

dis-/connected: working relationships

Opening:
18.11.16, 6pm
Réunion

A three-part
exhibition

rel-
-working-
dis-/
-ship

Deep Water
Politics of Space

Kunstraum Toni-Areal
Réunion

Connecting Spaces
HongKong — Zurich
2013 – NOW

**DIS-/CONNECTED:
WORKING RELATIONSHIPS
CONNECTING SPACES
HONG KONG — ZÜRICH
2013 – NOW**

Text by: Philipp Spillmann
Translation: Brandon Farnsworth

Connecting Spaces Hong Kong – Zurich is a transdisciplinary arts space initiated by the Zurich University of the Arts. Launched in 2014, the space grounds itself in the hybrid geography of Hong Kong – Zurich, and promotes opportunities for mutual exchange between Europe and Asia on the level of concrete cultural practices. The space offers a platform for 1) communication and exchange between local and global perspectives, 2) collaborative projects with a transdisciplinary and transcultural outlook, and 3) discourse, art education, research, and creative production.

The exhibition “dis/connected: working relationships, Connecting Spaces Hong Kong – Zurich — 2013 – now” is at once a retrospective of the Connecting Spaces initiative, as well as an institutional interrogation of the projects that have taken place under its banner. “dis/connected: working relationships” is therefore not a presentation platform with a pre-given position, but rather a form of intervention that reflects on its role as a co-actor in the constitution of our understanding of the Connecting Space. The exhibition is curated by Gabriel Flückiger, Katja Gläss, Philipp Spillmann, Nina Tshomba, and Jana Vanecek.

As the name itself implies, forging links between spaces, disciplines, etc., is a central objective of the Connecting Space. The creation of this network is both a prerequisite for and consequence of the

space’s projects, which constantly modulate connections between people. This networking procedure implies a latent belief in an equal, flat model of connection, and furthermore an organization that favours connection over modalities of disconnection, non-connection, or interruption, all of which are seen as symptoms of unwanted conflict. In contrast to this, “dis/connected: working relationships” is based on the principle of interruption, questioning implied institutional, social, and technical forms of equality. The exhibition does not understand disruption as necessarily negative, as a kind of “dissonance” which must be transformed into “harmony,” but rather as an integral element of networking, and with its own form of productivity. Disruption is constantly produced in connectivity, and can contribute to both its production as well as its transformation.

“dis/connected: working relationships” thus also rejects any claim to representation which would be commonly associated with retrospectives, and does not wish to present works as finished end products. It understands itself rather more as a studio, presenting available material from individual projects, treating them like fragments of a whole. These individual parts then become materials documenting the context, mode of display, working method, and collaborators that have formed the Connecting Space since its inception.

The exhibition will take place in three parts. At the Toni-Areal campus of the Zurich University of the Arts, the Kunstraum exhibition space will be turned into a studio environment open to the public, containing the aforementioned documentary fragments. Furthermore, “dis/connected:

working relationships” will take a step outside of the Toni-Areal, taking place as well in the Art-space Réunion in Zurich’s 4th district, which will also host a series of public programs and events over the course of the exhibition. Lastly, audio concepts about several projects, as well as conversations, and other audio files will be continuously streamed via internet for the duration of the exhibition – a nod to the importance of the internet as a core component of the in-between space between Zurich and Hong Kong.



A THREE-PART EXHIBITION

KUNSTRAUM
TU 15.11. – SU 20.11.
(3PM - 7PM DAILY)
Toni-Areal
Pfungstweidstrasse 96
8031 Zurich

RÉUNION
FR 18.11. – 22 November, 2016
(3PM - 7PM DAILY)
Müllerstrasse 57
8004 Zurich

AUDIO STREAM



**EXHIBITION PROGRAM
RÉUNION**

OPENING: FR 18.11.
06PM **OPENING: WELCOME EVERYBODY. WELCOME TO DIS-/CONNECTED.**
An “endless opening talk” by Gabriel Flückiger (performance)

... **...CONNECTING...**
Performance by Shirin Hirsiger and Petra Tomljanov

Singapore is usually associated with a narrative of greenery, parks, and a healthy environment. Does this account actually represent the hegemonic practices focused on public space? We explored this question in our examination of the city. Through means of a performance, we attempt to capture the essence of our research trip to Singapore, and to merge its various voices into one flickering vote.

