DARGOW TWO PROPOSALS, ONE PLACE

Silvia Reneses & Ebba Rohweder



Contents Crossings by **Lucy R. Lippard** Words about About the artists Catalogue





Lucy R. Lippard

"CROSSINGS - In a sense this exhibition brings us two places, though they both have the same name – Dargow, Germany. Ebba Rohweder sees a familiar place over time, from past to present, the span she has known personally. Spaniard Silvia Reneses sees different place, unfamiliar, newly revealed. Her small paintings are postcard size, indicative of the visitor's view, while Rohweder's video and music extend over time, including family and change. The artist's book becomes a souvenir while the video/music becomes nostalgia, or corrected nostalgia. Dargow was once on the border between two places that were once (and then became again) a single place – Germany as a divided and a unified nation. This quasi-geographical fact augments the dual vision. For both artists, landscape is "baggage." The viewer is invited to be in two places at once, and to bring their own baggage – the inescapable personal associations that inevitably surface as we stand before someone else's images".

The project *Dargow - Two proposals, one place* presented at the José Robles Gallery, Madrid, arises from the collaboration of two European women artists, living in Madrid, Ebba Rohweder, German and Silvia Reneses, Spanish and explores from different subjectivities and through mixed media - video, sound, painting, photography and text - a place and its landscape.

Dargow is a small village in the North of Germany, located on the banks of the great lake Schaalsee, which, in the recent past was the border between the former GDR, East Germany and the BRD, West Germany. After a journey to this territory in 2009 both artists independently produced works on Dargow, arising afterwards the possibility to exhibit the project jointly. Though the starting point of both artists is very different, a connection is dictated by that same place. One can recognise in both works pathway crossings on the gaze that transits on the same territory.

Silvia Reneses's work *Dargow-Land* documents the place through postcard size acrylic landscape paintings on paper. The works's subtitles explore an unkown language indicating that any landscape emanates from the different cultures that have been shaping it and is therefore what the territory has been absorbing under its surface. The visual play between the small paintings, the photos from which the paintings have been produced and the investigation on the german language intend to reproduce the visual, sensitive and knowledge connections that any journey entails.

Dargow was for Ebba Rohweder the place of residence in her childhood and youth and her video *Dargow with detour* is a collage of different layers of time. Due to her studies in music and composition the artist continues in this work with her explorations on merging two disciplines; video and composition. The delicate and sometimes disturbing look at childhood memories and place as well as the exploratory yet emotive present gaze makes of this work a self-portrait through a landscape.

Ebba Rohweder born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1966, is a multimedia and interdisciplinary german artist working as a video artist, composer, performer and improviser musician. She studied classical flute at the Folkwang Universität der Künste Essen, Germany. In 1991 she moved to Berlin and worked as a freelance musician of contemporary music and performance artist, getting in 2001 a Grant as a composer from the Berliner Senat. In 2004 she moved to Madrid and has since explored the interconnections between images and sound in her video compositions, which have been presented amongst others at: LOOP art fair, Barcelona; MediaLab Prado, Madrid; OffLimits, Madrid; CCCB, Barcelona; Fundación Joan Miró, Barcelona; Instituto Cervantes, Paris; Festival re:new, Copenhagen; Technische Universität, Berlin; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Gallery Cruce, Madrid.

Silvia Reneses born in Madrid, Spain, in 1965, is an artist living and working in Madrid. She graduated in 1999 from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design (BA Hons - Critical Fine Art Practice) London. She has taken part among others in the following exhibitions; *Much depends on the viewer*, Vienna, curated by Silvio Salgado within the Vienna International Apartment Project, *Friction* at the London Print Studio Gallery, space curated by Paul O'Neill, *Escalas* at the José Robles Gallery in Madrid and *Recorremos* Gallery Cruce - Art and Contemporary Theory in Madrid in 2008.



Video Space



Video Space







Dargow with detour - Ebba Rohweder - 2011 - Video stills - Video/composition, DVD, spanish/english/german - 37:03 min







Dargow with detour - Ebba Rohweder - 2011 - Video stills - Video/composition, DVD, spanish/english/german - 37:03 min





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Dargow with detour - Ebba Rohweder - 2011 - Video stills - Video/composition, DVD, spanish/english/german - 37:03 min



...Der Verstand versucht, dem Willen eine erklärende Ursache zur Stillung seines Unmuts über seine eigene Hilflosigkeit zu liefern; so baut er eine Geschichte auf, die die Daten in ein hübsches System einordnet... (Hannah Arendt)

...El intelecto intenta proveer a la voluntad de una causa razonable para colmar el malestar sobre el propio desamparo; así construye una historia que clasifica los datos en un bello sistema...

