
**Postcards from Europe**

Variable number of archival pigment prints on boards
68.6 x 83.5 cm, shelf, text, postcards

**Team**

Pi: [Eva Leitolf](https://www.evaleitolf.de/)
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)


More information:
[https://www.evaleitolf.de/works/postcards-from-europe-since-2006/](https://www.evaleitolf.de/works/postcards-from-europe-since-2006/)

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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.
Exhibitions

2019


**Jung. Leitolf. Markert. Ausstellungen über Zeit, 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 Alÿs,
Ursula Biemann, Khaled Jarrar, Leon Kahane, Christoph Schlingensief, 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)

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)
Alone Together – Photography and the Other, The Nationl 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

Pinakotheck der Moderne Munich/Germany
Contributions, anthologies, catalogues (selection)


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


Reviews


Interviews

Conferences, panels, lectures

2019

image/con/text. Komplementäre Zeugnisse im dokumentarischen Diskurs.
Hochschule Hannover/Germany (Invited)

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)