



migrantas

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about migrantas

2003 – 2011

migrantas | eine visuelle Sprache der Migration

Working with public urban spaces as its platform, migrantas aims to make visible the thoughts and feelings of those who have left their own country and now live in a new one.

Mobility, migration and transculturality are not the exception in our world, but are instead becoming the rule. Nevertheless, migrant women and their experiences remain often invisible to the majority of our society.

Migrantas works with issues of migration, identity and intercultural dialogue. Their work incorporates tools from the visual arts, graphic design and social sciences.

Members of the collective, mostly women who have themselves immigrated to Germany, develop the projects with other migrant women in a horizontal dialogue.

Workshops | Visual expression of one's own story

Migrantas meets with migrant women in their own collective spaces - organisations, community centres, cultural groups - and organizes workshops to reflect together on issues of migration. Women from very different national, cultural and social backgrounds, also with different residency statuses, exchange their experiences and express these in simple drawings.

Process | From drawing to pictogram

After a careful analysis of all the drawings from different workshops, migrantas culls key elements and common themes from the drawings and translates these central motifs visually and artistically into pictograms - a visual language and a language accessible to everyone.

Pictograms | Simplicity and strength of expression

Pictograms are the visual language of migrantas. Their simple, universally understandable images stir emotions: people from different backgrounds recognize themselves in the representations, while others gain new insights or modify their own perspectives.

Result | Recognition and visibility

All migrantas projects end with an exhibition. The participants now see their drawings presented in public and experience public recognition of their voices and social participation. Visitors to the exhibition receive an opportunity to become better acquainted with the experiences of migrant women.

Urban actions | Being a part of the city landscape

One of migrantas' major goals is to make the pictograms visible in public urban spaces. They appear as posters where there is normally advertising, as projected digital animations on public screens, as flyers or postcards or shopping bags. Migrant women's perspectives and lived realities are taken out of the individual private space and made visible in the public space, thus creating an encounter which triggers reactions and self-reflection in the passerby.

2011 | Europa-Kind + Europa-Schule | A visual language of diversity | Berlin



With SESB Primary Schools: Aziz Nesin (German/Türkisch), Joan Miró (German/Spanish) and the Finow (German/Italian). The project developed out of a dialogue with the school pupils, who come from German and various other family backgrounds, through pictures and digital animations highlighting the ways in which intercultural self-awareness is expressed in everyday life. The result was shown in a fortnight-long presentation on the 'Berliner Fenster' on the city's underground train network. The whole process was exhibited in the "Haus der Kulturen der Welt".
Funding: Berliner Projektfonds Kulturelle Bildung

2010 | Neue Heimat – Zwischen den Welten | Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen



Between March 5th and April 25th 2010 the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen exhibited "pictures of immigration at the local, national and international level". On display were "works by artists who live and work in Germany, as well as pieces with a specific focus on the theme of migration". Migrantas provided a number of exhibition pieces and organised a public action: individuals were invited to take part in a 'workshop station', where they were encouraged to draw about their own daily experiences and feelings of 'a new homeland'.
By the end of the exhibition migrantas had developed 3 new pictograms which were then published as free postcards.
During the exhibition 1,000 bags printed with the pictogram 'Homeland here and there' were also distributed.

2010 | Sevilla Plural – Imagen de la migración en el espacio urbano | Sevilla



The conference and presentation took place on February 11th 2010 at the 'Universidad Internacional de Andalucía' (UNIA).
In March 2010 workshops were held in various social centres in Seville which led new drawings, audio, photos and pictograms to be developed.
On March 17th these were then exhibited at the 'Oficina de Derechos Sociales' in the 'Centro Vecinal de Pumarejo'. On March 18th, during an interactive art event ('Intervenciones en Jueves') held at the Calle Feria flea market, posters displaying images of migration were put up in the streets, and postcards were distributed during an urban action.
This project was part of the 12th international ZEMOS89 festival - 'Microbios, seres vivos diminutos' which was held between March 15th and 21st 2010, together with ZEMOS98, and sponsored by the UNIA

2009 | Postkarten-Sommer-Aktion - Ausstellung Alte Post in Neukölln | Berlin



This was an exhibition held in the Alte Post in Neukölln, Berlin, Germany. Migrantas put a selection of pictograms on display which were printed on postcards and posters. Photos of our projects and urban actions were also on display and were viewable on monitors.
Thousands of postcards were distributed during the exhibition.