...The mind seeks to provide the will with a reasonable cause to culminate unease about one's own annoyance; thus he constructs a history that classifies data in a beautiful system... ...für die Frau, die unterwegs ist, oder "fliegend/ stehlend", wie ich es mir lieber vorstelle, so dass die Frau, anstatt sich hinzulegen, vorwärts und im Sprung sich suchen gehen wird... (Helene Cixous)

...para la mujer ya en marcha, o si me la imagino mejor "volando/ robando" para que la mujer en vez de recostarse, se busque en el salto hacia adelante...

...for the woman already under way or - if I can better imagine her "flying/ stealing" - so that, rather than lying back, the woman seeks herself in the leap forward...

Dargow with detour - Ebba Rohweder - 2011 - Video stills - Video/composition, DVD, spanish/english/german - 37:03 min

..TRAUM / aber aus BETON; SCHMETTERLING / aber aus EISEN; LEBEWESEN / aber aus PLASTIK... (Friederike Mayröcker)

> ..SUEÑO / pero de HORMIGÓN; MARIPOSA / pero de HIERRO; SER VIVO / pero de PLÁSTICO...

> > ...DREAM / but of CONCRETE; BUTTERFLY / but of IRON; LIVING BEING / but of PLASTIC...

Quotes from: Hannah Arendt

Hélène Cixous

Friederike Mayröcker



Christa Wolf.



DargowLand - Silvia Reneses - 2011 . Exhibition view The image: 1 & paintings's details below.





Länderkunde I f geografía f.

Länderkunde I geography. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Länderkunde II geography. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Landessache f asunto m del Estado.

Landessache state affair. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Landstreicherei vagrancy. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



landen to land; to alight; to debark; to come ashore; to touch down; to end up. 2011- *Acrilic on paper and text - 34 \times 25,5 cm*.



Landvermessung land surveying. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Landfriedensbruch breach of the peace. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



landesüblich customary. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Landregen steady rain. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.

The image: 1 I remembered that I had painted a frozen lake, it was summer, august in Madrid.



Landstrich area; district; region. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Landesinnere heartland; hinterlands; interior; interior of the country. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Landwind land breeze; land wind; offshore wind. 2011- *Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.*



Landschaft countryside; scenery; landscape; region; territory. 2011- *Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.*



landschaftlich scenic; scenically. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



DargowLand - Silvia Reneses - 2011 . Exhibition view The image: 2 & The image: 3.

The work titles arised as a german-spanish dictionary of the single german word, Land, and its composed words, as sub-titles, creating thus another landscape. A linguistic landscape.



Land Wörterbuch Deutsch- Spanisch Land Dictionary German - Spanish. 2011- Graphite pencil on tracing paper - 70 cm x 100 cm each.



Land Wörterbuch - 2011- details.

Landesangehöriger m indígena m. Landesangehörigkeit f nacionalidad f. Landesarbeitsamt n Delegación de Trabajo de un Land. Landesarbeitsgericht n Magistratura f de Trabajo de un Land. Landesart f costumbres f/pl del país. Landesaufnahme f levantamiento m topográfico del país. Landesausschuss m diputación f (provincial). Landesbank f banco m regional, provincial. Landesbeschreibung f topografia f. Landesbrauch m costumbres f/pl del país.



Land Wörterbuch - 2011- Carbon paper - 31,5 x 21 cm.



Landschaftsmalerei landscape art; landscape painting. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.

Land n tierra f; a suelo m; terreno m; territorio m; campo m; región f; país m, nación f; Estado m.



Landschaftsmalerei - 2011- detail.

The image: 3

The paintings based on colour photography brought this third image: to process the colour photographs turning them (again) into black and white images in order to create a souvenir artist book. This is the image. However the inclusion of private photographs taken *in situ* without any artistic intention, compromised the quality of the piece as a whole. The process of the work made necessary nevertheless the exhibiting of these photographs independently of their quality.

They are included, on this occasion, as working documents, and with a promise for the future: to return to Dargow, in some other winter under extremely low temperatures, with its landscapes covered by snow, its lakes frozen and with the light sieved by cold, to photograph thus, in this return, one by one, in black and white and with meticulous fidelity the places here represented. Perhaps then the amnesia implicit in these photographs will be cleared and the spiral through which this exhibition goes about could be imaginarily closed.



DargowLand - Silvia Reneses - 2011 . Exhibition view The image: 3.















DargowLand - Silvia Reneses - 2011 . Exhibition view The final image.



Landjahr I *n* año *m* de trabajo rural.

Landjahr I & II rural area working year. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.

340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	35
Landjahr II <i>n</i> año <i>m</i> de trabajo rural.										



Landesgrenze I border; frontier. 2011- Acrilic on paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.



Landesgrenze II border; frontier. 2011- Acrilic on masking paper and text - 34 x 25,5 cm.

Special thanks are due to Lucy R. Lippard for kindly writing the introduction text.

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Edited by Silvia Reneses. 2012.

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