SA 19.11.
11PM **WALKING THROUGH A CITY IS EXCITING, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT, IN A GROUP, AS A PERFORMANCE**

Performative affective group walk through Zurich-West by Gabriel Flückiger
Meeting point: main entrance, Toni-Areal, Pfungstweidstrasse 96, Zürich (Ending at Réunion, Müllerstrasse 57, Zürich)

..... *after midnight program*

00:30AM A BECOMING PLACE
Streamed Lecture Hong Kong – Zurich by Michael Leung in cooperation with Audio Bucher

Michael Leung will talk about the notion of community: Kai Fong Pai Dong is a self-organised neighbourhood market stall in Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong which opened in November 2015 to build something with the neighbourhood from the bottom-up. Horizontally-run by 14 people, the stall relies on mutual aid and community support, and aims to empower those that run it and the neighbourhood community. The green metal structure is located where Hamilton Street meets Canton Road, an intersection home to a fruit and vegetable market, hardware shops and several nursing homes. Kai Fong Pai Dong relies on mutual aid, empathy and community support, and aims to empower those that run it and the neighbourhood community.

02AM LATE NIGHT – EARLY MORNING: BREAKFAST HONG KONG – ZÜRICH (1 hour)
Philipp Spillmann cordially invites you to a collective breakfast – on Hong Kong time.

**EXHIBITION PROGRAM
RÉUNION**

SU 20.11.
04PM **HAZY ZÜRICH SUNDAY**
Film Screening, curated by Nina Tshomba

A continuation of the Connecting Space Hong Kong film screening series Hazy Sundays in Zurich. The series attempts to show various perspectives on the relation between identity construction and history, as well as the changing economic and political landscape in dense urban cities like Hong Kong.
The screening will start with Fruit Chan’s Little Cheung 細路祥, Hong Kong, 1999, 104 min, in Cantonese with English Subtitles.

MO 21.11.
06PM **RECONNECTING – DISCONNECTED**
Performative Installation by Nina Tshomba

An instant attempt to performatively reconnect and de-connect elements of artistic production (visual, linguistic, physical) and/or the context of the Connecting Space.

07PM 軟禁/CAPTIVITY
Performative investigation of sound by Juan Mauricio Schmid Bello, Ernesto Coba, and Jonáthan Ospina

The performance investigates the ever-decreasing amount of bird sounds audible in the Hong Kong soundscape through recordings of stories told by elderly people. People on the street were asked to explain in one minute their opinion on why there are so many canaries in cages in Hong Kong. Their responses formed the sound material that will be used in the performance.

TU 22.11.
06PM **HOW TO THINK ABOUT GLOBAL CULTURE**
Lecture by Philipp Spillmann

What does it mean to think of culture as something global? If such a thing as global culture does exist, how could one find it? What theoretical concepts can one use to grasp it? Finally, what implications, problems, and potentialities are associated with this concept?

**PARALLEL EXHIBITION 1
TONI-AREAL**

15.11 – 20.11.
**DEEP WATER
POLITICS OF SPACE
SHAM SHUI PO, HONG KONG**

According to official statistics, Sham Shui Po (lit. deep water pier in Cantonese) is the poorest of the 18 districts of Hong Kong. It is situated in the north-west of Kowloon, and is home to mostly workers, old people, migrants from the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and a steadily growing number of migrants from Mainland China.

The research project Politics of Space, led by Jürgen Krusche at the Institute for Contemporary Art Research, Zurich University of the Arts, investigated the public spaces of the district of Sham Shui Po between Fall 2013 and Summer 2016. A thorough process of field research was carried out together with the filmmaker Yunlong Song, in cooperation with Prof. Siu King and his students, as well as students of the Masters of Transdisciplinary Studies and Master of Fine Arts at the Zurich University of the Arts.

Documentation and materials related to the research project will be exhibited in several places in the Toni-Areal, Pfungstweidstrasse 96, 8031 Zurich.

**PARALLEL EXHIBITION 2
GALERIE 2, TONI-AREAL**

MO 12.12. – FR 16.12.
DAFEN EXPERIMENT
A project by Barbara Liebster and Song Yunlong

and
Wang Haifan 黄海帆
Wu Qianqian 吴倩倩
Chen Yupei 陈玉培
Peter Radelfinger
Karoline Schreiber
Hans Witschi

Three painters from Dafen, China, a suburb known for its oil painting reproduction industry, encounter three self-portraits by Swiss artists. The Chinese copies are then sent back to the artists from Zurich. The originals, the copies, and three films documenting the process will then be presented to both experts and the general public for this exhibition. The resulting installation is conceived as a space for thought, where cultural conceptions of original and copy can be discussed and explored.

MO 12.12.
5PM OPENING

OPEN **TU 13.12 – FR 16.12.**
(12PM – 06.30PM DAILY)
Please feel free to join our daily talks
Tuesday – Thursday at 5PM.

**EXHIBITION
CONCEPT**

Gabriel Flückiger
Katja Gläss
Philipp Spillmann
Nina Tshomba
Jana Vanecek