

Zwischenraum, Interspace

mediation project for the exhibition „Zimmer, Gespräche“ (Rooms, Conversation) by Dora Garcia
21-04-2007 to 01-07-2007

In collaboration with a group of volunteers for the exhibition "*Zimmer, Gespräche*," (Rooms, Conversations) I developed the *Zwischenraum* (Interspace). This *space* was an area in which children, youths and adults of all backgrounds were invited to further consider, either playfully or intensely, the underlying themes of the exhibition. The exhibition, which focuses on artist Dora Garcia's personal engagement with Stasi video- and photo-surveillance methods and materials, is the culmination of Garcia's two-year-long research project under the assistance of the Blinky Palermo Grant. From its beginning, it was evident the exhibition should incorporate a mediation project which could initiate various emotional reactions to the exhibition's theme. The *Zwischenraum*, Interspace, would include five tables providing different mediums and materials reflecting the theme of the exhibition.

1. A video interview with the artist and curator concerning the concept of the exhibition.
2. A row of videos and movies selected by the artist from her collection of research material (DEFA films, Hollywood production, and video works by the artist, herself). One monitor and two DVD players were freely accessible to visitors.
3. thirteen maps with text and important research articles discussing the Stasi, the GDR, performance art, literary exhibitions, and themes of observation and surveillance.
4. a typewriter and different means for commentary, through which the visitors are intended to provide their own comments regarding what they have seen.
5. A table of literature including artist katalog, Stasi publications, and also a fake-Stasi-document providing visual aid for those who have not previously been able to see such documents

A couple of the above possibilities require that visitors spend additional/extended time with the materials in the *Zwischenraum* (Interspace). The education department of the GFZK FÜR DICH (GfZK for you) have also prepared a playfull approach for children - in the form of carpeted suitcases - to the exhibition's theme, of surveillance.

Exerpts from the interview with the artist, "It is not how it used to be; it is how I create my own memory of it," are presented along the wall. The full interview written by Julia Schäfer can be found in the exhibition catalog.