



FLEETING TERRITORIES BY GRAMMAR OF URGENCIES

Initiators:

Grammar of Urgencies (GoU), initiated by curator Maren Richter and artist Klaus Schafler, is a multi-disciplinary project and research platform for collaborations in different spatial, geographical and geo-political settings.

GoU is intrigued by the growing recognition, that the conception of 'urgency' shapes the "Now" in a more direct and urgent way. We use collaborative modes of working to create space and time for sharing, exercising, experimenting and negotiating urgencies as a concept of governance and affect policies - as well as a productive force for thinking the temporary, the ad hoc, the makeshift or improvisation as a potential counter model to existing ways of conceptualizing the world. We look into the hyper-layered or toxic fabric of lateral relations and chains of activity that administrates scales, times, bodies and materials. We investigate how they correlate, interact, interfere, how they (per)form, (re)formulate and constitute.

Projects:

Since 2015 we have been working on Fleeting Territories, which has appeared in different forms and with methodological approaches: Fleeting Territories. An Exercise (2016, 2017) together with artists Sabine Bitter and Helmut Weber; Fleeting Territories. An Exhibition (2017); Fleeting Territories. Mapping Malta (2018) together with artists Sabine Bitter, Helmut Weber and researcher Jonatan Habib Engqvist, Fleeting Territories. A Revue. (2019)

For us "territory" represents a concept in which transformation processes can be inscribed - processes that we are confronted by in ever-faster intervals and, in a certain sense, already exhibit many declensions of fleetingness. While "fleeting" is often associated with danger, crisis, or something a system must be preserved or protected from, territory—as an artefact and product of overlapping interests—seems to afford legitimization for actions that counteract the fleeting. In the connection between "fleeting" and "territory", spatial coordinates are not viewed simply as stable or even fixed values, rather they aid in the identification of visible and invisible changes in cities, landscapes and human interconnectivity. Rights, law, politics, economy, but also emotions play a central role in the appropriation of territories within wayward factors such as climate change, neocolonialism, utopias, and mythologies. Which materialities and regimes of spatial, site-specific, and landscape concepts can be inferred? Which artistic tools can be employed to measure them?