the american encounters published in the installation **dominant powers – landscapes of unease** (may 2011 in and outside the cartographic institute, vienna), some egyptian encounters 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 encounters with the local participants took place 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 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 encounters made 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 from the african museum tervuren 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 encounters 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 october 2013 was a continuation of this artistic operation and presented parts of the collected material as well as images and objects created on site in beirut. all this material 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 encounters 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.

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

thoughts meet space *athens*

installation by
claudia bosse

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



catastrophic paradise

installation, performance by
claudia bosse / theatercombinat

24th-27th april 2014
in coproduction with
FFT dusseldorf



what about catastrophes?

installation, performance by
claudia bosse / theatercombinat

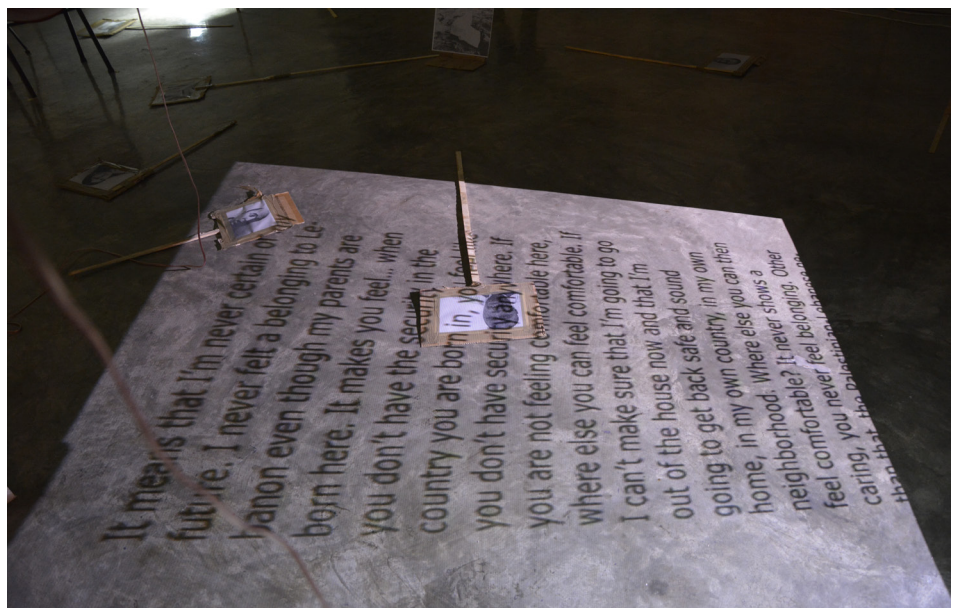
10th-13th april 2014
in coproduction with tanzquartier
vienna





thoughts meet space beirut
multimedial installation by
claudia bosse

23th-29th oktober 2013
in the frame of **some
democratic fictions beirut/**
residency at ashkal alwan 7th-
31th oktober 2013
on invitation of ashkal alwan
- the lebanese association for
plastic arts, a coproduction with
theatercombinat



thoughts meet space
installation by claudia bosse

26th-29th june 2013
opening and closing act
26th and 29th june 2013
in coproduction with
tanzquartier wien



galerie matonge - rewriting history
installation by claudia bosse

23th-27th april 2013
a collaboration festival "trouble"
2013, CIFAS

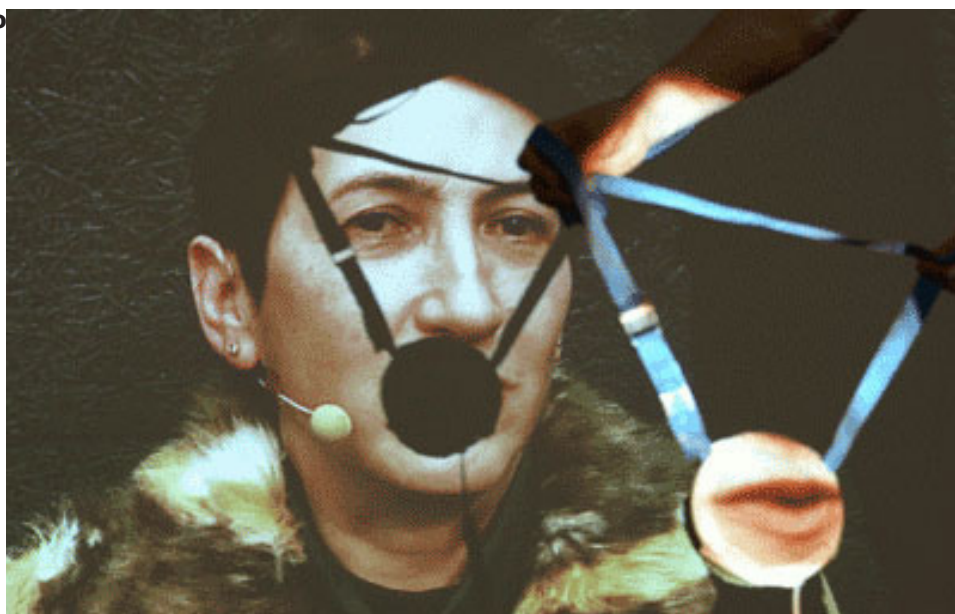




dominant powers. what is to be done then?

installation, performance
by claudia bosse /
theatercombinat

premiere 30th june 2012
a production by
theatercombinat in cooperation
mit zagreb museum of
contemporary art, on invitation
of EUROKAZ



**biographical landscapes of
new zagreb**

art transfer, live-installation by
claudia bosse

30th june - 2nd july 2012
a production of theatercombinat
for the museum of contemporary
art, zagreb



BURNING BEASTS

installation and performance by
claudia bosse in the public space

installation: 13th-18th february
2012; performance: 17th/18th
february 2012

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

premiere 10th january 2012
a production by theatercombinat,
on invitation of festival journées
théâtrales de carthage tunis



**dominant powers.
was also tun?**

installation for the performance by
claudia bosse / theatercombinat

premiere 23th november 2011
a production by theatercombinat



**dominant powers -
landschaften des unbehagens**

installation by
claudia bosse, g nther auer

10th/18th-24th may 2011
a production by theatercombinat





IN PLANNING FOR 2014/2015

thoughts meet space *cairo*

installation by
claudia bosse

august 2014, jan/feb 2015
presentation: february 2015

space: hotel viennoise in cairo

a cooperation project with
CLUSTER - cairo laborartory for
urban studies, supported by
szenenwechsel (robert bosch
foundation), space at hotel
viennoise contributed by al-
ismaelia and thanks to ahmed el
attar.

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the collection of will then be expanded further with a second series of interviews from cairo. a ten-day preparatory trip to cairo was made in august 2014 and will be followed by a six-week working visit in january / february 2015. the aim is to interview the artists and citizens whom claudia bosse and guenther auer already interviewed in cairo in october 2011, as well as meeting with other people, thinkers, citizens, migrants and artists.



claudia bosse (D / A)

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 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 recordings 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: **thoughts meet space**, installation bhive athens 2014; **thoughts meet space**, 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 kunsthau 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 (A)

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 (**thoughts meet space athens, catastrophic paradise, what about catastrophes?, thoughts meet space beirut, designed desires, dominant powers. was also tun?, vampires of the 21st century, dominant powers – landschaften des unbehagens, je veut 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 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.

contact

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