

Awareness Group Meeting 24 November 2022

Participants: Paul Petritsch, Pauline Hosse-Hartmann, Ella Zwatz, Kathrin Hornek

Topic: website/Instagram/political statements

- We discussed our Instagram account and the political content we want to have on it, again. Last time we agreed (roughly summarized) that, among other things, politically active/interested students can send content to the site-specific art account to be posted by the person in charge of the account.
- Instagram has changed considerably since the last time.
- Ella thinks this is very positive and doesn't think the artistic projects get neglected.
- Paul says we don't have to be so strict about it, we can't include everything, nor do we want to.
- We discussed the website again and political statements on the website. We are considering putting Mark's film project on the website too, to promote it, if he wants. -> ask Mark about this
- We talked about possibly using the colors of the Ukrainian flag on our website. We will or can continue to discuss this. In general, most are against it for various reasons/considerations. (e.g. effectiveness; political symbolism; which other flags would we also have to include on our website? Kurdistan/Yemen come to mind...). These questions were only broached and not discussed in detail.

Topic: Who do we invite for the March meeting?

- We picked up where we left off at the last meeting on the topic of perhaps inviting someone for an artist statement who addressed Iran in their artwork or whose work is art-activism.
- We talked about the interlacing of art and politics. To what extent can either art constitute activism or politics be artistic?
- Paul thinks art and politics are quite different.
- Activists/artists/artists with activist strategies
 - > We still have some time to think about who we want to invite and what topics this discourse (art/politics) should include?
- We talked about Oliver Ressler (e.g. has participated in countless climate protests and initiatives), documented these, but also profited from their display and documentation -> so it is in a sense "his" art
- Is the art museum the right place for the documentation of activism?
Critique from Ella on the often very sleek representations of protest/forms of protest, often they are aestheticized, the image of it begins to blur, lifestyle projections, depictions become abstract, but it hovers somewhere in between (is no longer protest, but it also does not always give rise to artistic added value, it becomes symbolic, the ostensible/specious policies of museums, greenwashing, ...)
- Documenta? Kathrin briefly brings up the subject of the Documenta -> yet another kind of art and politics, collective work, work in groups, ...
- The issue of how art frequently seems to pass up opportunities. Artists, who explore topics, but then in a certain sense often fail to follow through, for example if the city/the site/the museum is not in accordance. Maybe the results of consistent action (whatever the consequences) are what somehow make activism fascinating. They exist in art too, but different.

- We want to wait until more of us are present to decide who we will invite. Above all, we want to find out exactly what Camille and Maryam have in mind and what suggestions they have collected so far.

Topic: pronoun round and gender-free language

- Pauline addressed the topic of the pronoun round at the beginning of the semester. Pauline's critique is that nothing really came out of this round, that pronouns are not being used a lot of the time, that Nathan came to one of the Awareness Group meeting last semester and talked about different topics, and Pauline has the feeling it didn't produce any real effects. Another point that was addressed is e-mail correspondence, that for example often little or no attention is paid to pronouns in e-mail.
- The team is currently negotiating with Lan Hornscheidt about holding a lecture (2023/24) that is to deal with language and gender. Specifically, about gender-free language. Paul will send an article about Lan Hornscheidt. Paul also talked about an interest in gender-free language as a construed language and thus also somehow as an interface to art.
- There are various guidelines for more inclusive spaces, spaces that should be more gender-sensitive/inclusive. Pauline is thinking about examining this theme more extensively, maybe someone else would like to join her?
- It was suggested that the introduction rounds at the start of the semester be repeated frequently, e.g. at the first 3 ZKFs (main artistic subjects), as a kind of practice because it's difficult for everyone to remember names and pronouns the first time, especially with all the excitement of the first ZKFs.
- We are considering holding a workshop on this.
- We are considering a mini-working group prior to the next introduction round (beginning of next semester March) to look into how to make this process run more smoothly, how to integrate it better.
- Paul asks us to stick with it, not to get frustrated. He considers this topic SENT very, very important and wants to incorporate it in our regular meetings (Jour Fixe).
- We should ask Arina and Artur to keep discussing the pronoun round (as class representatives), come up with suggestions, ask the class.