

INTERVIEW WITH STEPHANIE MOLD

You went to Istanbul within the URBAN INTERVENTIONS. Have you been there before? Did you visit the city again after you took part in the artist exchange? What did you experience in Istanbul?

I already spent time in Istanbul during my Erasmus exchange and an internship, therefore I knew the city a little bit. Istanbul is always changing, it is always on the move. With every visit the city shows another facet of itself. The fascinating aspect of Istanbul is its diversity of the different districts. The social differences are enormous. I found this very exciting, considering my artistic work. After taking part in the URBAN INTERVENTIONS I went to Istanbul twice, to stay in touch with the people I met.

How did you experience the local art scene and how did the exchange with local artists and residents work out?

I was under the impression that the art scene in Istanbul was elitist and not very easy going. A few curators had the scene firmly under control. Foreigners mainly led Offspaces, which were more experimental. They also tried to collaborate and interact with the citizens of Istanbul.

Describe your projects you developed there.

One of my projects was the video "Alterity Maybe".

In the video "Alterity Maybe" I sing with Coskun, a street artist, who is sitting on the doorsteps in front of the granite building

that is housing my studio. The connection between us is, that we are going to see the same place for our artistic work. Whereby he is in front of the entrance door and I am inside. Everyone seems to have its assigned position.

In "Alterity Maybe" I sing a duet with Coskun in my studio. In allusion of the Turkish tradition "Atisma" (a kind of song battle, where two singers are having a dialogue and try to outdo one another) we sing together, share one melody, but everyone stays in its own perspective, we don't answer each other, because we sing in different languages. Our relationship seems fragile and unsecure.

The Turkish filmmaker Zeynep Arslanpay filmed and cut the movie.

In which way could you present your projects and which reactions did you cause?

I showed the video "Alterity Maybe" in the "Galerie 5020" in Istanbul within a solo exhibition. Especially foreigners living in Istanbul liked it a lot, because it was dealing with the feeling of being the stranger.

Can you describe the Residencies influence on your work? Which effects had it retrospectively?

For the first time I had enough time and budget, to produce a professional video and hold a solo exhibition. Furthermore I could establish valuable contacts.

