

Activity Report:

TESTIMONY - TRUTH OR POLITICS.

**Exhibition in Volkskundemuseum Wien (volkskundemuseum.at) 12.04. - 30.9.2018
Till now (May 2018) there were about 1000 visitors in the exhibition and a media spread (indirect participants) of about 25,000.**

Even before the opening of the exhibition, we went public with a very specific format:

Setting Testimony up / Panel discussion / Wed, 11.04.2018, 18:30

The Project Testimony - Truth or Politics works with testimony as a way to change the framework of thinking about the Yugoslav wars - it poses "the wrong questions". The panel discussion will be a critical brainstorming session on how the setting affects the testimony and vice versa. The original setting of testimony is either the venue where the witness, as a third uninvolved party, bears witness to the conflicting events. Or it is the religious context where the witness witnesses a miracle. With the growth of the social sciences, the term also refers to ways to obtain information from broader populations. Finally, the scientific method of "oral history" is a way to analyze these discourses. (in English)

The controversial discussion was received with great interest by the audience. I was documented by a photographer specializing in media communication in the cultural field for the purpose of being circulated on social media as a preview of the exhibition.

Opening of the exhibition / Thu, 12.4.2018, 7 pm / Performance

Welcome: Matthias Beitzl, Director Folklore Museum Vienna
To the exhibition: Noa Treister, curator Testimony - Truth or Politics
Following: performance miniature of BOEM * and Migrating Kitchen.

The opening itself was accompanied by a performance by Tim Sharp and Jacek Smolinski and was a very well attended event, not only by interested visitors but also by a large number of relevant interested scientists, artists, activists and politicians.

Thereafter, a workshop with Katarina Sevic took place, whose intense discussions immersed in the questions raised by the project and raised exciting further considerations.

Objective Archive? Archive vs. Keywords / Workshop / by Katarina Šević / Fri, 13.04.2018, 17:00 - 20

The issue of the individual testimonies by war veterans and anti-activists is very complex, mainly the relevance of testimonies reaching outside the scope of a single country and a single, and the urgency to deal with it in an international context. Testimonials - Truth or Politics are fragments of individual experiences, in the form of many hours of audio recordings. How are they classified, analyzed and interpreted? It is the division of experience contained in the legacy of war, which is both individual and collective, that will be the basis of the workshop. In the workshop, Katarina Šević (artist) wants to give insight into the original material, and trace the problematic of ordering search to archive. Through collective listening to and reading of the testimonies, participants of the workshop intend to assume

the role of a documentalist and to discuss the relationship of personal and objective (intimate and political).

Katarina Šević (born in Novi Sad, lives in Berlin) is an artist. Her projects are realized through groups of objects, performed by performative situations and events, combined with text. She is the recipient of the Residence Scholarship of the Leuphana Arts Program for 2017/18. Held in English.

In addition to a workshop for interested teachers and mediation programs with pupils, there were also exhibition talks with adults.

Exhibition talk / "True" stories / for 14 years and older

History production is not a natural process, but various actors struggle for the "true, correct" narrative of past events. We want to use practical exercises to try out with young people the difficulties that arise when several actors are fighting for a "true" narrative - even with the perspective that these processes have a direct social impact on the present. Who are the protagonists of these negotiations, how does a particular narration acquire the sovereignty of interpretation - and what happens to the other narratives? Duration: 90 min