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MAYA SCHWEIZER

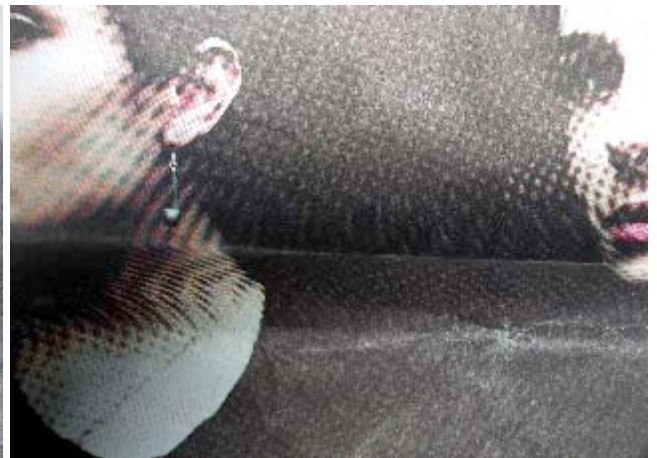
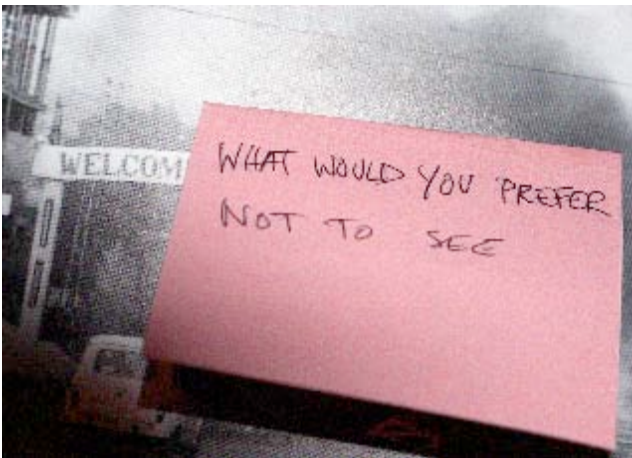
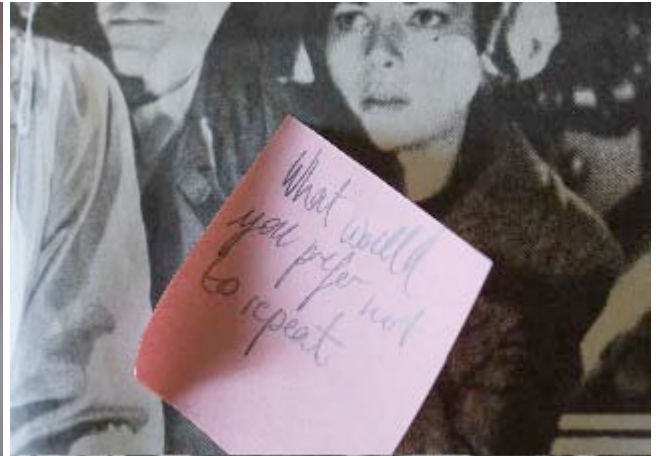
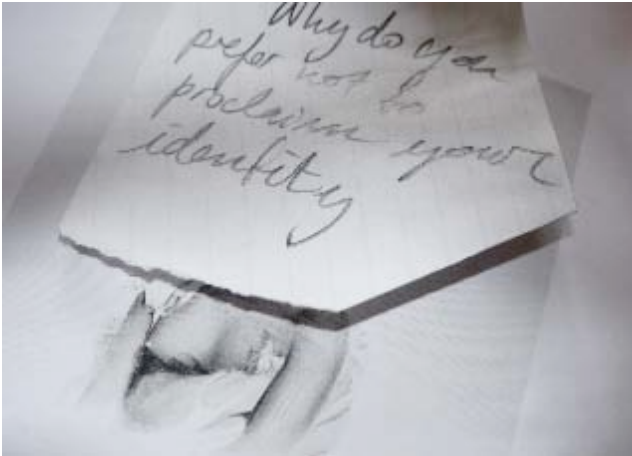
PORTFOLIO
2002 - 2010



***Which story would you prefer not to recall
(An welche Geschichte würdest Du dich lieber nicht erinnern)***

48 prints of each 42 x 59 cm – Total Format of Installation ca. 450 x 270 cm, 2009

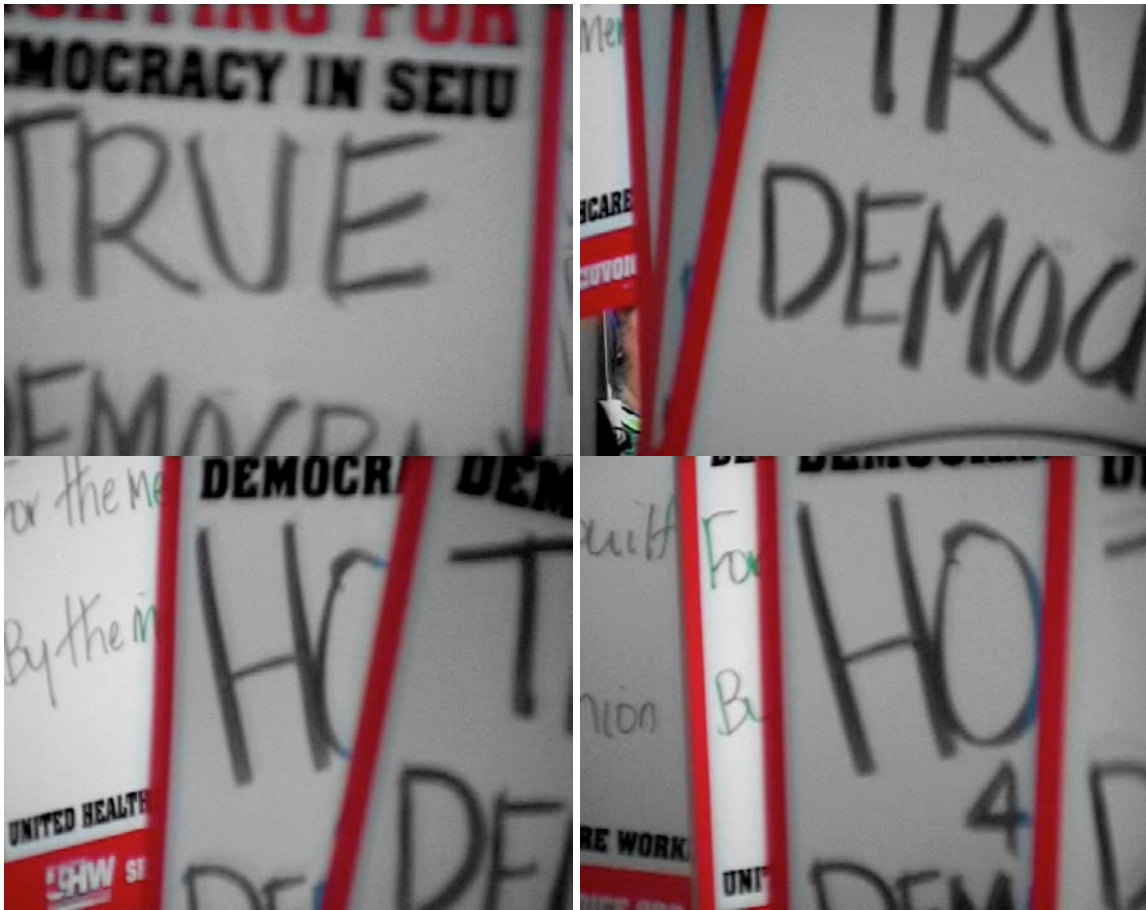
In this photographic installation work I oppose personal questions and sentences from collective memory. First, I'm looking for interesting photos, some from my own collection, and *juxtaposing them* to these sentences. With the camera I take pictures of these sets and scale them. My own written questions now cover general pictures from magazines and books as well as other images so that certain details are highlighted - and the original disappears. Hence, for example, police officers running behind a scrap of paper that says: "Why are you not sure about your decision?" The sentences partially address the viewer directly, but it is important to me to preserve the balance between (my) subjective thoughts and ree association and a public space.



***Which story would you prefer not to recall
(An welche Geschichte würdest Du dich lieber nicht erinnern)***

48 prints of each 42 x 59 cm – Total Format of Installation ca. 450 x 270 cm, 2009

Standbild detail



Ohne Titel: Demo

Video, 8 min, Farbe, loop, 2009

A demonstration in Los Angeles: Members of a union protest against a reform of trade union - they want to protect the democratic order against centralization. The demonstration takes place in front of a building on a very limited part of the sidewalk.

