

07.02.2014 - SALON T-ZP

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INSTITUTIONAL WASTELAND

You may have many different opinions about the Institute, but for sure you can not claim it is not hospitable. On February 7th the Abteilung für Alles Andere went open for another guest-project: Salon tz-p. Each time the Institute hosts newcomers the event's formula differs, but in most of the cases it engages the public to participate actively. Which I-A-M's guests usually do with a great pleasure. As it happened in this case as well.

Salon is a meeting guided / moderated by Patrick WEH Weiland, Dorit Trebeljahr, Anton Schwarzenbach and the 'Prologue - Notebook for Drawing and Text'. As the organizers describe it: 'The Salon is a Tupperbox (sandwich box) that needs to be filled. We collect ideas of the event's participants and create a structure of the evening from it'.

While Salon shapes into the artistic exchange and working dialogue in mixed media, the Institute's space transforms into an Idea Club, a Rehearsal Room and a Critical Platform. Last time the I-A-M's audience had an opportunity to take a small trip throughout our daily wasteland(s). Literally speaking. First, artists - Astrid Menze and Julia Neuenhausen - took a journey through the nooks and crannies (including dustbins) of Berlin and collected a substantial archive of modern civilisation's relics. They brought it to the Institute, spread it on the floor and let the audience play with its definitions and purposes to which they were made. Game in guessing, assumptions and redefinitions were interrupted by some storytelling about chosen artifacts. Brushes, cotter pins, fragments of packaging for milk or

fragments of vehicles, sponges, boxes, toys and tools put out of context gained a completely new application, or the opposite - became artistic objects themselves - sculptures, collages - devoid of functions. For some of the collected items it was even hard to find a name - and such a condition, according to this one famous philosopher (was it Wittgenstein?), prevents us from functioning in our adult reality. And it was real fun this evening actually - feeling like a child again, learning new words, learning how things work, testing them. This is what we can call a curiosity of discovery, 'an anthropology of everyday life' - which is a title of a book by Edward T. Hall in which he describes the possibilities and variants of our daily communication dependent, e.g. on space in which we remain, the tools that we use. The other book (of the same title) by anthropologist Roch Sulima refers to microanalysis, microhistories and details of waste of our daily life. And its main message is: loose yourself in the waste ... - perhaps these items, which we get rid of, say more about the transformations of our culture, than the things around us.

* Next Salon will take place on March 3rd. Don't miss it!