

ISOE?

SAVE THE DATE

PRESS-PREVIEW: THU, 31ST OCT, 11 A.M.

&

EXHIBITION OPENING: FR, 1ST NOV, 7 P.M.

At Berlin's Kunstraum Kreuzberg / Bethanien

IN SEARCH OF EUROPE?

EQUALS IN AN UNEQUAL WORLD

INTERDISCIPLINARY EXHIBITION PROJECT

On 1 November 2013, Berlin's art venue Kunstraum Kreuzberg / Bethanien will open the exhibition *In Search of Europe? (ISOE)*. It is the result of a collaboration among six researchers from the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin and six artists, most of whom come from the countries of the researcher's research focus. From a wide range of perspectives, the works approach the question of the degree to which Europe is still a standard against which people in other parts of the world measure themselves. Was it ever the role model it likes to see itself as? The exhibition draws a differentiated picture of a world that is not simply divided in two, but that is characterized by mutual entanglements, gazes, and relationships.

The eight art works especially commissioned to be shown at the exhibition provide a very consciously polyphonic answer to these questions. To depict two worlds encountering each other, the central motif that Mozambican artist **Gemuce** chooses for his 15-part series of oil paintings *Alignment of Values* is the wall. Since Gemuce's artistic work concentrates on the interpersonal encounter, he will expand his concept performatively and complete the series during the opening days of the exhibition, with the active involvement of the visitors.

Maher Sherif, Aliaa ElGready, and Ahmed Salem take the experimental literary work created by a group of Alexandrian writers and one of the ISOE researchers titled *Iskenderiyan Standards* as their starting point and as material for a wall comic whose theme is the search for "the Other" in Alexandria. The literary product of this collaboration is also on view in the exhibition in the form of a handcrafted book.

Esra Ersen traces the gaps in memory and the blank spaces on the map of Bulgaria's history under the title *When Thinking Some Play with the Mustache, Others Cross Arms*. The found objects and stories that she gathers together seem odd, but provide a glimpse of a European past that can be a prospect for a supranational Europe.

Mohamed Abdelkarim's multimedia work *Comparison of Appearance* consists of objects and a video installation, as well as a book centering on the politically controversial figure of the Egyptian Islamist ideologue, author, and intellectual Sayyid Qutb and his travels in the United States from 1948 to 1949, which changed his political convictions fundamentally.

The photographer **Charlotte Menin** uses the audio-visual sound installation *Yacine's Voices* to lend several voices to the Algerian poet Yacine, who lives illegally in Marseille.

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The artist duo **Bofa da Cara (Nástio Mosquito and Pere Ortín)** exposes the Europeans' clichéd ideas about Africa and, in a pointedly and provocatively staged lecture shown as the video installation **My European Mind**, sketch a radical counter-position with the demand for a "rebranding" of Europe.

Karem Ibrahim's installation **Randomly Selected** is inspired by borderline situations and transgressions as well as by the relationship between authority and inequality.

In her new work **A Long Way Home Anissa Michalon** photographically reflects West African residents' ties with and memories of the old guest worker dormitory called foyers in northeastern Paris that they lived in for decades and that is now slated for remodeling. In the same space **Vincent Leroux** shows his series with the title **Commanderie** shot between 2007 and 2010, portraits of residents during the transformation of their Parisian foyer into a social residency.

The ISOE researchers' materials, documentations of the collaboration among some researchers and the artists, and materials from the ISOE pre-events held in 2012 in Alexandria, Paris, and Dakar combine with the works of art in a coherent whole. The exhibition is supplemented by an ISOE framework program of lectures and debates with some of the participating researchers, artists, and guests, along with film screenings.

ALL FACTS AT A GLANCE

Exhibition (free admission):

2 November 2013 – 12 January 2014

Press reception:

Thu, 31 November 2013, 11 a.m.

Exhibition opening:

Fr, 1 November 2013, 7 p.m.

Hosted by and in collaboration with:

Kunstraum Kreuzberg / Bethanien
Mariannenplatz 2
10997 Berlin

Opening hours:

Daily noon – 7 p.m.
(except 24, 25, and 31 Dec. 2013
and 1 Jan. 2014)

Public transport connection:

U-Bahnhof (subway station) Kottbusser Tor

A project by:

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Supported by:



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

ifa | Gefördert durch das Institut für
Auslandsbeziehungen aus Mitteln der
Kulturabteilung des Auswärtigen Amtes



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