2008 | Bundesmigrantinnen - Bilder der Migration im öffentlichen Raum | Köln



Bundesmigrantinnen – Images of migration in urban spaces in Cologne, Germany. 11 workshops were held with 96 migrant women from 32 different countries and cultures. 12 pictograms were designed. An urban action led to 3 different posters appearing on 1.300 Morris columns, advertising boards and underground stations throughout the city. The urban action went on for several weeks. In addition free postcards were distributed via 300 cafés and restaurants over a two week period.
An exhibition was held in "studio dumont" from the 8th to the 14th of November. This was a showcase project undertaken as part of the 2008 Cologne intercultural week together with the "Bühne der Kulturen", sponsored by the city of Cologne and held under the patronage of Mayoress Angela Spizig.

2007 | Bundesmigrantinnen - Bilder der Migration im öffentlichen Raum | Hamburg



Bundesmigrantinnen – Images of migration in urban spaces in Hamburg, Germany. 9 workshops were undertaken with 95 migrant women from 20 different countries and cultures.

9 pictograms were designed, and an urban action took place in November 2007 in which 3 different posters were displayed on 200 Morris columns and in 70 underground stations throughout the city.

An exhibition was held at the FrauenFinanzGruppe's offices between November 9th 2007 and January 17th 2008.

It was sponsored by the Fonds Soziokultur (Bonn, Germany), the Hamburgische Kulturstiftung, and the FrauenFinanzGruppe-Susanne Kazemieh (Hamburg).

2006 | Interkulturelle Werkstatt - Netzwerke von Berliner Migrantinnen und Künstlerinnen | Berlin



'Interkulturelle Werkstatt' - Supporting networks of migrant women and female artists living in Berlin.

This was an intercultural workshop which began with the creation of a network of migrant women's associations. 8 workshops were carried out leading to a campaign during which 29,000 free postcards were distributed via 450 restaurants and pubs in Berlin. 300 bags were also produced. Migrantas also took part in an exhibition entitled 'Stadt der Frauen', held in the Kommunale Galerie in the district of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf between November and December 2006. Sponsored by the state of Berlin (LSK), and the European Social Fund (ESF).

2006 | Bilder bewegen I - Interkulturalität und Migration im Alltag in Bewegung setzen | Berlin



Bilder bewegen - Setting interculturalität and migration in motion. This included 5 workshops which led to a campaign using digital animations for broadcast on the TV channel installed on Berlin's underground train network between November 21st and 25th 2006. An installation was also developed for the window display of the 'Galerie im Saalbau' in Neukölln. Financed by the 'Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur', and 'Kulturamt Neukölln'.

Bilder bewegen II | Campaign held under the auspices of the 'Ernst-Reuter-Initiative für Dialog und Verständigung zwischen den Kulturen' - a joint initiative by the Turkish and German ministers of foreign affairs. Digital animations on Berlin's underground transport network were broadcast between December 18th and 23rd 2006.

2005 | Integration - Lauter Bilder von Migrantinnen in Berlin | Berlin



Integration - Pictures of migrant women in Berlin.

11 workshops were undertaken with women from 19 different countries. A series of 21 pictograms was developed and exhibited in the 'Galerie im Saalbau' between September and October 2005.

