

ABOUT ANNALISA VOBIS (USA)

AN INTRO BY NELE HERZOG

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Anneliese is from Heidelberg but has been living in San Francisco for quite a while now. She says of the USA and California in particular that it is shiny, fake and funny, but she appreciates that people do not whine as much as in Germany. She came back to Berlin in search of her signature brand of identity and to make use of that in finding out where she can take her art. Because Anneliese grew up somewhere inbetween Eastern and Western German society values and is now rooted in German and American culture concurrently, she calls herself a double-hybrid. When speaking of her German ancestors, she centers her thoughts on coming to terms with the past, but still appreciates her daughters marrying men with German roots.

She used to work as an educator, but started studying marine biology when she and her family moved to San Francisco. To get her children acquainted with the new surroundings, they also took art courses together. Anneliese says, she was almost trying to give them an art-therapy so they would be able to deal with the challenge of becoming part of a new culture. Because said therapy worked so well, she quit marine biology at some point and continued studying art and art history.

Nevertheless she always connected themes of both fields to make use of for her works. She is very interested in sustainability, healthy living and economical issues and says that it has always been fascinating for her to search for answers she is trying to pose with her art in science. Also she feels like it had always been part of her life as an educator to state a good example by making healthy living decisions. She uses Mixed-media to

illustrate her experiments on reenacting environmental pollution and intoxication. In doing so she is particularly interested in the appearance and workmanship of surfaces. By decomposing various materials in interactive workshops Anneliese is trying to show how for example ocean acidification affects the environment. She hosts these workshops to inform and exhibit simultaneously. Her favourite subject to work with right now are algae, she is confident that everything is explainable through this animate being, because it was the first creature to practice photosynthesis ever.

After a residency in Newfoundland, she is now very interested in working in Australia and recently got in touch with the University of Tasmania. who issues scholarships for an art science collaboration concerning Ocean destroying and restoration topics. For her residency in Berlin Anneliese resolved to really focus on one thing at a time. Right now she is working on a double exhibition in cooperation with a resident from Kreuzberg's GlogauAir. They are set out explore shadows of natural artifacts and want to allude to environmental and eco-political issues by doing so.