

Things we never did
An archiv of unrealized ideas
Idea / concept: Beate Rathmayr

In december 2010 an archive at the artist association MAERZ showed things artists never did. For some weeks written, spoken and drafted fragments showed unfulfilled and unfinished Ideas from artists who are members of the organisation.

As artist and member of the artist association MAERZ I am interested in things and processes which are difficult to understand because they are not visible but they already exist. Things we never did show wishes as well as frustrations, they start conversation and discussion.

Things we never did are able to show a development, a variety of different ways of artistic production and allow us to deal with insecurity, incompleteness and ambiguity, which is important for further processes and results.

The idea and concept, as well as the archive itself asked different questions and need further examination. Are these undone things inspiration or failure, do we take them as a starting point for success to be or surpassing goals. What is going on, what is left over.

Adventure and imagination are the strongest triggers for artistic processes. To operate with undone, not existing works motivates a process, which is more important than the result at least.

Very different positions met at this project. Sculptors, concept-artists, writers and musicians took part and added things they never did to this archive. Members of the artist association MAERZ found things to show what they never did, they made visible and useful for an exhibition.

Following artists took part in this project:

Iris Andraschek/Hubert Lobnig, Josef Bauer, Gerhard Brandl, Claudia Czimek, Oliver Dorfer, Walter Ebenhofer, Gottfried Ecker, Siegfried A. Fruhauf, Gregor Graf, Sibylle Gusenbauer, Harald Gsaller, Waltraud Goffitzer - Thalhammer, Bodo Hell, Christoph Herndler, Karin M. Hofer, Klaus Hollinetz, Dagmar Höss, August Kürmayr, Anton Kehrer, Kathi Lackner, Kurt Lackner, Pepi Maier, Gerlinde Miesenböck, Bernd Oppl, Irmgard Perfahl, Andrea Pesendorfer, Claus Prokop, Josef Ramaseder, Otto Saxinger, Pia Schauenburg, Klaus Scheuringer, Waltraud Seidlhofer, Peter Sommerauer, Karo Szmit, Doris Walaschek, Udo Wid

Material, images, words, statements, sounds, conversation and refusals, all contributions have been numbered and exhibited on tables and pedestals (different sized tables in unique design) in the gallery space. Dialogues and Statements about unrealized projects have been brought together as a story, the visitors could read one und one things after the other and got an impression about different ways if thinking and working on art projects.

Selection of undone things as part of the archive 2010

Iris Andraschek/Hubert Lobnig sent an e-mail:

Das ist das erste Mal, dass wir zu einer Ausstellung, an der wir teilnehmen, keine Arbeit verschicken.

This is the first time, that we are participating in an exhibition without sending some work.

Gottfried Ecker: a drawing, a sketch and two words: *Eigentlich Schade*

Siegfried A. Fruhauf: a copy of Marcel Duchamps Mona Lisa with beard, an bellow a statement: I haven't done it and his signature.

Harald Gsaller: sketches, sound- and video material, telling the story about a stay in China, To explain the parameters for doing some project or not: time, priority and the weather/temperature

Since 10 years Kurt Lackners is doing interviews with so called „Zeitzeugen“, who experienced the second world war as soldiers. He wanted to make a book with portraits and stories. He showed a portrait and a list of names and some notes. Some of these people already died.

Christoph Herndler showed some conversation with a contracting authority for some composition. It shows the impossibility of realisation in different ways and the whole process leading to a refusal.

Pepi Maier: An closed envelope – inside there is some developed super 8mm film. Since 20 years this material is uncutted, unseen and unopened in his atelier.

Bernd Oppl sent some statement:

“ ...I am sorry, I have to tell you that I will cancel my contribution for the exhibition. I was not able to find something, I couldn't find some design which makes sense...”

Andrea Pesendorfer showed stones, selected in colour and shape. One day She wanted to make an artwork with all this stones. Just because she got the idea, that in contemporary art it is uncool to do something like this. She never did until now.

Karo Szmit presented her unrealised ideas and not finished projects since 2000 as a diagram.

The diagram showed the time of the idea on horizontal configuration and the probability of the realisation as percentage on the vertical configuration.

Udo Wid gave words. As an accidental collection of words he wanted to make a story. He promised to do so. Because he didn't he asked to visitors to use three words (the artist made the selection) to make one sentences.

The archive as exhibition was a starting point for further ideas. Following and further examination of the theme should be possible by working on a book, an encyclopedia of undone things.

Therefore more artists will be asked to give their things they never did. A starting point is to ask all artists I worked with as artists and curator in the past and I will work with in future projects to be part of the project and think about their undone work. To put this ideas together in a book is a kind of legacy and useful for further processes and understanding what happens already before showing results. To put them into categories and structures will be the most interesting challenge for myself.

Beate Rathmayr, born. 1969, lives and works in Linz/Austria

She is artist with the focus on conceptual photography, video and installation, she initiates travelling projects, is curator and author of art- and communication projects

Beate Rathmayr studied at the art university Linz

From 2003 – 2010 she worked in the board of the artist association MAERZ

Since 2006 she works as curator and project developer at KunstRaum Goethestrasse xtd

Selected projects – www.maerz.at und www.kunstraum.at

2003 „dreamteams“- a picture book (edition selene)

„island by numbers“, OK Centrum for contemporary art in Linz, Austria

2004 “too far, too close” – gallery by night-stúdió galéria, Budapest - IG Bildende Kunst, Vienna

2006 „andernorts. Positionen zu Weimar und Linz“, ACC Galerie Weimar

„light_story_space_body“, galerija galzenica Velika Gorica/Croatia

2007 / 2008 “myth of odessa “ part I, Odessa - part II, artist association MAERZ, Linz, Austria

2010 „The big wave“, Archäologisches Museum in Varna/Bulgaria (curator: Gottfried Hattinger)

„Linz-Liverpool“ Bluecoat Gallery Liverpool (UK) and artist association MAERZ, Linz, Austria

Ideas, concepts, realisation – a selection

2009 DER KRANKE HASE_VERRÜCKT NACH LINZ– KunstRaum Goethestrasse xtd, (together with Susanne Blaimschein)

2010 Richtung Norden, KV MAERZ (together with Dagmar Höss)

2010 Life is probably round, KV MAERZ (gemeinsam mit Claudia Dworschak)

2011 neverneverland, KV MAERZ (artists using models a artistic methode)