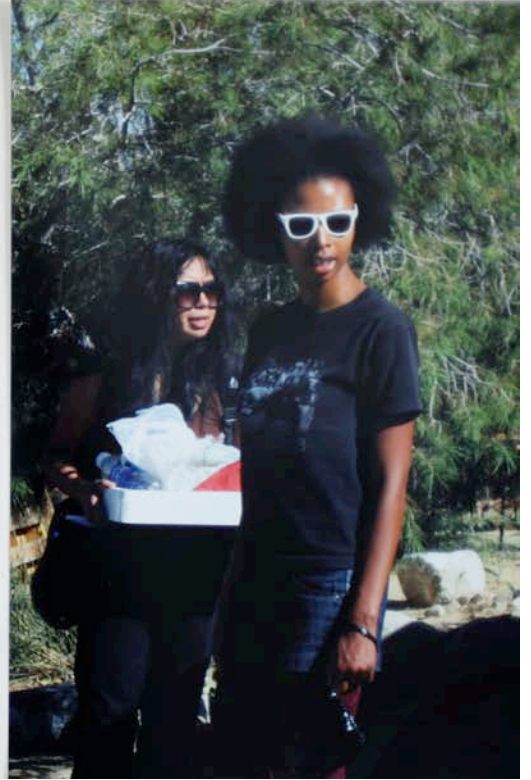


***Shifting time
(Schichtwechsel)***

Photo installation, ~ 90 Prints by Los Angeles / 2009

Top: view of installation in my studio, 2009

The pictures are photographed from a wall installation and are intended as a stand-alone work. I started to develop new image formats from already installed works, because I was interested in that case in the intuitive, associative aspect of the collected images.



Shifting time , 3 details

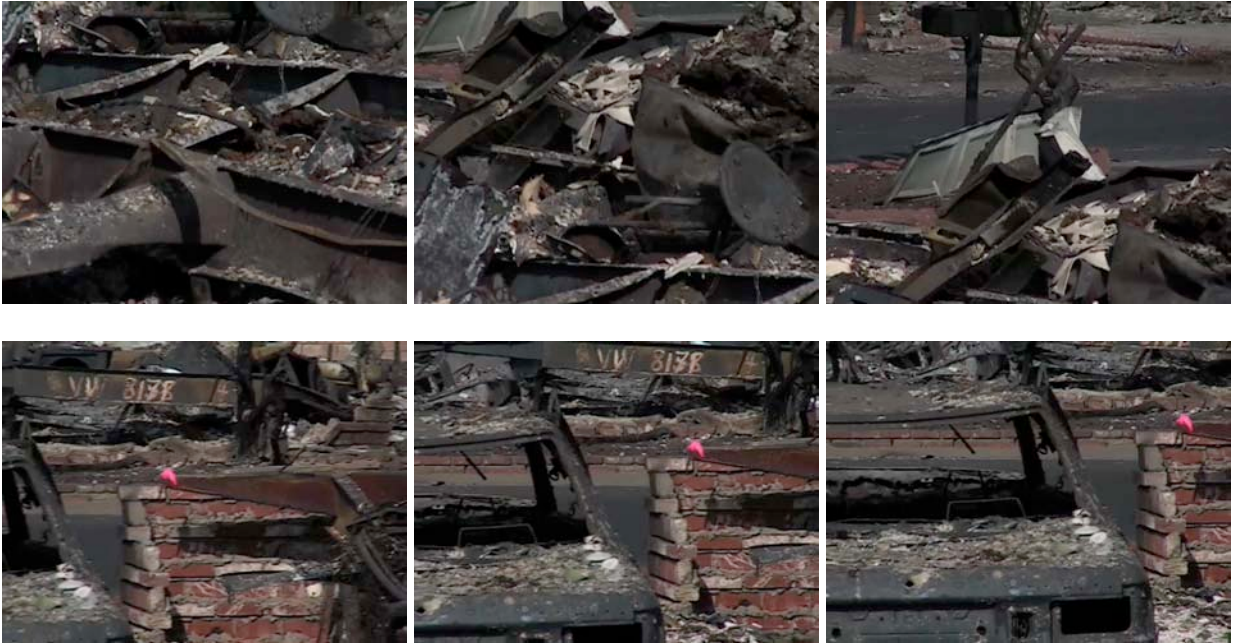
Work in Progress

3 detailed 120 cm x 80 cm und 50 cm x 75 cm, 2009

photo montage out of the wall installation

The pictures are photographed from a wall installation and is intended as a standalone work.

I started to develop new image formats from already installed works because I was interested in that case in the intuitive, associative aspect of the collected images.



Sylmar

Video / 20 min / Los Angeles / 2009

Sylmar is a district of San Fernando Valley on the outskirts of the city of Los Angeles, California.

A "mobile home" - village has burned down in November 2008.

The film observes people who came back to their home to see and save what remained after the burn.



Before the rehearsal

Video / 20 min / English / colour / 2009

Starring the comedy group, Slow Children Crossing

Realized during my grant at the Villa Aurora with the financial support from the Goethe Institut Munich.

In Los Angeles, a group of comedians meets up and discuss their different strategies to sell their show as self-organized stand-up comedy group. However, the editing is made to confuse the viewer whether the scene is staged or not.

*„Another month, another show, another crowd satisfied,
another Thanksgiving together as a group.
Another year of performing gone by, another empty theater
awaits our humor, another festival calls our name,
another city will feel the rush of our euphoric energy. „*

Alem Sapp (actor of the comedy group: Slow Children Crossing).

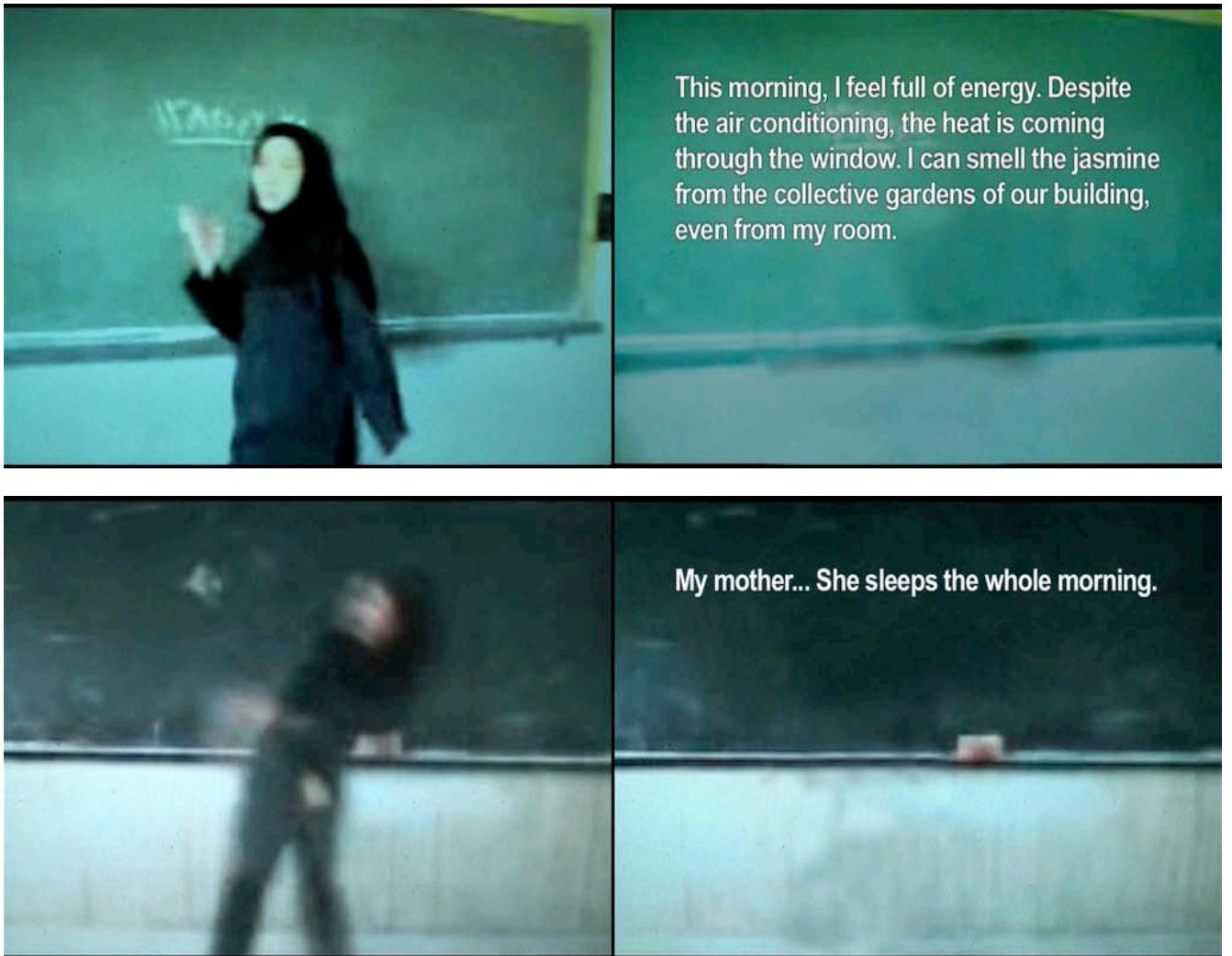


La corsa del venditore / The run of the seller

Film / 730 min / English subtitles / Black & white / 2008

In Florence, Italy, a 50 years old lady, a 20 years old and a 2years old girls pacing in front of the train station of Florence. You see a lady from a quite bourgeois standing, talking on her phone and going back and forth, shuffling behind her the 2 girls (assumedly her daughters).

The situation takes place in Black and white in front of the train station Santa Maria Novella, built in 1933. The story which she's recounting is a street scene she just experienced which happens everyday in Italy to the street sellers.

