



Research Cluster: Enable – Design & Art Competences, Material Culture, and Human Development | Timespan: 2006 - ongoing

Postcards from Europe

Variable number of archival pigment prints on boards

68.6 x 83.5 cm, shelf, text, postcards

Team

PI: [Eva Leitolf](#)

External collaborators: Meredith Dale

Supported by: VG Bild-Kunst project grant (2017); Accademia Tedesca/Villa Massimo, Rome/Italy (2012); VG Bild-Kunst project grant (2009)

Awards and nominations: Nomination for Prix Pictet (2016 and 2019); Nomination for Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2016 (2015)

More information:

<https://www.evaleitolf.de/works/postcards-from-europe-since-2006/>

Contact: design-art@unibz.it

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In "Postcards from Europe" Eva Leitolf examines the ways Europe, and specifically the European Union, deals with its external borders and the associated internal conflicts, by bringing together images of places with carefully researched texts about past migration-related events at those places. Since 2006 the artist has undertaken long field trips to the most affected border regions in Spain and the Spanish exclaves of Melilla and Ceuta in Morocco, Hungary, southern Italy, and Greece, as well as to the English Channel ports of Calais and Dover. The project is not limited to the borders themselves: Eva Leitolf is currently working on sites in Germany and Austria.

"Postcards from Europe" focuses not on the suffering of those involved, which has already been widely documented, but on the ways the European Community relates to that suffering, administers undocumented migrants, and works to tighten control of its external borders. The text postcards that accompany each image draw on many different sources. Media reports, police files and press releases usually constitute the starting point for Eva Leitolf's research and shape her fieldwork itineraries.

While travelling she keeps a journal, and on site she speaks with people connected to the events: migrants, refugees, seasonal workers, activists, trade unionists, local politicians, border guards. Later, these collected voices and sources come together to form the basis of the postcard texts.

For exhibition the archival pigment prints are mounted on boards and placed on a long shelving ledge. The texts are printed on postcards placed in stacks beside the images. Viewers are implicitly permitted to pick up the postcards. As well as addressing the phenomenon of migration, the interplay of image and text in "Postcards from Europe" explores aspects of perception, representation and of the processes of formation of meaning.

The project is conceived as an ongoing, open-ended archive. A first selection of works was published in 2013 as a slipcase containing 20 plates (with text on reverse) under the title "Postcards from Europe 03/13".



Postcards from Europe 03/13, twenty photographs and texts by Eva Leitolf.
Kehrer, Heidelberg, 2013. ISBN 978-3-86828-398-3



Exhibition view, Pinakothek der Moderne, 2017

Exhibitions

2019

The World to Come: Art in the Age of the Anthropocene, The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida, Gainesville/USA and A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor/USA. With works by Subhankar Banerjee, Edward Burtynsky, Charles Gaines, William Kentridge, Ana Mendieta, Kimiyo Mishima, Richard Misrach, Richard Mosse, Gabriel Orozco, Trevor Paglen, Allan Sekula, Taryn Simon, Thomas Struth et al. (catalogue)

Jung. Leitolf. Markert. Ausstellungen über Zeitz, Deutschland und Europa,

Fleischerei/Alte Zigarrenfabrik, Zeitz/Germany

2018

Space of Flows: Framing an Unseen Reality, Museum of Ethnography, Krakow/Poland

Whose Land Have I Lit on Now? Contemplations on the notions of hospitality, Savvy

Contemporary, Berlin/Germany

2017

Global Prekär. Flucht, Trauma und Erinnerung in der zeitgenössischen Fotografie,

Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich/Germany. With John Gossage, Anselm Kiefer,

Michael Schmidt, Jeff Wall

Performing the Border, Kunstraum Niederösterreich, Wien/Austria. With Francis Alijs,

Ursula Biemann, Khaled Jarrar, Leon Kahane, Christoph Schlingensiefel, Hito Steyerl et al. (catalogue)

2016

Postcards from Europe 12/16, Minshar College, Tel Aviv/Israel (solo)

Postcards from Europe 11/16, Studiengalerie 1.367, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt/G (solo)

Zoom. Picturing Architecture and the City, Architekturzentrum Wien/Austria. With Lard Buurman, Stefan Canham and Rufina Wu, Julian Röder, Simona Rota, Wolfgang Tillmans, Tobias Zielony et al. (catalogue)

Wir Flüchtlinge - von dem Recht, Rechte zu haben, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe/Germany

