

Invitation to anywhere – *ATOPIA* exhibition at GALERIE KREMERS in June 2018

Nearly no subject is as pertinent today as the preservation or loss of cultural identity. Anxieties over foreign infiltration on one hand, and the destruction of regional cultures through globalization on the other, have led many to fear the loss of their own culture, and with this loss, cultural memory and identity.

This is where *atopy* comes into play.

Atopos – a characteristic ascribed to Socrates by Plato: *pausing while immersed in his thoughts, he regularly eludes his companions, is intangible.*

Atopic defines places like department stores and coffee chains - places that can be everywhere, and by uniformity anywhere and nowhere. Today, Atopia has become a site of terror by anti-globalization opponents.

In its uncertainty, Atopia also acts as a blank space, and like all blank spaces, it not only contains horrors, but also opportunities. Without a unique *home* orientation through which one may construct a cultural identity, we're thrown into a new, unhinged space. In this blank space, we're forced to reflect on and choose: what is mine? What am I connected to? What is my story and where does it become visible?

On June 1st, 2018, this blank space will be explored for the first time. In GALERIE KREMERS' Gothic Hall, on the grounds of the former Schultheiss brewery on the Kreuzberg mountain, artists, literary figures, historians and philosophers will come together. Emerging from very different cultural backgrounds, professions, preferences and life experiences, they bring a mutual desire to cast light into the void. The results of their investigations are traced in an exquisite accompanying catalogue published by Clandestin Biel.

A photo series by Andrey Chezhin forms the starting point in which he creates an installation of Jörg Mollet in the Alternative gallery/Pushkinskaya 10 Art Center in St. Petersburg with multiple-exposed photographs. Kristin Schulz reacts with lyrical texts and research on the photographs of Andrey Chezhin. With citations from newspapers and diaries, Mikhail Shishkin combines the biographies of musicians Dmitri Shostakovich and Sergei Prokofiev, and thus their music into the political reality of a dictatorship. With their artistic-analogue photo interventions, Maryna Markova and Jörg Mollet take up the media reality of the Olympic Games 1936 and their representation in today's TV documentaries and on the Internet. Marie Christin Kremers and Aurel Schmidt also clarify the terms *atopy* and *biography* in a philosophical way and with different perspectives.

All these mergers of stories are an example of *atopic* reality. It happens somewhere – in Atopia. Martin Rohde as an art historian or as a kind of travel guide through Atopia combines the various aspects.

In every place the *atopic* space is changed. In Solothurn in the gallery "ad hoc" during the literature days, photography is closely linked to literature and underlined with readings and literary discussions. In Dornach in the literature foyer in the new theatre, where the book opening is in the foreground, readings by Mikhail Shishkin and Aurel Schmidt as well as a scenic intervention by Margit Maria Bauer are held. In Berlin, *Atopia Installativ* is presented

and supplemented with readings by Mikhail Shishkin and the musical part is integrated.

Broadening our program, this exhibition marks the first installation shown at Gallery Kremers. Throughout the exhibition, the gallery will also host reading lounge where guests are invited to explore selected literature on the subject at their leisure.

Participants

Andrey Chezhin, photographer, St. Petersburg
Marie Christine Kremers, philosopher and gallery owner, Berlin
Maryna Markova, visual artist, Berlin
Jörg Mollet, visual artist, Solothurn
Martin Rohde, art historian, biberist
Mikhail Shishkin, journalist and writer, Kleinlützel
Aurel Schmidt, publicist and writer, Basle
Kristin Schulz, author, literary scholar and translator, Berlin

Book | Atopia

Open Thread stitching as Streif paperback
Texts German
228 pages, illustrations 4-coloured
30 x 24 cm, portrait
ISBN 978-3-905297-86-7
Price: CHF 40. —/33.30, 00 euro (d)

Preferential edition
Book with an original graphic by MAMO, Maryna Markova/Jörg Mollet
Edition 50 copies, numbered and signed from 1/50 – 50/50
Price: CHF 200. —/166.70, 00 euro (d)

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Dates Berlin
Opening
Friday | June 1st, 2018 | 7pm
Welcome | Rascha Osman (Head of Cultural Department of the Swiss Embassy)
Scenic Interventions | Margit Maria Bauer (actress)

Saturday | June 23rd, 2018 | 7pm
Conversation and Reading | Marie Christine Kremers, Martin Rohde, Mikhail Shishkin, Aurel Schmidt and Kristin Schulz
Moderation: Jacqueline Roussety (radio presenter and actress)

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