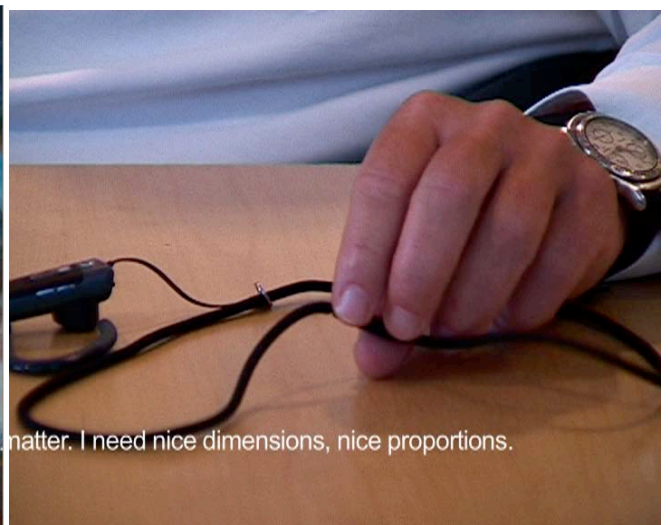
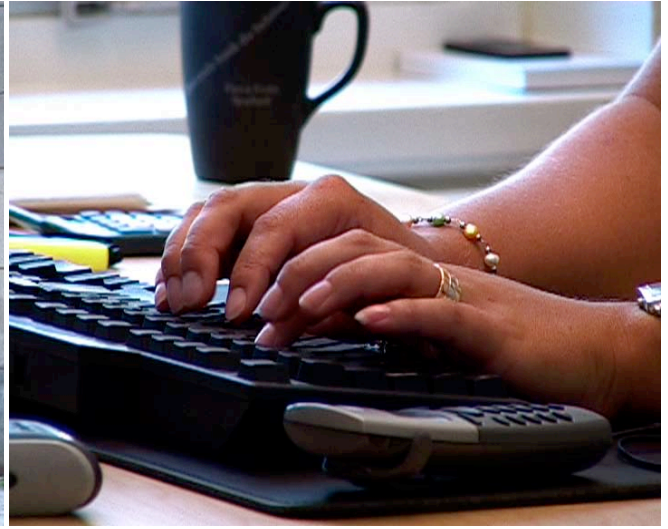
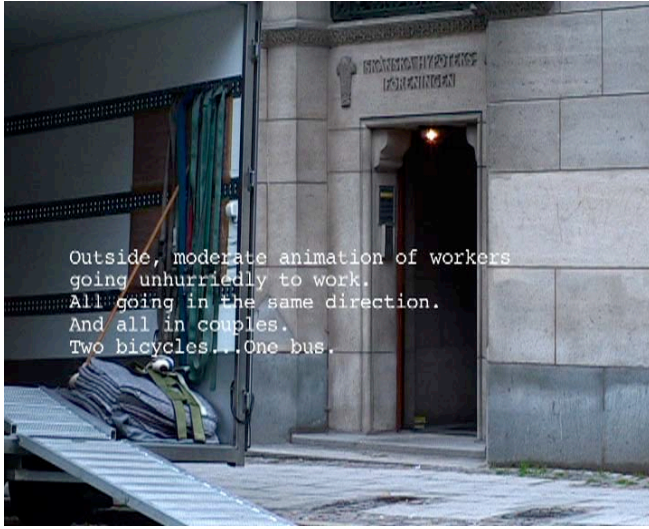


From the classroom

Video Installation / 2 canals each 6 min / English subtitles / colour / 2008

From the classroom, is a split screen projection that consists of found images from YouTube.

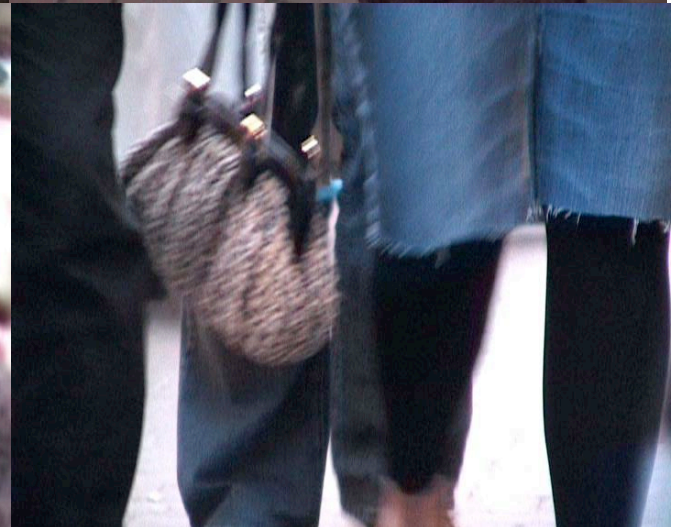
The left image shows dancing girls from the classroom that have apparently been filmed by their friends during their break. On the right image one sees a blackboard with a diary-style text written on it. The text describes the route a woman takes everyday to work.



Offices

Mini dv / 28,45 min / Swedish with English subtitles / colour / 2007

Invited to realize a film in the former bank Skänka Hypoteksföreningen in Lund (Sweden), as I enter the building, I can hear voices of people in the offices. Surprisingly, these people seem to work, although the building is supposed to be sold and empty.



Passing down, frame one

Mini dv / 10 ' 36 min / French with English subtitles / colour / 2007

Back in Berlin, I was trying to reconstruct, as a puzzle, with the help of the recordings from my grandmother, the part of her story during the Second World War.



Metropolis, report from China

Beta sp / 42 min / Realized with Clemens von Wedemeyer / colour / 2006

A convergence of two myths—the modern totalitarianism depicted in Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* in 1926 and modern China, whose staggering growth obsesses the West. In *Variation sur Metropolis*, one fiction meets another. In 2004, we travelled to China in order to prepare a re-adaptation of the feature film *Metropolis*.

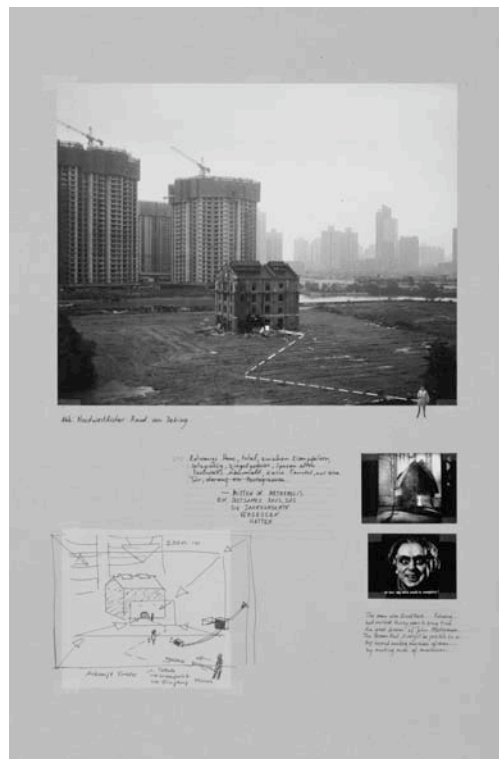
These are the materials we collected during our research, the interviews we conducted and the discussions we have had with the workers and the architects of Chinese cities.



Metropolis, Report from China

Documentation of the exhibition, Argos / Brussels / Belgium / June 2007

Documentation of the project comprising, the film *Metropolis, Report from China*, a slideshow, a video interview with Enno Patalas who reconstructed the film *Metropolis* from Fritz Lang, a table with documents, collages and newspapers corresponding to the research for our film and finally 5 panels of drawings and photos.



Metropolis, Report from China

Panels – Explanation of the different locations / comparison to „Metropolis“ –
2 of 5, each 50 x 100 cm



Rien du tout / Gar nichts/ Nothing at all

Film & HD Video / 35mm / stereo / 30 min / Format / aspect ratio 16:9 / French with English subtitles
Directed with clemens von Wedemeyer / 2006

A film director wants to shoot a film about the Middle Ages in the suburb of Paris. During casting, she is focused upon one person. The car park in front of the theatre where the young amateur actors and actresses are waiting soon becomes the scene of the actual plot. Inside, as the director and her assistant grow increasingly estranged, the superfluous figures outside begin to celebrate and dance. The film was shot in 2006 in Bretigny-sur-Orge, France.

