



Symposium

»Biographies & the Production of Space Between Life and Places«

May 19–21, 2016

Akademie Schloss Solitude

art, science & business

Geographies are intense zones of human action and interaction – from market places to migration, and homes to cyber communities. Spaces are not simply containers within which people live and work; spaces are a product of human lives and the actions that take place in those spaces. Exploring the relationship between the physical armature of a place and the larger sphere of political and cultural action and production is something that this theme proposes to engage with. In this exploration, we propose to engage with biographies – the vectored lives of people and things. Biographies are complex journeys of individuals within multiple lives and spaces. The biography is proposed as a means to exploring the culture of spaces and the sciences of its production.

Biographies could be »channels of communication by means of which subjectivity and facticity engage in a constant nervous process of dialogue.«¹

Places and geographies are active zones of politics and cultural processes and it is in the attempt to understand the complexity of what makes a place that we propose to work with the lives of people and objects that are part of these places – their structure, their composition, their occupation, and their journeys. What is the relationship between life and places, politics and spaces in the everyday lives of people and their societies, their objects and their stories?

Text and concept by Kaiwan Mehta.

¹ Gertrud Koch: »Foreword,« in: Siegfried Kracauer: *Jacques Offenbach and the Paris of His Time*. New York 2002, pp. 12-13.

Program

Thursday, May 19, 2016

7.00 p.m. *Posthumous Life: Translation, Politics, and Spaces of Deception*
Keynote by **Ackbar Abbas**

Friday, May 20, 2016

10.00 a.m. *Co-Production and Reviewing the History and Poetics of Spatial Atmospheres*
Desire Machine Collective, Galin Stoev, Lina Lapelyte/Vaiva Grainytė/Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Xinjun Zhang

1.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00 p.m. *Actions, Thoughts and the Craft that Individuals Work With*
Ute Meta Bauer, Gal Kirn/Niloufar Tajeri, Gavin Steingo, Sinethemba Twalo

6.00 p.m. Dinner

7.00 p.m. *»I Believe that I Can Travel to the Stars«: Reflections on the Emerging Organic Intellectual in India*
Keynote by **Nancy Adajania**

Saturday, May 21, 2016

10.00 a.m. *Biographies & Trajectories Occupying the Shelf of Inquiries*
Readings by **Ulrike Draesner, Ranjit Hoskote, Bilal Tanweer, Chandrahas Choudhury, Maruan Paschen**

1.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00 p.m. *A »Cabinet of Thinking« on Contemporary Culture, and the Places of Its Production*
Brett Steele, Kaiwan Metha, Bambitchell, Leigha Dennis

6.00 p.m. Dinner

7.00 p.m. *Performances*
Jennifer Walshe, G Douglas Barrett, Frauke Aulbert

With contributions by:

Ackbar Abbas, professor of comparative literature at University of California, Irvine, CA/USA

Nancy Adajania, cultural theorist and independent curator, Bombay/India

Frauke Aulbert, singer, voice acrobat, performer and voice-researcher, Hamburg/Germany

Bambitchell (Sharlene Bamboat & Alexis Mitchell), media artists and scholars, Toronto/Canada

G Douglas Barrett, interdisciplinary artist, theorist and writer, New York, NY/USA

Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, performing artist, director and cinematographer, Vilnius/Lithuania

Ute Meta Bauer, founding director of NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, Singapore/Republic of Singapore

Chandahas Choudhury, author, freelance writer and political columnist, New Delhi/India

Leigha Dennis, architectural designer, researcher and educator, New York, NY/USA

Ulrike Draesner, writer, Berlin/Germany, Oxford/United Kingdom

Vaiva Grainytė, writer, playwright, essayist and poet, Vilnius/Lithuania

Ranjit Hoskote, poet, cultural theorist and curator, Bombay/India

Sonal Jain, visual artist and member of Desire Machine Collective, Guwahati/India

Gal Kirn, political philosopher and editor, Berlin/Germany, Ljubljana/Slovenia

Lina Lapelyte, artist working with music and performance, London/United Kingdom, Vilnius/Lithuania

Mriganka Madhukailya, artist, filmmaker, member of Desire Machine Collective and professor of film and new media at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Guwahati/India

Kaiwan Mehta, architect, academic, researcher, managing editor of Domus India and current jury chairman of Akademie Schloss Solitude, Mumbai/India

Maruan Paschen, author, Berlin/Germany

Brett Steele, director of the Architectural Association School of Architecture and AA Publications, London/United Kingdom

Gavin Steingo, assistant professor of music at University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA/USA

Galın Stoev, actor and theatre director, Sofia/Bulgaria

Niloufar Tajeri, architect and research assistant at the Department of Architecture at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe/Germany

Bilal Tanweer, writer and translator, Karachi/Pakistan

Sinethemba Twalo, worker, Johannesburg/South Africa

Jennifer Walshe, composer and vocalist, London/United Kingdom, Roscommon/Ireland

Xinjun Zhang, visual and performance artist, Beijing/China

The symposium takes place within the framework of the *art, science & business* program at Akademie Schloss Solitude.

The event will be held in English. Admission is free.

Per diem meal allowance incl. lunch, dinner, coffee and beverages
20 euros/10 euros for students.

Please register until May 13, 2016 via email to Maren Pfeiffer
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