

Dazwischensein 1-9
Möglichkeitsräume
2024

Dazwischensein 5
Manuela Illera
(possibility space)

Manuela Illera
Philipp Gufler
(film program)

Exhibition from June 7th to July 4th 2024
Opening Thursday, June 6th 2024, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m

In 2024, the theme of 'Dazwischensein' ('being in between') provides the conceptual structure for nine short, individual artistic presentations that examine the topic in its various aspects. 'Dazwischensein' can be a thought, state or even a feeling. We want to understand being in between as an opportunity to see more and to grasp different perspectives at the same time.

The Colombian artist Manuela Illera developed the installation 'Piedras Lunares' (Moonstones) for DG Kunstraum, building on her previous work 'Lenguas Solares' (Languages of the Sun) created for the Instituto Cervantes in Munich. This installation deals with the Spanish language as a violent colonial device, shifting attention to forgotten and unknown native languages from South America. It is the second project in a series of site-specific decolonial practices, following her 2023 diploma thesis 'Sentimental Disobedience', which seeks a new reading of the Raphael frescoes' tapestries in the Munich Academy of Fine Arts' Historical Auditorium as outdated monuments to Western ideas of knowledge and beauty. 'Piedras Lunares' is the third in the series.

Illera's work explores the impact of colonialism on cultural and power structures. The evangelization of the American continent five centuries ago was the result of a political event. The Italian navigator Christopher Columbus made four voyages for the Spanish crown between 1492 and 1504 in search of an easy sea route to India. After studying the writings of Augustine and Pierre d'Ailly, he believed that the world would only last another 150 years. He therefore felt called to preach Christianity to the Indians, as the indigenous peoples of America were called. The evangelization of Latin America, initiated by the 'voyages of discovery' and reinforced by papal decrees, led to the forced conversion and subjugation of the indigenous population. Bartolomé de Las Casas documented these brutal practices and pointed out the violence and destruction of the native cultures as early as 1542.

Today, indigenous scholar Nicolle Torres Sierra, a researcher and master in linguistics, is working on the recovery of Muysc Cubun, the native language of what is now known as Bogotá. Nicolle is a member of the Muysca community of Suba, a territory that has been an indigenous reservation for more than 100 years. The recovery of the customs and beliefs of her ancestors has been influenced by the processes of evangelization that her community has undergone. A coexistence that is impossible to undermine, has resulted in a mixture of beliefs and syncretisms that have modified the indigenous culture forever. Illera consciously works with experts, other artists, designers and members of the communities mentioned in this project to give their practice diverse perspectives and to enable visitors to explore repressed cultural histories through sound and imagery. In 'Piedras Lunares' the central design elements - a bat head and a 'tunjo' (votive figure) - resemble church windows. These symbols, also present in the moving images, represent codes that seek to communicate alternative sensibilities to Western logics and demand spiritual reparation.

Based on historical documents from the colonial period, the sound installation consists of audio files with Christian prayers translated from Old Castilian into Muysc Cubun, recorded by Nicole Torres Sierra in Bogotá. The Christian orientation of the exhibition space is a conceptual element that contributes to the placement being described as a site-specific, decolonial practice.

With Atabey Mamasita, the artist performatively opens a power space to engage with histories of evangelization in the past and present and the strategies of resistance and repair that have followed them. At the finissage, the duo Suba Chune (Nicolle Torres and Alejandro Durán), accompanied by La Jaguará and El Rayo, will activate the sound installation with traditional indigenous instruments.

'Piedras Lunares' is a project by Manuela Illera (concept), Nicolle Torres (research), Guadalupe Arribas (design), David Blitz (sound installation), Merlin Stadler (animation), Atabey Mamasita (performative artist talk), Benita Meißner (curator)

Manuela Illera (born 1988 in Bogotá, Columbia) lives and works in Munich. She studied painting in Buenos Aires and Fine Arts at the Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá. Until 2023 she studied at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich with Prof. Julian Rosefeldt. Illera's work is closely interwoven with her feminist practice, which is shaped by the migrant perspective. Her interdisciplinary work deals with time-based media and the combination of sound and performing arts. She deals with topics such as decoloniality,

queerness, bodies and subversive identities. Illera is co-founder of the band 'Cosmica Bandida', co-director of the decolonial music festival 'La Retornona' in Bogotá and produces the feminist podcast 'Extravagant Mortals'.

Interview partner: Atabey Mamasita aka Atabey Mamasita (Colombia, 1979) is a multidisciplinary artist with a background in dance and live art, working in the fields of performing and visual arts, heritage and architectural activism, pedagogy and curating. Among other things Atabey Mamasita was co-curator at the Museu de Arte do Rio in Rio de Janeiro and curator of the Contemporary Dance University Festival in Bogotá. At the moment Atabey Mamasita is curator for performative practices at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin.

Philipp Gufler (born 1989 in Augsburg) lives in Amsterdam and Munich. He studied at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich. Philipp Gufler combines different media in his artistic working method. This includes screen prints on fabric and mirrors, artist books, performances and videos. In addition, the human body and AIDS play an important role in his artworks, for example in the video installations 'The Responsive Body' or 'Becoming-Rabe'. In 2015 he received the Bavarian Art Promotion Prize, in 2020 the Media Prize of the German AIDS Foundation and in 2021 the Dutch Royal Award for Painting. He is an active member of the self-organized Queer Archive Munich forum. Most recently, his work was shown in the solo exhibition 'Dis/Identificationin' at the Kunsthalle Mainz.

Filmprogramm

Philipp Gufler

Lana Kaiser, 2020

Film, 13 minutes

Rory Pilgrim (music), Julia Swoboda (camera), Nathalie Bruys (sound), Theo Cook (grading), Hammann Von Mier Verlag (Accompanying publication). In memory of Lana Kaiser (1985–2018)

The Munich artist Philipp Gufler dedicates his film 'Lana Kaiser' to the person of the same name who disappeared on a cruise on the way to North America in 2018. Lana Kaiser is the assumed name of the person who became known as Daniel Küblböck 20 years ago in various casting formats on private television. The film is a criticism of the media in terms of the portrayal of queer people. Gufler works with highly emotional collages consisting of video recordings from television stations and his own interpretation of the figure, thereby creating a queer monument.

Manuela Illera

Animal Ventus, 2023

Film, 30 minutes

Manuela Illera conceived the short film 'Animal Ventus' (also produced as a concept music album for children) with great sensitivity together with León Rivera, a migrant boy. The eight-year-old invites us to immerse ourselves in his world of dance, animality, vulnerability and anger.

Program

Opening

Thursday, June 6th 2024, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m

Greeting and introduction

Dr. Richard Graupner (managing director), Benita Meißner (curator)

Power Space Opening

performative artist talk with Atabey Mamasita

Wednesday, June 26th 2024, 7 p.m.

Power Space Closing

Finissage with Suba Chune and La Jaguara & El Rayo

Thursday, July 4th, 7 p.m.

Dazwischensein is a project in cooperation with the LMU, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Uri Institute 'Kulturen der Alpen' and the Lucerna Foundation. With the kind support of the Curt Wills Foundation. The project was made possible by the funding program BBK – Verbindungslinien with funds from the Bavarian State Ministry for Science and Art and the support of the Verein Ausstellungshaus für christliche Kunst e.V., Munich.

Verein Ausstellungshaus für christliche Kunst e.V.



Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Wissenschaft und Kunst



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Further information and current dates can be found at www.dg-kunstraum.de. If you have any questions about text or image material, please contact Daniela Lange by telephone +49 89 282548 or by email at presse@dg-kunstraum.de