Three large format posters were installed in 90 bus stops in the district of Neukölln, and on three billboards in the districts of Kreuzberg and Neukölln. It was financed by the 'Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kultur', and the 'Kulturamt Neukölln'.

2004 | Proyecto Ausländer | Berlin - Buenos Aires 2003/2004



A series of 12 pictograms was developed in Berlin.

The pictograms were then installed in backlit advertising boards in the centre of Buenos Aires between December 2003 and January 2004.

Seven hundred booklets were also published (Asunto Impreso, ISBN 978 9505330010) – currently out of print.

This project was sponsored by Publicidad Sarmiento

Exhibitions

2010 | Rethinking Migration during the European Economic Crisis | Haus der Kulturen der Welt | Berlin



Migrantas put an exhibition on display, which included pictograms, photos and text, as part of this international conference. The convention was organised by Network Migration in Europe e.V., in cooperation with the University of Bremen's Geography Department and the 'Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung' (Federal Agency for Civic Education). It took place between December 9th and 10th 2010.

Ausstellungen - Ausstellungsbeteiligungen

2010 | Migrationen in der Wirtschaftskrise in Europa neu denken | Haus der Kulturen der Welt | Berlin



Migrantas zeigt am 9. und 10. Dezember 2010 seine Ausstellung mit Piktogrammen, Fotos und Texten auf der Internationalen Konferenz 'Rethinking Migration in Times of Economic Crisis in Europe', organisiert vom Netzwerk Migration in Europa e.V. in Zusammenarbeit mit der Universität Bremen, Institut für Geographie und der Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.

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2010 | migrantas - un lenguaje visual de la migración | Museo de historia de la inmigración de Cataluña, Spanien



Vom 5. Oktober bis 12. Dezember 2010 stellt migrantas Arbeiten seiner Projekte, Originalzeichnungen, Piktogramme und Bilder öffentlicher Aktionen im Museum der Einwanderungsgeschichte Kataloniens aus. Begleitet wird die Ausstellung durch einen Vortrag am Eröffnungstag sowie einer Postkartenaktion.

2010 | I Encuentro sobre diálogo intercultural y creación artística | Córdoba



Sala Victoria y Filmoteca de Andalucía. Córdoba, Spanien. Konferenz vom 9. bis 11. April 2010 mit dem Ziel von Zusammenkunft und Austausch über interkulturellen Dialog und künstlerisches Schaffen, organisiert von „Córdoba Acoge“. Neue Kunst- und kulturelle Formen, entstanden aus Globalisierung und Migrationprozessen, werden vorgestellt. Migrantas ist mit einer Ausstellung und einem Vortrag beteiligt.

2009 | verborgen:gesehen – Bilder gesellschaftlichen Wandels 6 | Schader-Stiftung Darmstadt



Galerie der Schader-Stiftung und Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt, vom 31. Oktober 2009 bis 31. Januar.2010

„Die Ausstellung spannt den Bogen von den Jahren um 1900 bis zu unserem neuen Jahrhundert mit den großen Herausforderungen der Migrationsbewegungen. Gemälde und Skulpturen aus der Sammlung des Hessischen Landesmuseums treten wieder in einen Dialog mit Positionen der Gegenwartskunst, die den künstlerischen Blick und vor allem das Handeln grundsätzlich erweitert haben.“

Migrantas zeigt Originalzeichnungen aus seinen Workshops, eine Serie seiner Piktogramme sowie Audiostationen. Das Rahmenprogramm beinhaltet ein Künstlergespräch mit migrantas am Jan. 2010.



Künstlergespräch mit migrantas am Jan. 2010.

2009 | man spricht Deutsch | Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland | Bonn



In der Wechselausstellung zur deutschen Gegenwartssprache sind Exponate von migrantas vertreten: das Plakat "Sind wird anders" sowie das Piktogramm „Die deutsche Sprache“ samt Originalzeichnung aus einem Workshop.