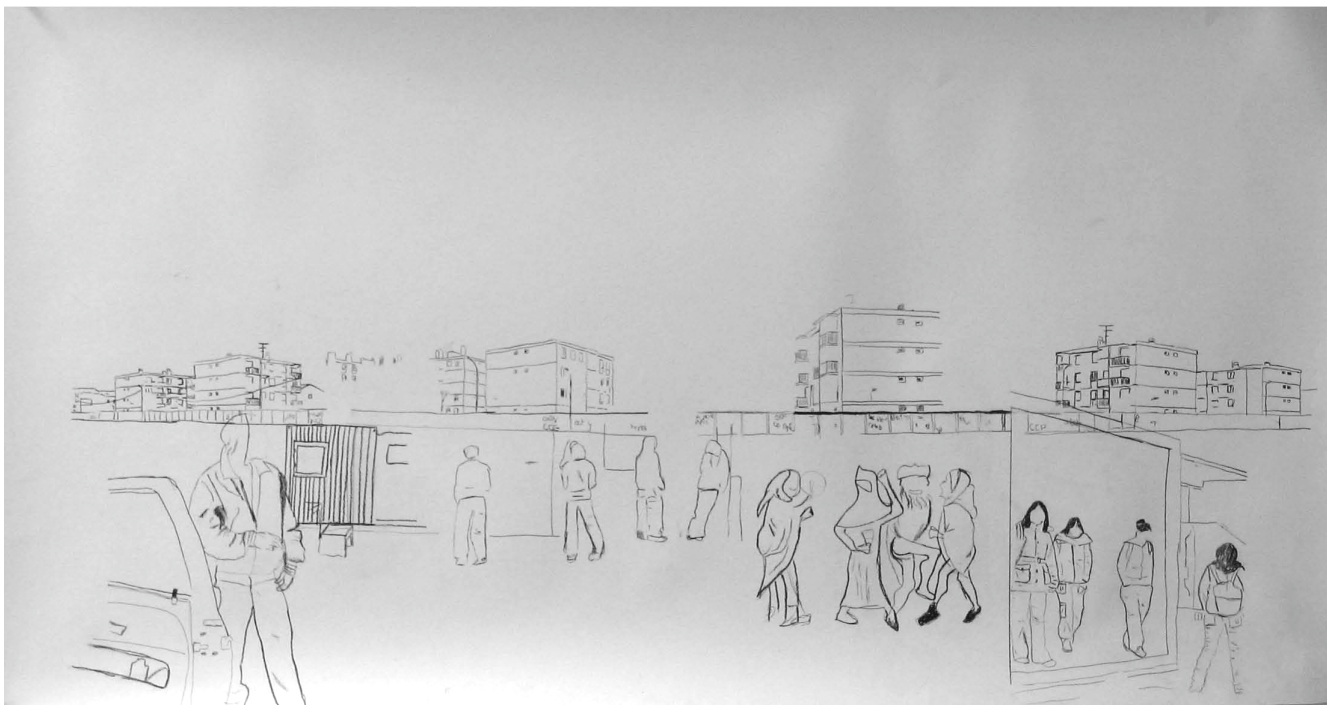
View from 4th Berlin Biennale, 2006 „Von Mäusen und Menschen“



Rien du tout / Gar nichts/ Nothing at all

Film & HD Video / 35mm / stereo / 30 min / Format / aspect ratio 16:9 / French with English subtitles

Directed with clemens von Wedemeyer / 2006 Centre d' Art Contemporain von Bretigny



Rien du tout / Gar nichts/ Nothing at all
Film sketch / drawing 104 cm x 54 cm / pencil / 2006



Rien du tout / Gar nichts/ Nothing at all
Film sketch 2 / drawing 104 cm x 54 cm / pencil / 2006



L'Attente / Die Wartezeit / The wait
Drawing / 330 cm x 40 cm / pencil / 2005

It is thought to be shown with the video *Après le Maquis*.
The drawing shows the same woman several times as a film sequence, waiting in the street.



Après le maquis / Nach dem Widerstand

Video / 3:40 min / German & French subtitles / colour / Pal / Algeria / 2005.



ensuite, on échangerait les avis



de notre triste conditions de réfugiés ;



Jusqu'au moment où l'on apporta le café.



Après le maquis / Nach dem Widerstand

Video / 3:40 min / German & French subtitles / colour / Pal / Algeria / 2005.

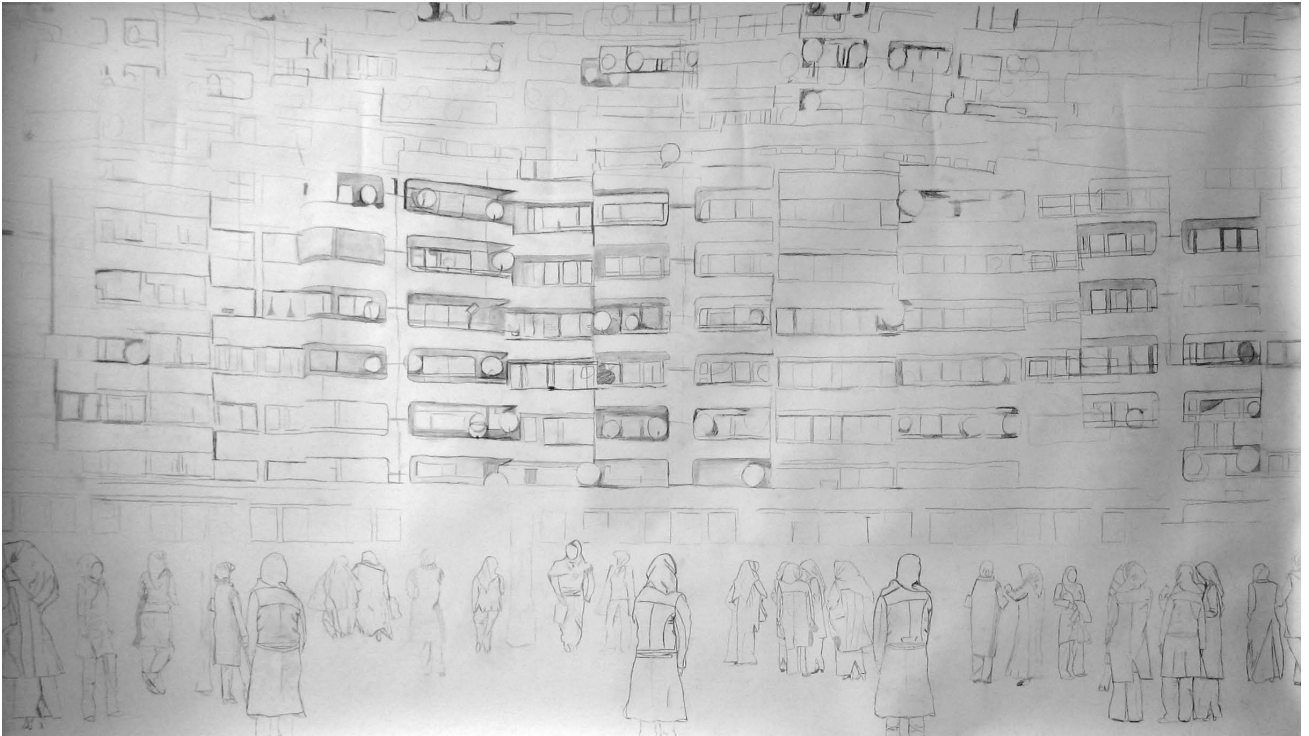
This film is thought to be shown with the drawing *L'Attente*

Two men sit at a table of the bistro in Algier. At the same time scrolls the story of a young girl, the narrator, joining her mother and the one from her pretender. Instead of the planned discussion about the marriage, as it was expected, the two mothers relate about their disarray and evoke their situation of exiled woman after the independence War of Algeria. The text is an excerpt of the novel; *Les femmes d'Alger dans leur appartement* (the women of Algier in their flat) from Assia Djebar. The Novel itself is inspired from the Eugène Delacroix's painting (with the same title).

The scene is mounted in a black frame to keep the character of a canvas.



The Siberian Summer, Yekaterinburg
Series of 40 Photos / Yekaterinburg / Russia / 2005
Slide show



Interurbain / Der städtische Zwischenraum
Drawing / 210cm x115cm / pencil/ 2005

This drawing is also meant to be shown with the films *La récréation* and *der Landkreis*.

The drawing is situated between the private and the public room: On one hand, the architectural structure of the façades demonstrate that we are in a city, in a public environment, on the other hand, the presence of veiled women going in groups, give a character of privacy to the situation. A woman appears repeatedly, overlaying the other figures, refers to an imaginary observer. The parabolic receivers fastened to the façades are evidences of immigration, close the room, and categorize it as Ghetto.

The drawing is made in the cinema format 16/9.



La récréation / Die Pause

Video / 6 min / colour / Pal / Berlin / 2005

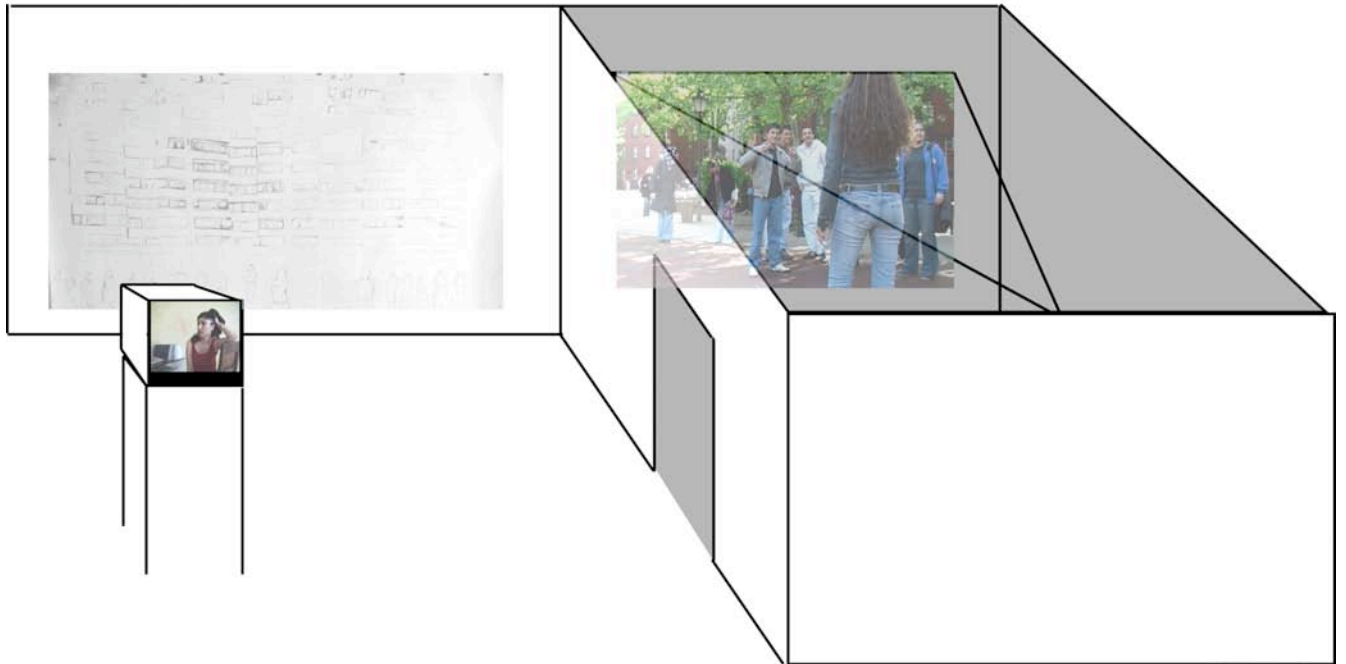
This video is also meant to be shown with the drawing *Interurbain* and the film *der Landkreis*. *Intermezzo* in a Kreuzberger school: A group of youth try to take a group photo on their break. Once the person staging behind the camera realizes that it's being taken, she runs away, to make the photo unsuccessful.