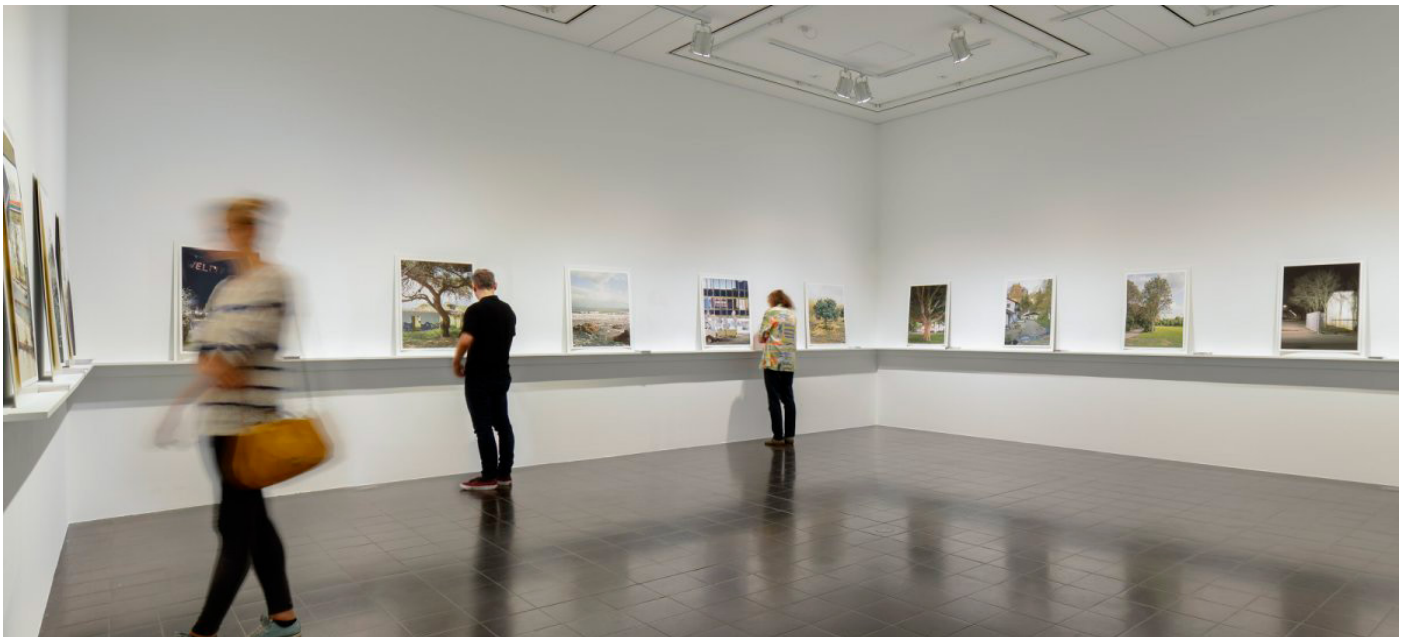
2015

Postcards from Europe 10/15, Kunst Haus Wien, Vienna/Austria (solo)

Postcards from Europe 03/15, Campus Luigi Einaudi, University of Turin/Italy (solo)

Postcards from Europe 03/15, Espace Quai1, Vevey/CH (solo)

When there is Hope, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg/Germany. With Yto Barrada, Nan Goldin, Roni Horn, Astrid Klein, Annette Messager, Adrian Paci, Anri Sala, Clemens von Wedemeyer et al. (catalogue)



Exhibition view, Hamburger Kunsthalle, 2015

2015

When Water Matters. Painting and Photography from William Turner to Olafur Eliasson, Bucerius Kunst Forum, Hamburg/Germany (catalogue)

Zoom. Picturing Architecture and the City, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich/Germany

Postcards from Europe 03/13, Sprengel Museum, Hannover/Germany (solo, artist book)



Exhibition view, Pinakothek der Moderne, 2017

Alone Together – Photography and the Other, The National Gallery of Kosovo, Pristina/KOS. With Marina Abramovic and Ulay et al. (catalogue)

Stipendiaten der Villa Massimo, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin/Germany. With Jeanne Faust, Philipp Lachenmann, Nicole Wermers et al.

2012

Making History, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt/Germany. With Thomas Demand, Harun Farocki, Omer Fast, Samuel Fosso, Alfredo Jaar, Walid Raad, Martha Rosler, Michael Schmidt, Jeff Wall et al. (catalogue)

Points of View, Kunstverein Hildesheim/Germany. With Oliver Boberg, Katharina Gaenssler, Jörg Sasse, Hans Christian Schink et al. (cat.)

Postcards from Europe, Studio 9, Villa Massimo, Rom/Italy (solo)

2011

Wherever I lay down my Camera is Home, Macro Testaccio, Rom/Italy. With André Cepeda, Julian Germain, Patricia Azevedo, M. Godoy et al.