Vom 12. Dezember 2008 bis 3. Mai 2009 im Haus der Geschichte und anschließend zu sehen als Wanderausstellung in Goethe-Instituten im In- und Ausland.

2008 | European Governance of Migration | Heinrich Böll Stiftung | Berlin



Migrantas was invited by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung to present its travelling exhibition with pictograms, photos and texts from its projects to the international convention entitled 'European Governance of Migration - The Political Management of Mobility, Economy & Security' which took place between September 17th and 19th 2008.

A poster with a migrantas pictogram was distributed to the participants of the conference.

2007 | Messe Import Shop | Meine Deine Unsere Welt, Kulturen in Bewegung | Berlin



Migrantas displayed posters and pictograms in this exhibition aimed at developing an understanding of the meaning of 'foreign'. The exhibition was held as part of the development policy curriculum for school classes and policy influencers, in cooperation with NGOs from Berlin and Brandenburg between November 7th and 11th. It was organised by KATE – the 'Kontaktstelle für Umwelt und Entwicklung e.V.' (Berlin).

Conferences

2010 | Internationaler Workshop | Marxloh Matters | Duisburg



International Workshop on self-organisation and urban renewal in inter-cultural cities held on 1st of September at the DITIB Merkez Mosque in Duisburg-Marxloh. What does the future hold for city boroughs with high numbers of immigrants, faced by the changes caused by the loss of its industry? Marxloh provided the setting for the workshops, debates and presentations, including those with migrantas.

It was jointly organised by Erfgoed Nederland, Nederlands Architectuurinstituut NAI, LEGENDA, Medienbunker Marxloh and part of 'NAi Debates on Tour' and the study and travel program organised by 'Expeditie RUHR.2010'.

2010 | A Festa dos Mundos | A Coruña, Spain



As part of 'A Festa dos Mundos' migrantas participated in a discussion forum, held on August 7th, on cultural diversity and integration.

During an urban action 2,000 postcards and hundreds of badges displaying pictograms were distributed to the festival's visitors by four assistants at Playa de Santa Cristina, Oleiros.

2010 | The Tuning into Diversity | Budapest Millenaris Center



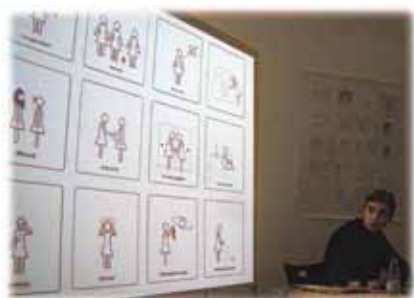
Budapest, Hungary, February 25th and 26th 2010.

A conference organised by the Hungarian broadcaster MTV and the Dutch NGO Mira Media.

Representatives of ethno-cultural minority organisations and media professionals from 20 different European countries were present. The conference aimed to further an understanding of the European media's increasing cultural and linguistic plurality, to present a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas, and to strengthen communications between the media and minorities.

Migrantas provided with an information desk.

2009 | Do you remember Olive Morris? | Gasworks | London



Between November 21st 2009 and January 24th 2010, Gasworks London organised an extensive program and an exhibition in honour of the civil rights campaigner Olive Morris. This included a series of discussions and talks entitled 'Documenting Migration'.

Migrantas was invited to take part in the discussions on December 5th 2009.

2008 | MAS Design Culture | Salon de Recherche | Zürcher Hochschule der Künste



Departement of Design, Design2context, Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland

Over the last few years the department of design has invited guests from near and far to take part in its 14 day public, interdisciplinary research forum called 'Salon de Recherche'. The aim is to provide an insight into the broad international and transdisciplinary research, developing, exhibiting and publishing activities.

The migrantas collective was a guest at the conference and took part on October 9th 2008.

Publications

2010 | Book front cover | Multikultur 2.0 – Willkommen im Einwanderungsland Deutschland



Susanne Stemmler, Haus der Kulturen der Welt (ed.), due to be published in May 2011 by Wallstein Verlag.

