

Random Stories

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The project "**Random Stories**" is a series of work that will continue to build through time. It emerge from my thesis work for the Master of Fine Art "*Art in Public Space & New Artistic Strategies*" in the Bauhaus Universität of Weimar in Germany. The thesis was composed of a written part "*walking blind as a working practice*" and two projects *Cortez 2200*, a '*spread-able soundpiece*' originating from the Ukrainian Village in Chicago with the collaboration of the block group "*LandmarkCortez*", and *Anecdota* an alternative touristic map of *Weimar* in Germany.

This project brings my artistic practice together with my social convictions and lead me to a broader project an archive, accessible through this website, composed of the different projects resulting of this same concept.

The projects are the result of the interaction between people living in a given place and me as a visiting artist. In these projects a space has been dedicated for them to talk and make us discover what their social, historical and living environment is made of. I would already like to thank all the people that have opened their door and made those projects possible.

This website will be update for each new project

If you want to contact me or to have a broader idea of my artistic practice I am inviting you to visit my personal website www.vanessamayoraz.com

Cortez 2200

This project started when I saw a poster asking support for the landmarking of 2200 Cortez street block in the Ukrainian Village in Chicago on some doors of that block. Since then I have tried to get in contact with members of this association.

To underline and find out about the network of this neighborhood I have stuck to one rule: to get to know by myself the first person and then to get to know the following people only through the recommendation of the last person I met.

To be able to compare their point of view about landmarking and what is happening to this neighborhood I interviewed each person with the same set of questions plus one or two specifically related to them when I had got to know them.

All the people interviewed have been asked to give me ten addresses where they would like me to send a CD with the soundpiece made from the interview.

This project is still in progress. The first steps are accomplished: meeting people, recording the interviews and editing the sound piece. I began to get the first addresses and the last steps are to finalize the sound editing (sent to the different people involved in order to get their permission), print the CD's and send them to the address I will get.

Anecdota

The project *Anecdota* is born form the everyday life experience of Weimar and is the result of the questioning of its tourism policy. What historical facts Weimar chooses to show and talk about or not. The touristic scene is many rule by major historical figures like Goethe or

Schiller. Weimar is probably one of the most paradoxical city in the world when it come to its history. The biggest changes have occurred inside its walls, changes that have influenced the life of so many peoples. Seeing the city's overview that as a tourist we can quickly access to, I found the information very far away from the human beings that have experienced directly the Weimar historicity.

The city's policy towards history appears to me very clear when the city decided to transform the Gauforum—first building of the remodeling Nazi plan of Weimar made by Hitler—into a mall. Tourism is an economical system but it is also part of our education and this should be somehow balanced. This project has an alternative touristic map, On the front side an hand draw map with 10 places to visit highlighted by a number. On the other side for each number, the location, a picture of the place, a small anecdote and the name of the person who told me this anecdote. All the places and anecdotes mentioned in this project are the result of discussions with Weimar's inhabitants met thanks to recommendation of friends & professional that I knew in Weimar. The network and the fact that the stories have been said to me in person where the very important point of this project.

History is a very important tools but not a collection of certainty—that's why oral transmission and an emphasis on remembrance more than precision of the facts has been crucial to gather the information. This project do not pretend to balance the system but to provoke curiosity and confront the system in place with its lacks and in a larger view to question the way one built history in general. This project is a subjective and alternative way of visiting Weimar. A PDF of the map will be available to download on the website.

artificial hill

from | von Frau M.-L. Kreßler

February 1945 – nahe des Reithauses

After the bombing on 9th of February 1945, most of the houses in Windischenstraße and Marktstraße were left in ruins. After that, many prisoners from Buchenwald were brought to Weimar. A small train was set up to transport the debris near the Reithaus. Before this cleaning work, the park was almost at the same level as the Ilm river, but today, there is a small hill, covered by grass.

Nach der Bombardierung vom 9. Februar 1945 waren die meisten Häuser in der Windischenstraße und der Marktstraße zerstört. Danach wurden viele Gefangene aus Buchenwald nach Weimar gebracht. Ein kleiner Zug (Lore) wurde eingerichtet, um die Trümmer in die Nähe des Reithauses zu transportieren. Vor den Aufräumarbeiten war der Park auf fast gleichem Höhenlevel wie der Ilmfluss, aber seitdem gibt es einen kleinen Hügel, welcher heute mit Gras bedeckt ist.

links

<http://artproject.gelux.ch/?q=welcome>

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Landmarks/Index.html>

<http://www.uni-weimar.de/mfa/>

If you want to contact me please visite my website:

<http://www.vanessamayoraz.com/>