In the collection of

Pinakothek der Moderne Munich/Germany

Contributions, anthologies, catalogues (selection)

analyse & kritik, **The Shape of Things to Come. 11 künstlerische Positionen zu Gegenwart**, Utopie und Dystopie, 15. März 2016

Burcu Dogramaci, ed., **Heimat. Eine künstlerische Spurensuche**, Köln 2015

Emine Sahinaz Akalin, Arne Bunk, Gustav Mechlenburg, Erich Pick (ed.), **Floating Volumes #4: Layering Divercity. Stadt und Identität in der künstlerischen Forschung**, Textem Verlag, Hamburg 2015

Andres Lepik, Hilde Strobl, ed., **Zoom! Picturing Architecture and the City**, Köln 2015

Erzen Shkololli, Frits Gierstberg, ed., **Alone Together, Photography and the Other**

- three classical works by Marina Abramovic & Ulay positioned in a context of contemporary works by 15 artists and photographers. published by the National Gallery of Kosovo, 2015
Thorsten Scheid, ed., **Points of View**. Heidelberg, 2013.

Ray Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain, **Making History**. Ostfildern-Ruit, 2012.

Eva Leitolf, **Europa von außen**, in: Zeit-Magazin Nr. 11, 10 March 2011, p. 24-31

Reviews

Martina Scherf, "Forschung: Wenn Flucht Kunstgeschichte macht", Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 October 2017.

Rüdiger Schaper, "In jedem Tropfen ein Ozean", Der Tagesspiegel, 4 July 2017.

Evelyn Vogel, "Es geschieht am helllichten Tag. Eva Leitolf hat mit den „Postcards from Europe“ gesellschaftskritische Tiefenbohrungen vorgenommen.", Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 June 2017.

Anne Katrin Feßler, "Postcards from Europe": Schatten auf der Festungsmauer", Der Standard, 21 January 2016.

Jana Haeckel, "An Aesthetic of Absence: Critical Counter-narratives of Journalistic Storytelling in Eva Leitolf's Photography". Image & Narrative 16, no. 1, 2015.

https://www.academia.edu/25743544/An_Aesthetic_of_Absence_Critical_Counter-narratives_of_Journalistic_Story-telling_in_Eva_Leitoffs_Photography

Matthias Dusini, "Gift im Garten Eden. Die Künstlerin Eva Leitolf nähert sich dem Thema Flucht mit kalten, schönen Bildern", Falter, 18 October 2015.

Angela Hohmann, "Festung Europa", Der Tagesspiegel, 23 November 2014.

Volkhard App, "Migration als fotografische Spurensuche. Sprengel Museum Hannover zeigt "Postcards from Europe" von Eva Leitolf", Deutschlandfunk, 12 March 2013.

Interviews

Silvia Mazzucchelli, "Interview with Eva Leitolf", Doppiozero, 6 June 2017.

<http://en.doppiozero.com/materiali/interview/postcards-europe-interview-eva-leitolf>

Conferences, panels, lectures

2019

image/con/text. Komplementäre Zeugnisse im dokumentarischen Diskurs,

Hochschule Hannover/Germany (Invited)



Exhibition view, Pinakothek der Moderne, 2017

2018

Critical Counter Narratives: The Visual and the Written in Rostock

Ritz and Postcards from Europe, at the conference Bodies Across Borders: Oral and Visual Memory In Europe and Beyond, European University Institute, Florence (Invited/keynote)

Kritische Grenzerzählungen: Critical Counter-narratives. Eva Leitolf im Gespräch

Introduction: Inka Graeve Ingelmann, Head and Chief Curator Department of Photography and New Media, Pinakothek der Moderne (<https://vimeo.com/224914504>)

2017

Ethics and Images, Goethe-Institut Turin, Centro interdipartimentale di ricerca sulla morfologia Francesco Moiso and Danilo Eccher in collaboration with Centro studi filosofico-religiosi Luigi Pareyson and Centro Studi Arti della Modernità, Turin/Italy (Invited/keynote)

2016

Der Weg der Bilder, Kunsthochschule für Medien, Cologne/Germany (Invited/keynote)

2015

No signs of Crime, Prof. Bernd Stiegler in discussion with Eva Leitolf, Kehrer Galerie, Berlin/Germany

2014

Floating Volumes #4 – Layering DiverCity / City and Identity within Art Research,

Hochschule für Bildende Kunst, Hamburg/Germany (Invited/keynote)

2013

Interdisciplinary postgraduate research colloquium Ethics and Aesthetics:

The Responsibility of Photography, Deutsches Dokumentationszentrum für
Kunstgeschichte, Bildarchiv FotoMarburg/ Germany (Invited)