Migrantas was commissioned to design the front cover of this volume which points to new visions beyond 'multiculturalism'. It did so using the pictogram 'Future? '.

2009 | Contribution to a book published by TASCHEN | Brand Identity Now! Winning brands from around the world



Julius Wiedemann (ed.)

'Brand Identity Now!' published by TASCHEN provides an in-depth analysis of the leading brand and communication campaigns from around the world. The 384 page, multilingual edition (German, English, and French), includes a detailed essay about migrantas.

The essay, entitled 'Migrantas Initiative - Hieroglyphics for Democracy - From personal experience to social message', illustrated with pictograms and photos, was written by Enrique Longinotti, an Argentinian professor of graphic design.

2009 | Book front cover and illustration with pictograms | Unsere Wirklichkeit ist anders - Migration und Alltag



Dirk Lange and Ayça Polat (eds.) | Bonn

Migrantas was commissioned by the 'Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung' (Federal Agency for Civic Education) to illustrate this volume from their 'Perspektiven politischer Bildung' series. A photograph of a migrantas poster was placed on the front cover, and each of the book's five main themes was introduced using a series of pictograms.

2009 | Front cover design | Migrations and Mobilities - Citizenship, Borders, and Gender | NYU Press



Seyla Benhabib and Judith Resnik (eds.)

The renowned Yale professors Seyla Benhabib, professor of political science and philosophy, and Judith Resnik, professor of law, invited migrantas to illustrate the front cover of their new book. Migrantas provided the pictogram entitled 'In between two worlds'.

Miscellaneous

2008 | Participation in a project | "Die Migranten" - Tania Bruguera | IN TRANSIT 08 | Haus der Kulturen der Welt | Berlin



Florencia Young and Marula Di Como from migrantas took part in this one year long project called 'Die Migranten', a project developed by Tania Bruguera, a Cuban-US performance artist. She created a remembrance archive made for, and by, migrants along with its own party, workshops and empowerment strategies.

2008 | Internet exhibition | Zwischenraum – Gallery of Art & Migration | Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung



Migrantas was invited to present our work as part of the online gallery www.migration-boell.de/ ZWISCHENRAUM focuses on the subjects of migration, refuge, and cultural diversity. Their aim is to provide a space for the transitory re-interpretation of interior and exterior, as well as the self and the foreign, using the language of painting, photography and literature.

2008 | Talk | The opening event of "Klappe, die Zweite!" | Berlin



Migrantas was invited to share experiences relating to the question: 'How do I think diversely?' This was the opening event of the first country-wide networking meeting held on February 22nd and 23rd, as part of the two-year long project entitled, 'Kulturelle Bildung an Ganztagschulen. Klappe, die Zweite!' and was organised by the 'Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung'

2006 | Participation in an event | Border Games Lounge | Berlin



La Fiambrera Obrera, a group of artists from Madrid, invited migrantas to work with them on a presentation and discussion about migration. This took place in Dr. Pong, on February 4th, and was organised by the 'Berliner Gazette' as part of the transmediale 06.

Awards

2011 | Hauptstadtpreis für Integration und Toleranz | Initiative Hauptstadt Berlin e.V. | Alemania



For the fourth time and under the patronage of the Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, Maria Böhmer, a renamed jury granted migrantas with the second prize. The ceremony was attended by the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Angel Merkel, who gave the introductory speech. The event was held on the 13th April in the atrium of Deutsche Bank, Unter den Linden, Berlin.

2006 | IFPC quality label Grant: IFPC-Unesco



The Administrative Council of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC) - UNESCO granted the project "Europa and us" with the IFPC quality label.

Collections in museums

Posters and postcards of the collective Migrantas as part of the following collections

Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

German Historical Museum, Berlin

Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn

House of the History of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn

MAMBA Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires

Museum of modern Art of Buenos Aires

