

# URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

Artfoyer Cavigelli  
Albisstrasse 27, CH - 8038  
Zürich

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Opening hours: Wed, Fr 3-7pm

Artfoyer Cavigelli is a non-commercial artist-run space in Zurich, Switzerland. It cultivates an interdisciplinary approach to art, striving to create a community of local and international artists, architects and other cultural producers. Curatorial practice and the production of exhibitions is combined with relevant social and political themes such as globalization, migration, urban transformations, and changing notions of home and belonging. Within its program, artfoyer Cavigelli seeks to address a specialized as well as a non-specialized public, and often works with artists in residence and visiting artists in Zurich. The *Artist's Window* program deals with site-specific installations in the window of the gallery, and focuses on topics often related to the city and the neighborhood.

Artfoyer Cavigelli thanks  
Cavigelli architects for their  
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Exhibition at **Artfoyer Cavigelli**: 16 September - 7 October 2011

Opening reception: 15 September 2011, 7pm

Artists: Işıl Eğrikavuk, Monika Kapfer, Ioana Marinescu, Cora Piantoni, Irina Birger with Maria Pomiansky, Vadim Hodakov, Roni Izhak, Liron Lupu, Mordehai Yifrach and Ruti Sela, Cannelle Tanc

Talks and screenings at **White Space - Office for Curating / Art / Theory**: 21 September 2011, 4pm

Lecturers: Anne Brandl, Christiane Forstnig, Ioana Marinescu

A project curated by Anca Sinpalean



With 5 million euro investment, Germany's biggest coal mine museum is now being made in the Ruhr Region.



The project *Urban Transformations* focuses on changes taking place in contemporary cities around the globe, in relation to globalization, deindustrialization, migration and urban redesign. The city is seen first as a place for social drama (taking into account its political and ideological dimension) and second as a physical, built structure. The project investigates how the spatial and social worlds of a city interact.

What happens with the social cohesion of a city, when factories become museums, bakeries become casinos and shopping malls and financial districts multiply? How do we live in decentered cities like contemporary ones, where suburb life takes the place of an often deserted or missing downtown? Does a city change within a day? Is the present fragmented urban landscape a mirror of our identity patterns? What role does art play in city life today?

*Was macht eine Stadt aus? Wie beeinflussen sich die räumlichen und sozialen Welten darin? Die Ausstellung Urban Transformations richtet ihren Blick auf eine sich verändernde Architektur und ihre Auswirkungen auf das Leben des Menschen. Die Stadt soll vorerst als soziales Drama wahrgenommen werden (darin eingeschlossen die politische und ideologische Dimension) und danach als physische, gebaute Struktur.*

*Was passiert, wenn Fabriken Museen werden, Bäckereien Casinos und sich Shoppingmalls und Finanzdistrikte ausbreiten? Wie leben wir in den zeitgenössischen dezentralisierten Städten von heute, wo das Leben in der Vorstadt den Platz eines verlassenen oder nicht vorhandenen Stadtzentrums einnimmt? Ist die zeitgenössische fragmentierte Stadtlandschaft ein Spiegel unserer Identitätsmuster? Welche Rolle spielt die Kunst in der heiligen Stadt?*

#### **Işıl Eğrikavuk: Memory Museum**

(video, 10' 32", 2010)

The video deals with the results of the collapsing coal mining industry in Germany's Ruhr area. It mixes fiction (the artist imagined a Memory Museum which would employ 4000 coal miners as living exhibits) and reality (interviewing the Turkish community).

#### **Monika Kapfer: Untitled** (installation, 2011)

*Untitled* is an on-site installation dealing with the theme of urban transformations, in which abstraction and reduction play a central role.

#### **Ioana Marinescu: Off the Map. Bucharest**

(installation, 2011)

The main piece of the installation is the video made in collaboration with **Robert Fearn** (24', 2006) about the story of the part of Bucharest where the People's Palace was built in 1984. The installation presents memory drawings and testimonies of people displaced at the periphery of the city, while thousands of houses were demolished and historical monuments destroyed.

#### **Cora Piantoni: Model House**

(installation, 2011)

The installation presents the architectural and sociological history of the Baba Werkbund estate in Prague, taking the Herain House and its inhabitants as an example of Czech society's changing situation from the 30s until now.

#### **Irina Birger in collaboration with Maria Pomiansky, Vadim Hodakov, Roni Izhak, Liron Lupu, Mordehai Yifrach, Ruti Sela: City One Minutes - Jerusalem**

(video compilation, 24', 2009)

[www.cityoneminutes.org](http://www.cityoneminutes.org)

The video compilation about Jerusalem was a response to the *City One Minutes* initiative of browsing through more than a hundred cities around the globe. In *City One Minutes* life in each city is divided into 24 one minute portraits, each depicting one hour of the day. The artists' videos show the changes a city goes through in one day.

#### **Cannelle Tanc: The City**

(installation, 2011)

For the *Urban Transformations* exhibition the French artist created a *cabinet of curiosities* of the city, with various elements like cut maps and "volume cities".

Talks at White Space

#### **Anne Brandl: The Atmosphere of Shrinking Cities in Eastern Germany - Some Thoughts on Theories of Perception**

#### **Christiane Forstnig: Urban Waters - Greetings from the Ditch**

#### **Ioana Marinescu: Off the Map. Bucharest**