



Photo: Nicole Pruckermayr

Unclaimed Spaces— Joyful Spaces

Not only in Graz we live in an environment that has been worked out to the last detail. This order is crucial to keep a complex world working. But it can also result in too much regulation. Who doesn't have any romantic need for the unsystematic—the free spaces, the fallowfields and other niches of the city? And who does not also feel like sounding out things and doing things together with others in the city once in a while? Free spaces open up time and time again between the areas of consumerism, accelerated transit traffic, and the zones of restriction. Fallowfields are such spaces which can be physically experienced. They are projection surfaces and spaces that can be perceived differently from each and every point of view. Everything comes together in the fallowfields and in the free space. At times, it is an object of speculation and then again some romantic otherness.

“Free Spaces—Joyful Spaces” inspires us to participate in explorations of the city we can experience together, and examines the different perspectives on the fleeting and impalpable aspect of these urban spaces. The starting material for this is the research project and book *Lücken im urbanen Raum. Forschungen über Zeit in der Stadt, untersucht an Gstettn in Graz* (Gaps in Urban Space. Research on Time in the City Based on Fallowfields in Graz), which deals with both actual places within the city and more global contexts in the form of texts and projects.

Docked on to this, other artistic works too enrich this field: Within the frame of the exhibition, the performance “Zum Mühlgang—Spezialitäten aus dem Müllgang” (To the Mühlgang—Specialties from the Müllgang; translator's note: the pun lying in the phonetic closeness of “Mühl-”, i.e. “mill”, and “Müll”, i.e. garbage) is embedded in the work “MühlGANG” by Reni Hofmüller, Silvia Körbitz, Nicole Pruckermayr, and Wolfgang Reinisch. In the course of a “MühlGANG”, a walk through the temporarily drai-

ned riverbed of the Mühlgang, the city can be perceived in new ways due to slightly shifted changes of perspective. Michael Fuchs's performance picks up the change of perspective and creates a restaurant where culinary delicacies made of garbage and freshly fished from the Mühlgang are presented.

“Waste Fiction”, a comic created by Marleen Leitner and Michael Schitnig, examines both visible and forgotten formation processes of a city.

The wall illustration “Spielwiese der Wahrnehmung” (Playground of Perception), which was also created by Leitner and Schitnig shows layerings of both imaginary and real places that form a dreamlike new environment together.

In the interview project “Sehnsuchtsort Freiraum: Visionen, Grenzen, Praktiken” (Free Space as a Place of Desire: Visions, Limits, Practices) Reni Hofmüller, Judith Laister and Nicole Pruckermayr discuss ambivalent and individual free spaces that can also be situated within a larger context with the power plant manager Heimo Ecker-Eckhofen, the cultural anthropologist Johanna Rolshoven, and the city planner Heinz Rosmann.

With artworks contributed by and the participation of: Ursula Brosch, Heimo Ecker-Eckhofen, Michael Fuchs, Heimo Halbrainer, Reni Hofmüller, Silvia Körbitz, Judith Laister, Marleen Leitner, Renate Mihatsch, Nicole Pruckermayr, Wolfgang Reinisch, Johanna Rolshoven, Heinz Rosmann, Michael Schitnig, Margit Zötsch, a.o.

Concept: Nicole Pruckermayr

Assistance: Reni Hofmüller

Design: Renate Mihatsch

The two MÜHLGÄNGE and the five fallowfields tours are further essential elements which will bring back the individual results and insights into the context of the exhibition.

MÜHLGANG 1

Thu, 13 June, 4–7 pm

In preparation for the control visit of the creek, which takes place in September every year, the water inflow to the Mühlgang is stopped for a day after members of the Arbeiterfischereiverein (Workers' Fishing Association) have retrieved the fishes and relocated them in the Mur River. We will explore the Mühlgang from a fresh perspective together with Mr. Amesbauer, managing director of the Rösselmühle mill, and Mrs. Berghofer, the coordinator of the "Älteres Mühlenkonsortium" (Older Consortium of Mills).

Tour 1: Revisiting Places

Sat, 22 June, 11 am–2 pm

Fallowfields are an ephemeral phenomenon. Reni Hofmüller and Nicole Pruckermayr invite you to revisit some of the places portrayed in the publication *Lücken im urbanen Raum* (Gaps in Urban Space) after two years have passed and to look for changes.

Tour 2: Looking for Plants and Creating a Herbarium

Sat, 29 June, 11 am–2 pm

We can learn a lot about a place on the basis of plants. Since when has there been the actual fallowfields and which of the plants are pioneer plants? We will explore an actual place together with the botanist Ursula Brosch. This event is specifically designed for children.

Tour 3: Investigation of Relics—Basic Research

Sat, 20 July, 11 am–2 pm

Some places in a city or a region remain a mystery and one doesn't find information about all of them in archives. Which epistemic possibilities are there beside these archives and how can we work out reliable interpretations of source materials? The contemporary history scholar Heimo Halbrainer will accompany to a very special place.

Tour 4: A Tour for Our Ears

Sat, 3 August, 7–10 am

We are used to getting to know our environment with our eyes. What do we experience when we close our eyes? An auditory exploration trip with Reni Hofmüller.

Tour 5: Food from the Fallowfields

Sat, 31 August, 3–6 pm

Wild herbs are trendy again. And the amazing thing is that we can also find them in the city. Some can be consumed right on the spot, others must be cooked or preserved first. Together with Margit Zötsch, we will graze a promising spot.

MÜHLGANG 2

Sat, 14 September, 2–6 pm

Now it is time to perform the annually recurring repair work on the Mühlgang. This gives us the opportunity to get to know a larger section of this waterway and to experience its multifaceted usage and history at close range.

For all events that accompany the exhibition "Free Spaces—Joyful Spaces" we kindly ask you to book them beforehand by calling 0316 872-7600. The fee for each tour is € 4,- / person.