Der Landkreis

Video / 30 min / German / colour / Pal / Berlin / 2005.

This film is meant to be shown within the Landkreis projekt with the drawing, Interurbain and the film, La récréation. A woman sits and tells her immigration story of a small village in Germany up to her arrival in Berlin. She confides us from the beginning that she has no nationality, and doesn't think that it's important. She's now working with a Turkish Family, in Berlin, and so, explains, that she came back to the conflict she left from...



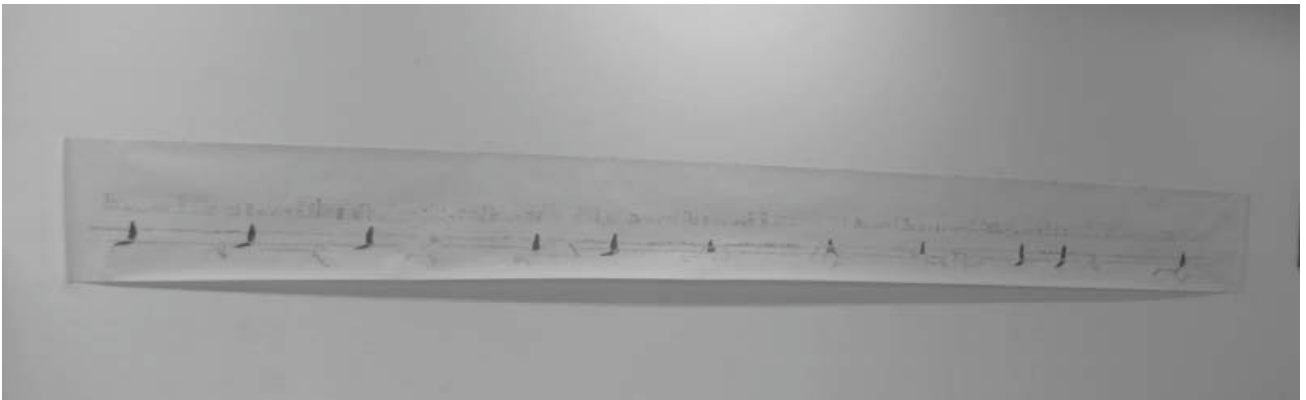
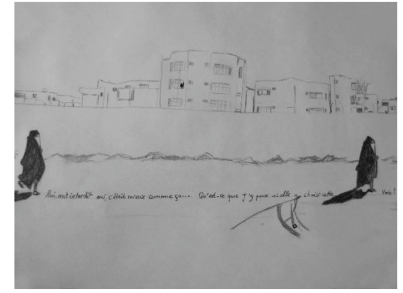
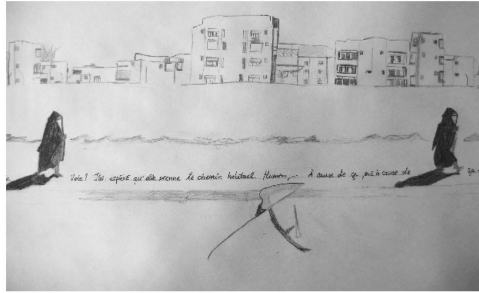
The administrative district project contains the film; *Der Landkreis*, the drawing; *Interurbain* and the film *La récréation*. Presentation of the project with the three parts.



Une collection / Eine Sammlung / A collection

Mini dv / 4 min / French with German subtitles / colour / Pal / Senegal / 2005

In Toubab Dialaaw, a small village in Senegal, a young boy shows me his postcards and photos he got from other tourists. These are being slowly unthread in front of the camera, until he presents me with his payslips...



Jasmine

Drawing / 500cm x 47cm / black pencil / text / Algeria / 2004

This drawing is meant to be presented with the video *Annaba, Algérie, 2004*

Jasmine is the story of a mother who suffers because her daughter wants to be independent and takes a completely different way than the one expected from her mother.

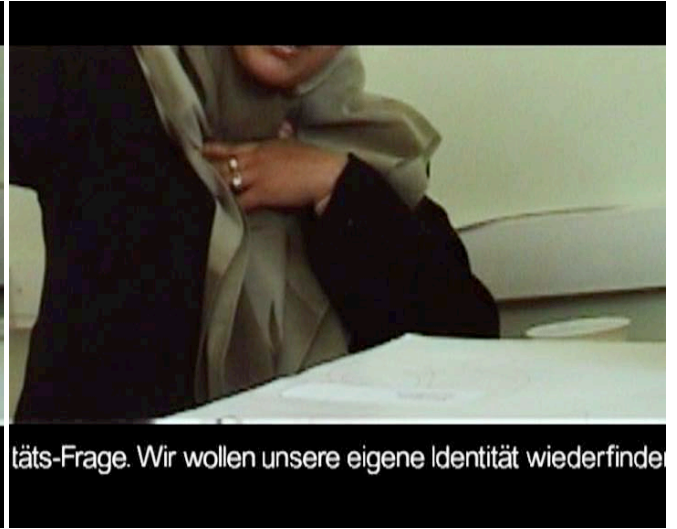
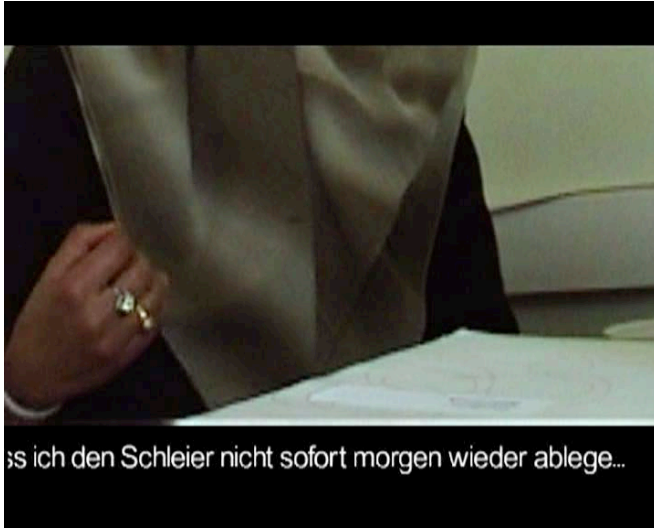
„A veiled woman thinks while walking along a road with an horizon of buildings.

Her thoughts scroll down in a form of subtitle. The form of the drawing juxtaposing different moments at the same time reminds us the form of a storyboard as well as the middle aged friezes which were usually depicting different scenes on one level.

Jasmine tells about the sorrows of a mother concerning her daughter who became a singer.

The discrepancy between the contemporary architecture in the background and the entirely veiled woman underline the paradox of the big cities where tradition and modernity cohabit.”

*Sophie Collombat, (original text is in french) article published in paris-art.com, while the exhibition in Public, Paris 2005.



Annaba, Algerie, 2004 / Annaba, Algerien, 2004
Mini dv/ 12,30 min / French, colour / Pal / Algeria / 2004

This film is meant to be shown with the drawing Jasmine

A veiled woman is sitting between her computer and her stack of books.

In the mean time, five different female voices explain their motivations to wear the veil.

This stacking of sounds causes a hubbub which evokes the confusions of the many debates about that topic.



