

16.05.2014 - SALON TZ-P

A project by Anton Schwarzenbach, Dorit Trebeljahr and Patrick WEH Weiland.
Text by Joanna Turek

ACTING WITHOUT MANDATE

On Friday May 16th the Institute's D-I-Y life was unexpectedly enriched by the visit of a few zine makers. They were invited by Salon tz-p - I-A-M's regular guest, which publishes its own self-made magazine - Heft für Zeichnung und Text (A Notebook for Drawing and Text). During the event I-A-M's guests were reading zines collected for the occasion, listening to some articles, notes, poems read by their authors aloud (also in the melodious Dutch language), as well as taking part in a discussion led by the Salon's organisers which went far beyond the boundaries of conversations about art...

During the third Salon we had an occasion to watch an artist-talk about the ideal of the german Wurst. This extraordinary experience was provided to us by the authors of 'Die Streichelwurst' (note, this is not an accidental coincidence of chosen topic - hint: see the recent events of Eurovision contest) - a zine founded in 2010, published irregularly, but always with a focus on particular theme (to give a few examples: 'Seduction', 'Cowboys and Aliens', 'Youth spark', 'Women without Heart'), and always with a distance to current social, political and artistic issues. We had also a chance to get to know 'floppy myriapoda' zine's publisher, who annually awards authors for the most interesting literary biography (The Scheiffele-Prize). Scheiffele himself dedicates his work to creating an unobstructed

perspective on the urban reality, looking from the perspective of a bicycle courier, and its integration into aesthetic-artistic survival strategies. He dedicated the last open call topic for a prize to a question of 'How to become a successful writer' (waiting for results!).

After a few presentations and having some traditional Salon's sandwiches with chive and butter, the guests went to get some fresh air at the Institute's yard - which constitutes an important sociable element during the I-A-M's events. After some chit-chats in outside lobbies, we've met other D-I-Y practitioners, among others, a guest from Amsterdam running a project called 'Mixed Media Soup'. The word 'project' is used here for a particular reason, as the Salon's guests definitely do not limit their activity only to self-publishing. As Ilona Verhoeven from MMS describes her initiative, it is: a source of everything and nothing - all the stories on the way to readers, a grid without a city map, a network without end, a club-a-soup for DIY & yes we can, a creative production office, inspiration from the heart (of town and country, and on the way), an unexpected hangout for art. And this description probably refers to the activities of each of invited artists.

The long tradition of zines, going back to the 30's, still is doing very well. As Caro Wedekind - an illustrator, comic-books maker reminded us, in November 2014 the Zine Fest Berlin will take place for the fourth time! But the bustling atmosphere of the zine culture is constantly present on the streets of Berlin (and not only here). The movement is spreading against the evil powers of capitalism - and as I got the impression from the meeting at the Institute - it will continue endlessly. We want more!