

STIPENDIENBERICHT

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Thanks OEAD, DZS and Aktion Programme I could spend one month in the city of design, in Graz. I was there in June 2017 and my stay in this city was very beneficial to my research and my academic activities. I teach philosophy of art and aesthetics and I consider very important to visit museums, galleries and art events across the artworld. Graz has a lot of galleries, small galleries and one big famous Kunsthaus, so it was really not hard to get enough material for my research. As Graz is the city of design and there are many museums and galleries there, I could have seen many exhibitions and art events here. During my stay in Graz I tried to visit all relevant art institutions and prove some of my assumptions about contemporary art. I have now a lot of material for my research of "Spectator Turn". I have dealt with this topic for several years and I am very happy I moved forward in Graz.

For my research of „spectator turn“ is necessary to see actual events in the artworld to prove my assumptions about it. I believe that the „spectator turn“ has three causes and the goal of my research abroad was to prove them. I suppose that the first cause is a new method in art making which has been called „postproduction“. I believe that this method makes the artwork difficult to understand. The method of postproduction uses already established „culture materials“ which has its own „message“. By using it in a new context this method gives a „double message“. The second one is current culture called „visual culture“ which communicates primarily by picture. Thus, there are so many pictures everywhere and it is almost impossible to understand „what we are looking at“ all of the time. The third one is „institutionalization“ of art and its consequence - „everything could be an artwork.“. For these reasons is in my opinion contemporary art not easy understood and it is a difficult situation for spectators. Curators already reflect this new situation and make many „clues“ for visitors, such as the exhibition's paper or

gallery animation etc. I mapped these „clues“ and made conclusions for my doctoral thesis.

As I wanted to describe the new processes in art making I needed to see these processes. I live in the Czech Republic, where there is a strong modernist tradition and these new processes are not common. There are a lot of followers of 'purity' of the traditional methods. Authors using methods such as postproduction are not understood here. It is difficult to break such a strong tradition in an environment willing to accept only exactly defined and therefore easier acceptable media. Thus, my stay abroad and results of it could little change the strong tradition here and show the new way of understanding of contemporary art.

I needed to see the „spectator turn“ in practise and describe it in theory. Thus, I am very happy that I could visit Graz and see programs of art institutions and some exhibitions here. I am also very happy that I could meet Karl Stocker and debate with him about contemporary art. I hope we will keep in touch in future and we will see each other again in September this year. I also would like to create some way of cooperation for our students.

I am also very happy that I got a contact on *esc medien kunst labour* and its head and heart in person of Reni Hofmueller. Our exchange was very inspirative. I would like to thank my supervisor that he gave me the contact and enabled one friendship.

My home University has already long-term cooperation with some other institutions in Austria (University of Wien, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Kunsthaus Graz). Cooperation with institutions in Austria is also one of the objectives of our Department of Germanistics. I am aware of importance of this cooperation between Czech and Austrian Universities and Galleries and I tried to strengthen it. Thank you once again I could be in Austria for one month.