An Anecdoted Archive of Exhibition Lives

What are the lives of exhibitions?
Are they microcosms of the worlds we live in?
The sum of the works exhibited?
The traces of the research done for them?
The great issues they can point to?

‘An Anecdoted Archive’ proposes that exhibitions can be measured by the impact they have had on viewers’ consciousness. They can be articulated through what viewers thought they saw, what they felt, what distant worlds were hinted at and what was revealed about their immediate environments.

Some exhibitions take place in institutions (museums and galleries) and others are institutions themselves (biennials and international fairs). They gain an independent life when they exceed beyond the institutions that engendered them and link to the substance infrastructures of viewers’ lives.

‘An Anecdoted Archive’ assembles the narratives of significant exhibitionary moments by 15 viewers from around the globe who produce a veritable polyphony of revelation. Each viewer described a pivotal moment in their life and a shift in their understanding through an encounter with an exhibition.

As an archive it performs a ‘counter-cartography’ of the art world, pointing out that it is not great international reputations that enable significant experiences, but the ability to affect lives and perceptions.

Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung interviewed by Nora Sternfeld in Berlin

Installation of 15 film interviews
Overall duration 2hrs and 38mins.
Interviews by Curatorial/Knowledge, Goldsmiths University of London, CuMMa Aalto University Helsinki, members of freethought.
Producer: Lucy Beech
Camera: Jamie Quantrill, Frederic Detjens, Farbod Fakhrarzadeh, Niko Nurmi, Tulik Galon, Jenny Brady.
Translators/Editors: Sarai Kirchner (Hebrew/English) Miguel Martins (Portuguese/English)
Research: Lucy Sames
From top left: Kader Attia, Relli de Vries, Theo Eshetu, Sara Gebran, Ivet Ćurlin, Elvira Dyangani Ose, Sanaa Gateja, Jesse Jones, Pedro Bandeira

Sanaa Gateja interviewed by Rocca Gutteridge in Kampala
Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung interviewed by Nora Sternfeld in Berlin
Ruth Beckermann interviewed by Nora Sternfeld in Vienna
Relli De Vries interviewed by Irit Rogoff in Tel-Aviv
Ivet Ćurlin interviewed by Emily Pethick in London
Bruno Zhu interviewed by Joni Zhu in London
Pedro Bandeira interviewed by Ines Moreira in Porto
Jesse Jones interviewed by Sarah Pierce in Dublin
Sara Gebran interviewed by Irit Rogoff in Copenhagen
Pedro Bernardo interviewed by Carolina Rito in Caldas da Rainha
Elvira Dyangani Ose interviewed by Irit Rogoff in London
Nikos Doulos interviewed by Farbod Fakharzadeh & Niko Nurmi in Helsinki
Zultan Arâ interviewed by Farbod Fakharzadeh & Niko Nurmi in Copenhagen
Kader Attia interviewed by Doreen Mende in Berlin
Theo Eshetu interviewed by Doreen Mende in Berlin
Installation at The Bergen Assembly September 2016

Relli De Vries interviewed by Irit Rogoff in Tel-Aviv

Left to right: Kader Attia, Elvira Dyangani Ose and Ivet Ćurlin
Inspirations

Kutluğ Ataman
*Küba*, video installation, 2005

Lawrence Wright
*Captured on Film, Can dissident filmmakers effect change in Syria?*, The New Yorker, May 15 2006

Daniel Spoerri
*An Anecdoted Topography of Chance*, 1962

Rabindranath Tagore
Visva Bharati University (tr. ‘the communion with the world’), Santiniketan, Bengal (founded 1921)

Abdumaliq Simone
*Pirate Towns: Reworking Social and Symbolic: Infrastructures in Johannesburg and Douala*, 2005

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