Art Project INTIMATE SPACE / GEORGIA CREIMER

In 2012 Innsbruck will host the first-ever Youth Olympic Winter Games (YOG) 2012. For the event, an Olympic Village is built to house about 1,600 winter-sports athletes and their coaches from a total of around 70 participating countries.

The art project INTIMATE SPACE by the Brazilian artist GEORGIA CREIMER based in Austria evolved from an Art&Construction competition advertised within the framework of this building project. Creimer's project was among the five winners that are realised in the Olympic Village.

On the one hand INTIMATE SPACE is concerned with the cultural variety of the invited athletes and on the other hand with what they share as regards private life and accommodation. Furthermore, the scale of the international event is contrasted with the intimacy of a view into particular and individual places.

Call for proposals

As an essential part of the project, Georgia Creimer invited art students from the whole world to participate in a competition. They were asked to photograph their own INTIMATE SPACE and to write a short text describing their relationship to the photographed sites.

"A multitude of 'intimate spaces' served the basic idea to allow for the reflexion on the significance of accommodation and human private life, accomplished through an intercultural dialogue. Besides the long-term aspect of accommodation, the concept also takes into consideration the short-term, temporary one. So Creimer based her project on the nomadic form of existence, as it is the case with the Olympic athletes who utilize a residence for only a limited time."

(Patricia Grzonka: The Incorporation of the World, Georgia Creimer; Intimate Space, 2011, text contribution to the artist's book – documentation).

Integration of the contributions into the general artistic concept, selection, processing and installation

From ca. 50 countries, Georgia Creimer received around 230 registrations and more than 100 submissions, from which eventually 42 contributions were selected for realisation and were integrated into the general project. For this purpose, the original colours were removed from the picture files and were replaced by monochrome colour values in one of the five Olympic colours (blue, yellow, black, green, red). The text accompanying the picture was digitally mounted into the picture file as white script, together with the name, place and country of the author. The selected and processed picture contributions were printed in the size 240 x 180 cm on floor-to-ceiling glass panels and were permanently installed in the 42 floors of the six residential buildings (architects din a4) of the Olympic Village. One Olympic colour was attributed to each staircase in order to achieve as a reference system an identification of the individual houses through the colours of the glass panels.

Artist's book as documentation

A book on INTIMATE SPACE will document the project in the context of the Olympic Village and will above all also show the original, unprocessed pictures of the selected international authors and their texts. Production, publishing house and distribution of the book is provided by SCHLEBRÜGGE.EDITOR, the publication is planned for the beginning of YOG 2012.

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