

Intro Annette Jael Lehmann

Dear friends and colleagues, I am happy to greet you, also in the name of Philip Ursprung, to the second part of our conference *Performing Spaces: Spatialities in Visual Culture*. The second part of our conference is entitled "Blurring Boundaries – Spatial Categories Restated." And as you may notice I am trying to blur something here right away, giving my introduction and my welcome to Berlin part in English part in German.

Philip hat in Zürich in seiner Einführung für unsere gemeinsame Tagung eine kurze Positionierung unseres Ansatzes und unserer Motivation für dieses interdisziplinäre Projekt vorgestellt. Dort hieß es: „Das Ziel der Tagung ist es, herauszufinden, ob wir überhaupt vom selben sprechen, wenn wir mit den abstrakten Begriffen "Spatiality" und "Performance" operieren, ob also das "Verschmelzen" und "Blurren" auch in den diversen wissenschaftlichen, künstlerischen und architektonischen Praktiken stattfindet.“ In the first session in Zürich which took place two months ago, we discussed under the title „Provoking Sites – Altered Spatial Practices“ various topics in that direction, asking what can be provoking in a site and how this can be analysed in modernist as well as postmodernist contexts. Our point of departure were the physical experiences of provoking a site. The architect Jürgen Mayer H. gave several striking examples of his architectural projects and his pieces of social animation in Ascona or in the Stadthaus in Ostfildern. Both projects were truly amazing in terms of their vividness and social energies that they were provoking. Servos' design projects, introduced by Marcelyn Gow, showed how bodies and their movement were part of an interactive experiment involving sophisticated software operations. The social politics involved in the development of new architectural sites were the subject of Sabine Sielkes contribution. She dealt with the discourses mainstream discussion around the architectural reconstruction of ground zero. Here her critique evolved around architecture's complicity with the status quo and the opportunistic politics involved. Beate Soentgen and Ralph Ubl were adding their perspectives from the viewpoint of art history, dealing with the blurred representation of inner and outer spaces, of in-between-spaces, which led to an inspiring discussion the differences between modernist and postmodernist notions of *espacement*. The artist duo Michael

Elmgren and Ingar Dragset finally demonstrated, what can be done with the White Cube, transforming it for example into a gay cruising pavillon in a park.

Daß das Thema Raum und Fragen nach Räumlichkeit nur mit multi- und interdisziplinäre Ansätzen vielversprechend bearbeitet werden können, hat der erste Teil unserer als im empathischen Sinn als Workshop verstandenen Tagung, wie ich finde, eindrucksvoll unter Beweis gestellt. Den heutigen Tag in Berlin wollen wir zugleich auch dazu nutzen, das Verbindende aber auch das auf produktive Weise Trennende der verschiedenen Beiträge zu vertiefen, also Ansätze zu finden, die helfen, theoretische Leitlinien zu profilieren, die für die verschiedenen Praktiken der Raumproduktion ausschlaggebend sind. Besonders froh sind Philip und ich daher, heute auf neue wie bekannte Gesichter zu treffen und unseren Dialog nicht allein zwischen Zürich und Berlin, sondern vor allem auch in transatlantischer Richtung fortsetzen zu können.

Our conference in Berlin takes place on a weekend with where Berlin is certainly a site of two major mass-cultural events. It is not only crowded by the usual influx of tourists doing their site-seeking, on this weekend Berlin is swamped by two major groups. First there are around 300 – 400 thousand christians celebrating a congregation of christian churches, a happening which takes place every ten years. Secondly there is another major soccer game drawing the attention of another 100thousand people. How is space transformed (other than being crowded) you might ask yourself, and might have already noticed one thing both of these groups have in common. They are chanting collectively, in praise of their God or in support of their favorite soccer team. One thing I can promise you for today, we will keep it quieter, which doesn't mean we shouldn't enjoy ourselves in this event. Philips Einführung enthielt diesbezüglich übrigens noch eine versteckte, aber nicht unwesentliche Behauptung, nämlich „Man sitzt an Lounges und nicht mehr am Tresen.“ Dies jedenfalls konnten wir sicherlich am gestrigen Abend verifizieren. Für den heutigen Tag wünschen wir uns gewissermaßen auch, einen Raum auszufüllen, nämlich mit einer produktiven Arbeitsatmosphäre und spannenden Diskussionen, zu denen wir alle die heute hierhergefunden haben, herzlich einladen möchten.

Last but not least I want to emphatically thank our sponsors, especially those from Switzerland. Without the financial support of the Schweizer Nationalfonds, the Schweizer Akademie der Geisteswissenschaften, the Department of Architecture of the ETH Zürich and the Sonderforschungsbereich Kulturen des Performativen of the Freie Universität Berlin this event would not be possible. And thank you Philip it is always a pleasure to work with you and I am looking forward to the book we are trying to do together out of this. Now enjoy the conference