

Renata Stih & Frieder Schnock, Berlin  
**HANNAH ARENDT SMOKED HERE**

Renata Stih & Frieder Schnock are Berlin based conceptual artists, exploring how memory functions in the social sphere and how it is reflected symbolically in urban spaces and in museums. In their art work they question the ambiguity and ambivalence of social sculpture and introduce how their idea of art in public space affects everyday life through their art projects, which will be the discourse of their lecture.

Among other they will speak about their decentralized memorial *Orte des Erinnerns / Places of Remembrance in Berlin-- Schöneberg* (1993) and their transitory memorial concept BUS STOP, which they created for the competition for Berlin's Holocaust Memorial (1994). They will also present *The City As Text – Jewish Traces in Munich Museums* (2007), a narrative figure-ground map which approaches the cultural history of Munich from a new point of view.

Reflecting on museums as *containers of memory* they will discuss their recent exhibition at the Saint Louis Art Museum, subtitled *The German Connection- Raft with Stranded Objects*. It features various works of art like collages, prints, photographs, and video, including site-specific interventions installed in several galleries throughout the Museum's iconic historic building and the expanded campus designed by David Chipperfield. These interventions take the visitors on a journey through time and space and confront them with traces of German history and the legacy of German Emigrants in this collection .

Lectures and dialog performances are an integral part of their art work.

Renata Stih and Frieder Schnock lecture together on "Memory, Public Art & Social Sculpture" at Leuphana University in Lüneburg since 2012, where they will develop their museum research project and exhibition *Artifacts in Transition: Exchange and Impact of Culture* in 2014/15.

Professor Renata Stih has been teaching art and technology, film and media in an interdisciplinary context at the Beuth University of Applied Sciences in Berlin for twenty years. Studying painting and sculpture at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe she focused on artistic research, film and photography, architecture and space related installations. She is also a writer, reflecting particularly on architecture and film. Stih was awarded a grant at the Cité des Art in Paris, the Berlin Art Grant, the Rockefeller Fellowship of Advanced Studies at the Rockefeller Research Center in Bellagio/Italy, the Freund Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, among other. Stih is was short listed as president of the Hochschule der Künste in Stuttgart and is engaged in multiple public art committees.

Dr. Frieder Schnock has studied art and art history at the Akademie der bildenden Künste Karlsruhe, at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Braunschweig where he received his PhD in art history on Land Art and Richard Long. He also worked as a curator in public and private collections (such as at the Museum Fridericianum in Kassel). Currently, he is the deputy director of the Bildungswerk, BBK/ artist association in Berlin. Schnock is a Rockefeller Fellow and a Freund Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis; he has been teaching Visual Studies for film students at Beth University of Applied Sciences in Berlin for a decade.

Stih & Schnock have exhibited at numerous European and American galleries and museums including: CTRL Space, Center for Art and Media (ZKM), Karlsruhe, Germany (2001-2002); *RAF. KW/ Kunstwerke* - Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin, Joanneum Graz / Austria (2005); *Reality Bites*, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University, St. Louis (2008); *Capital Offense: The End(s) of Capitalism*. Beacon Arts, Los Angeles/ USA.

Other museum projects are: *Show Your Collection, Jewish Traces in Munich Museums* (2008); *The Art of Collecting - Flick*

*in Berlin* (2004); their curatorial concept *LIFE~BOAT*, which they developed at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA (2005-08); the environmental installation *Who Needs Art, We Need Potatoes* for the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart (1998-2008), and a corresponding video program for the media façade of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb, Croatia (2011/12). Their latest body of work-in-progress on the history of philosophy called *Lacan Doesn't Live Here Anymore* was shown at Platform L.E.S. Gallery, New York (2012).

Stih and Schnock were multiple artists- in- residence and have also lectured at major universities, including the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Harvard University, Princeton University, Columbia University, Brown University, the Zuercher Hochschule der Kuenste, etc.

For further information: <http://www.stih-schnock.de/>