**Sei hilfsbereit und neugierig für
den Aufbau des neues Wohnviertels**

Newlville

Photos for a Billboard project in the public space

The project Newlville was shown in Berlin as a slide show and in Vienna and Salzburg Austria, 2006 in the project Europart, 25 Peaces, contemporary art from Europe

Two Panels of each 230cm x 320 cm

Translation:

Be helpful and curious for the construction of the new residential district



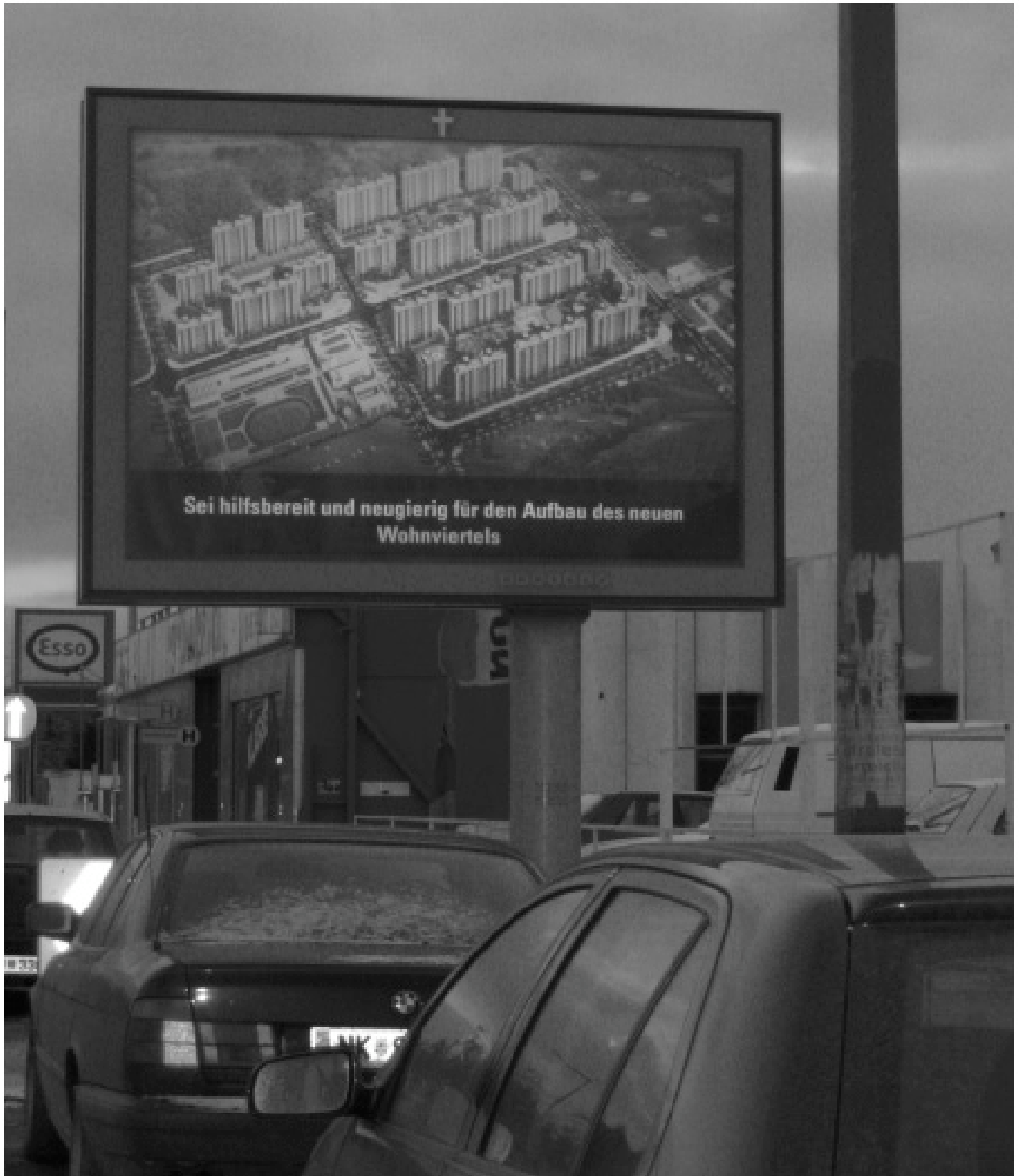
Übe Ausdauer, setze deinen Fähigkeiten keine Grenzen
für den schönsten Bezirk im Land

Newlville

Photos for a Billboard project in the public space

Translation:

Follow the laws be modest and show solidarity



Newlville (Berlin-Sofia)

Documentation of the project in public space during the exhibition in Vienna
25 PEACES, EUROPART, Aktuelle Kunst aus Europa.



Newlville (Berlin-Sofia)

Documanetation of the exhibition „Stadt als Oberfläche_ Zwischen Repräsentation und Inbesitznahme“

top: billboard in the public space in Sofia

bottom: billboard in the Galeria Academia, Sofia, January 2008.



Newlville

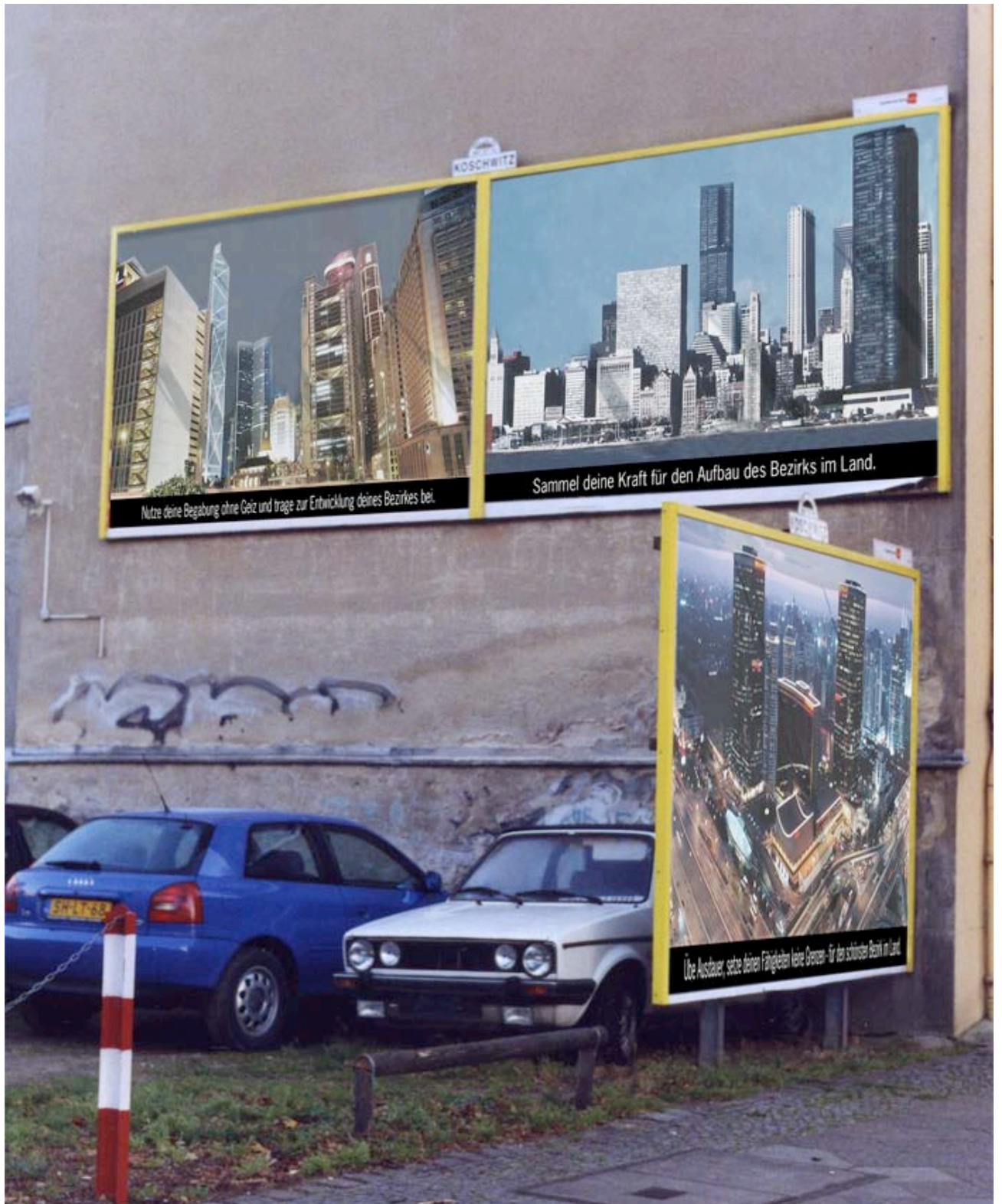
Berlin 2004, 12 motives photographed in Beijing meant to be mounted on billboards.

The posters are taken from an advertising campaign of the city of Beijing in 2002. This campaign is a publicity for a radical modernization of the old districts of Beijing which is mainly built of traditional Hutongs- wooden houses. The picture of the city can be regarded as a new icon, which is meant to take away the former identifications with the Mao-picture series.

The German text has been made by analogy with the original Chinese text of the advertising placards. Every poster is provided with a character, which explains the mentioned aspects.

For this the Chinese characters were retouched and replaced by a German sentence, changed slightly.

The idea, first was to put these posters in Berlin, to make a comparison of the two cities which have the same trajectory/aim: to be the next new modern cities of the XXI century. And It's interesting to note that the notion of the utopian city is similar and probably universal.



Newlville
42 slides - Example of the billboards in Berlin.



Le Musée de Daniel / Daniels Museum

Photo installation / China / 2003-2004.

Containing a catalog of 40 photos, 25 cm x 39,5 cm.

A C-print taken from the catalog, 283 cm x 183 cm. And an hanging of about thirty pictures of the catalog.

These photos are depicted the variability of the industrial cloth which is mostly used as tarpaulin: in construction sites, market,(expenses.)

I have collected these photos in a catalogue for a fictitious exhibition referring to the work of Daniel Buren: "The Museum which doesn't exist", exhibition in Centre Georges Pompidou, in Paris, 2002.



Le Musée de Daniel / Daniel's Museum

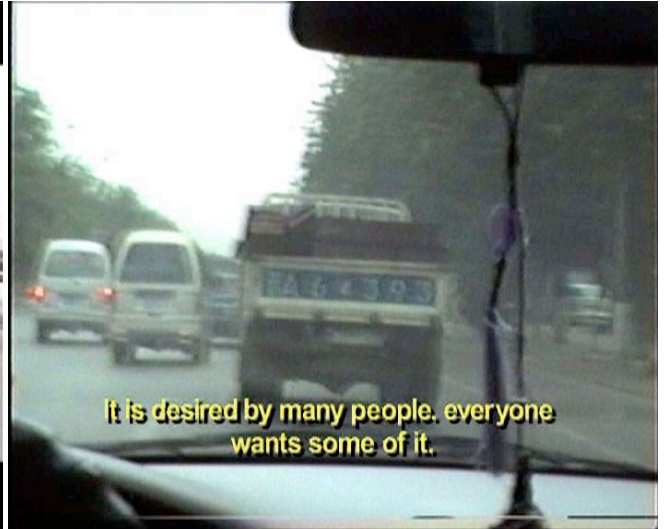
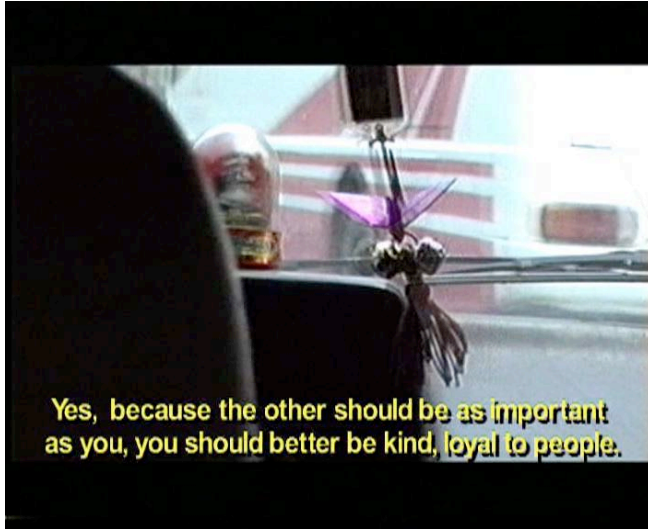


A short story in the subworld of Metropolis
Photo-montage out of drawings, 75 cm x 50,8 cm / Paris / 2006.



Encore la plage / Wieder der Strand/ Again, the beach
Video, 10 min / voice-off / German / colour / Pal / Algeria / 2004

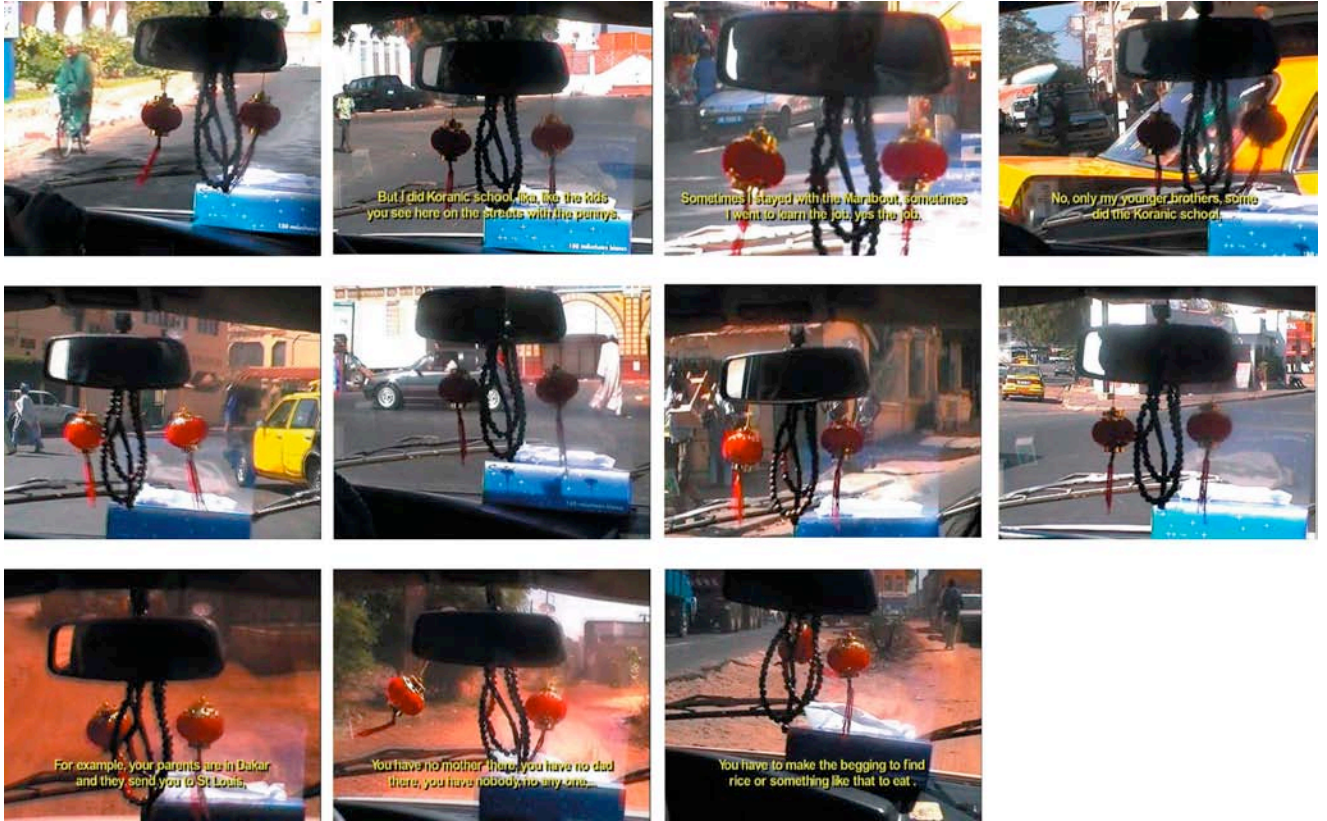
In camera, a dark room, two people who apparently knew each-other from before, meet without clearly knowing why. The spoken text in voice-off, insists on their incompetence to communicate. The text is inspired from the stranger from Albert Camus



Your destiny depends on your lucky charm's mood (today).

Video series of three short films, first part, China / 3 x 2min / mute / colour / Pal / China / 2003

Three glimpses at three journeys in a taxi. The camera is fixed each time on the swinging lucky charm hanging on the rear-view mirror. Parallel, the passenger exists through the story scrolling down.



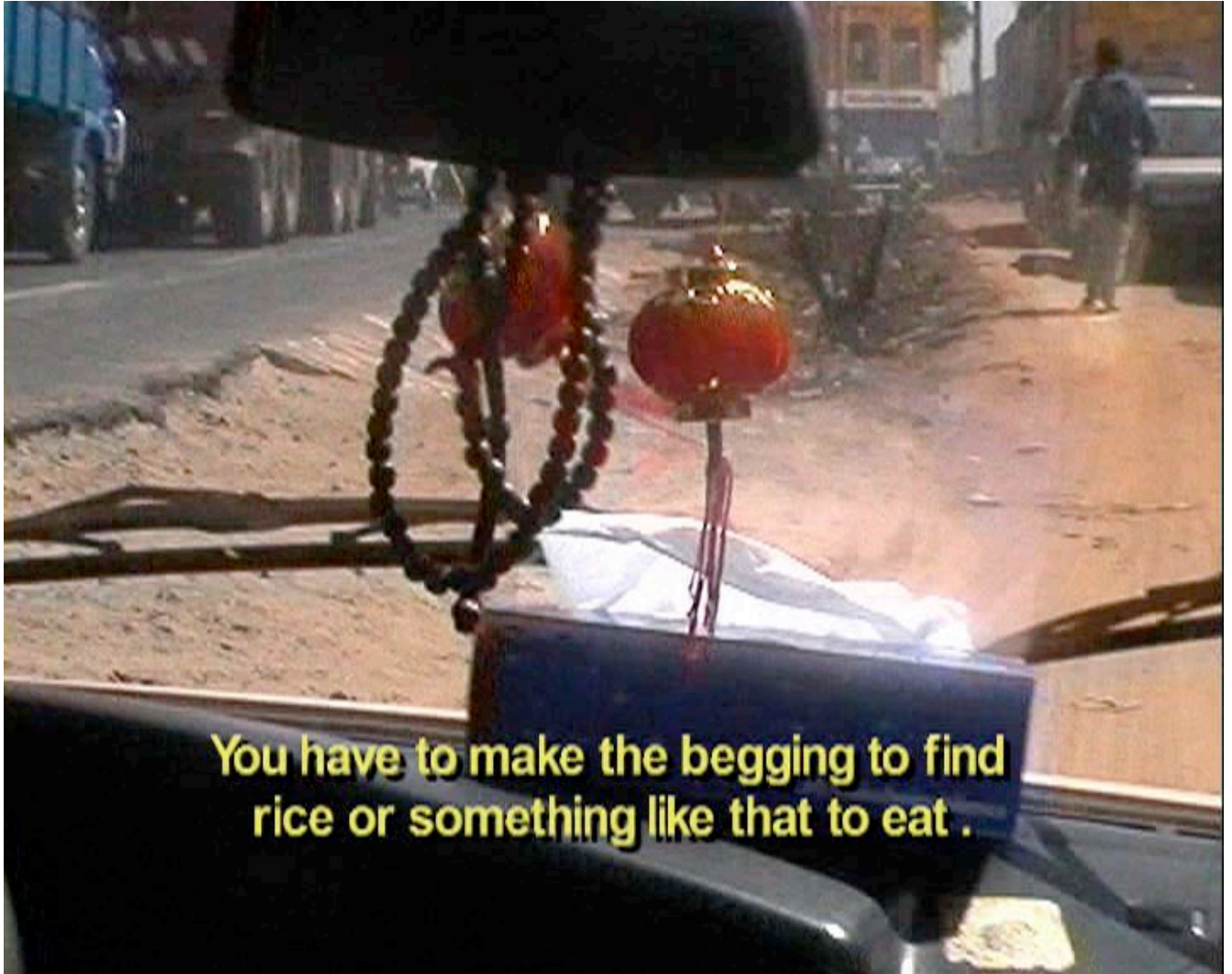
Your destiny depends on your lucky charm's mood (today)
Mini dv / 8 min / mute / English subtitles / colour / Pal / Senegal / 2003.

The scene takes place in a taxi, a conversation has already begun.

The driver tells about his childhood at the Koran school, where the children are entirely dependant on the Imam (they beg for money in the streets). In exchange the children have a place to live, a strictly koranic education, and the possibility to become an Imam themselves, and the same circle continues.

The construction of the form of the film is similar to its content, it's conceived as a loop.

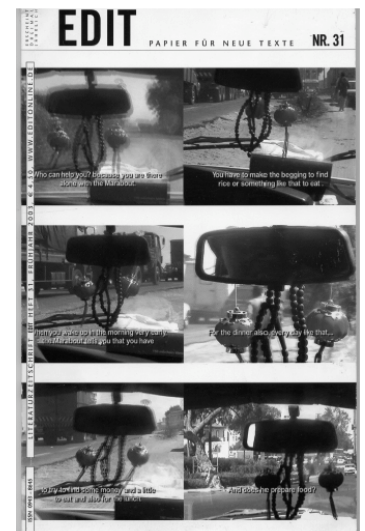
Publication in the literature magazin EDIT, Leipzig, April, 2003.



You have to make the begging to find rice or something like that to eat .

Your destiny depends on your lucky charm's mood (today)

Literature Magazin EDIT, Leipzig, April, 2003.
www.editonline.de





If only...we had time... to see each other again / Si seulement... on avait le temps... de se revoir
Zwei Fotomontagen 117cm x 38 cm. / Shijiazhuang / China 2003

Ausgangspunkt ist eine Fotomontage die die Unmöglichkeit einer Kommunikation
Abbildet.

Beide Bilder sollten einander gegenüber aufgehängt werden, um einen Dialog zu simulieren



Pas de Pique-Nique à St Marc / No picknick at San Marco
Mini dv / 2 min / colour / Pal / Italy / 2004.

On the cobble stones, the video camera observe the frenetic displacement of the pigeons running around.



Tunnel

Mini dv / 3, 50 min / colour / Pal /Russia / 2004.

The video is meant to be screened in a dark room, in a loop.

The video camera follows the eye movements of a woman. As soon as the two regards meet, the image dive in the dark.



DREI
TREPPENSTUFEN
RUNTER,
DANN
WIEDER
HOCH



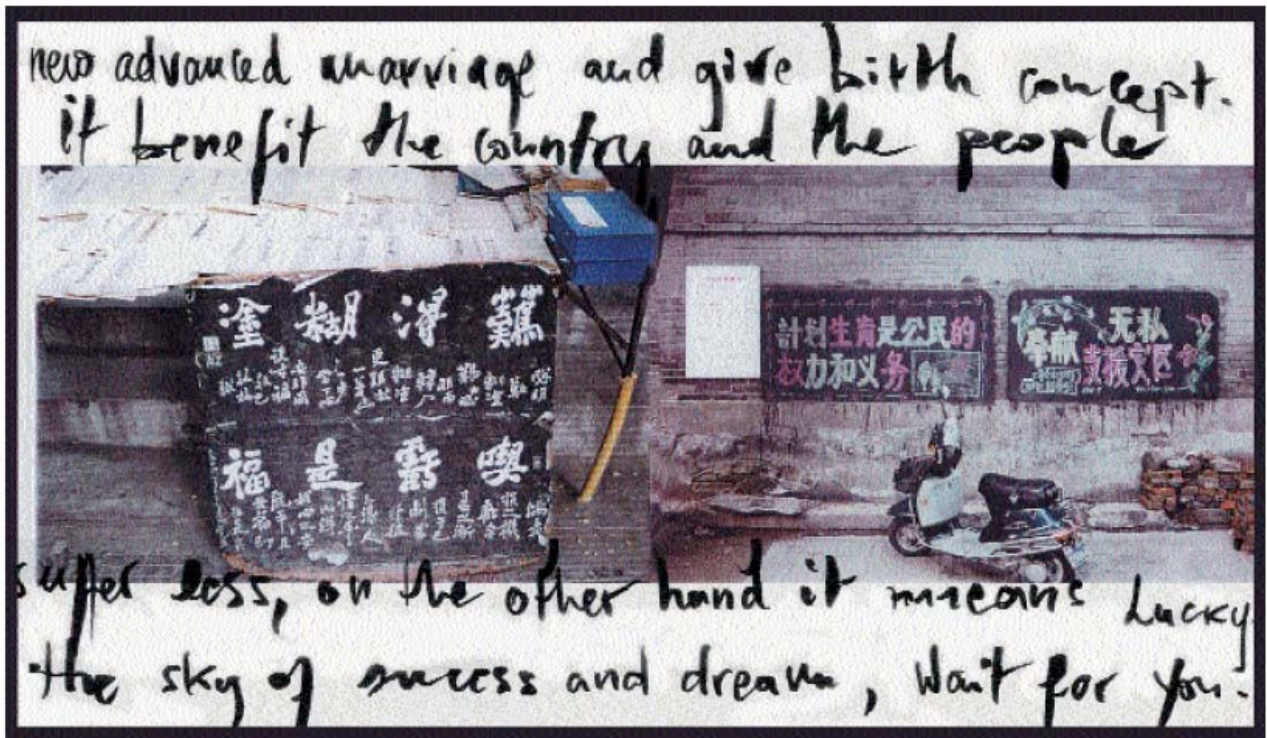
ICH
BEFINDE
MICH
DA,
SIE NIMMT MICH
ALS HINDERNIS WAHR

Le pigeon / The pigeon

Video installation each 2 min / Pal / Germany / 2003

They are meant to be mounted on two monitors.

On the one hand you can see the pigeon prisoner in the stairwell. On the other hand you can read an excerpt of the exhausted from Samuel Beckett with the sound of a traffic jam of a big city in the background.



And people's morality was (not) what it used to be...
Photomontage / 21x12cm / China / 2003.

In China gibt es auf der Strasse Plakate und Tafeln, die benutzt werden für Befehle und Propaganda, wie zum Beispiel die "Anti birth Policy". Die Idee hier ist, diese wieder in einer Tafel zu montieren.

"Birth control is the right and the duty of citizen", "Present yourself with all respect, help the area"

"Depend on yourself, work hard, don't give up!"

Hier sind von mir fotografierte und montierte Plakat-Collagen zu sehen. "Present yourself with all respect, help the area", "Depend on yourself, work hard, don't give up!"



Paula H.W.P.

Book / 30 cm x 60 cm x 1 cm / Leipzig / 2002.

Presentation of the book at the Galerie M29, during the Rheinschau, Cologne Art Project.

Paula H.W.P is a book in 18 enlarged images from real estate catalogs of the Provence. The narrator tells about an encounter with Paula, a woman who seem to be surrounded by many people but no one is to be seen on the pictures, the decor of the story stays empty.



Paula could have been 30,40, or 50 years old...middel-aged. She looked refined, elegant...



I arrived in Park city, in the far north of the country, with the eyes of a newcomer.

Paula H.W.P.

Book / 30 cm x 60 cm x 1 cm / Leipzig / 2002.



The sun went down, gave them an amber light on the rock. She didn't finish her glass of whisky, left it on the side, checked out the time table, thought she would rather leave him in his car, somehow, somewhere, to wake up the next morning in somebody else's bed.

What kind of day dreams do you usually have?
Series of seven photos C-prints 50cm x 50cm. / Leipzig / 2002

Combination of texts and photos

See: www.bildbank.com: archiv> autor> schweizer.



Fortunate proverbs for jewish cookies

Installation / tissue on a stool (50 cm high, 40 cm large, 36,5 cm depth) / Leipzig / 2002.

Fortune cookies drop on a stool on which is written Yiddish proverbs in german

Examples of proverbs:

"Who has butter in his head, should not run in the sun"

"How can the sheep eat peacefully when the wolf stands beside?"

"A kosher birds does not settle on a pig."

"One can find the truth only in God and in me ... a little."

"As long as one didn't find the thief, he's not a thief"