

a call for participation in the project **some democratic fictions / BEIRUT**
by **claudia bosse** in collaboration with **günther auer**

my name is claudia bosse. I am an artist, choreographer and director of theatercombinat, an experimental theatre/performance company based in vienna/austria.

I have been invited by ashkal alwan for a three-week research residency from the 7th to the 31st of october 2013 to develop the project **some democratic fictions / BEIRUT**.

the project is part of the video and audio archive **some democratic fictions**, which I have been developing partly in collaboration with sound artist günther auer since 2011. the archive is a permanently growing collection of video and audio material used in various installations and performances. it collects individual narratives about political changes and economic shifts since 2011 (in northern africa, the middle east, europe and the united states) via scripted interviews in different geopolitical areas. it searches for perspectives to understand what is happening in these times and tries to map different zones of convictions, ethics, hopes, perspectives and conflicts through these narratives.

this archive, exploring different experiences of political and social realities, already consists of interviews from new york, alexandria, cairo, tunis, frankfurt, zagreb, brussels (matonge), etc. the aim is to learn about people and their perspectives by meeting them in the intimate, concentrated setting of an interview. the people I met were of different backgrounds, ages and professions, and by collecting their narratives, they became part of this international archive of (political) thought.

we are happy to invite you to become a part of the **some democratic fictions** project. if you are interested in meeting and sharing your thoughts about political and social realities – on the relation between the regional political situation and global political interests and strategies, on a possible vision of the future, ways of living, the definition of democracy, ideas of political change in beirut and lebanon – please get in touch with marijeta karlovic at marijeta.karlovic@theatercombinat.com.

the recorded material will become a part of our archive which already contains 60 individual interviews and will comprise material used in further projects.

the interviews (max. 1 hour per person) will be held individually from **10th until the 23rd of october** and the exact time should be arranged in advance; the interviews will take place at ashkal alwan's venue home workspace:

home workspace
jizr el wati, near souk al ahad
pink building opposite impex garage,
next to beirut art center, 1st floor, beirut 2066-8421

we are happy to answer any questions about the project. if you have particular queries, please contact my assistant marijeta karlovic at the following e-mail address: marijeta.karlovic@theatercombinat.com.

some democratic fictions is a project about how history is constructed and how different understandings of society and its constitutive aspects are influenced by different geopolitical and cultural contexts. a series of interviews starting in january 2011 collects narratives, subjective concepts and ideas about how we construct our thoughts on freedom, history, identity and democracy, and how we create the political and social frameworks by which we are influenced.

to date the open archive contains narrations and portraits from new york, cairo, alexandria, tunis, zagreb and brussels and it provides a frame for the production of ideas, sentences, expressions, gestures, language, as well as a space for contemporary (recent) history – the narratives construct a live archive of today, of the actuality of the present without the safety of historical distance that archives usually offer. they create a direct production of meaning through the thoughts of people from different backgrounds, countries and political convictions. the “view on our time” is understood as the space in between the position of each individual.

some democratic fictions is a long-term project that functions as an in-development archive from which material is then used in artistic formats unfolding specific and contextualized variations in confrontation with the local environment and enriched by the interviews produced onsite.

VERSIONS OF MATERIAL PUBLISHED UNTIL NOW: after the use of the american interviews in the installation **dominant powers – landscapes of unease** (may 2011 in and outside the cartographic institute, vienna), some egyptian interviews became a part of the performance **dominant powers. what is to be done then?** in vienna and tunis, as well as in zagreb museum of contemporary art accompanied and intermingled with the installation **biographical landscapes of new zagreb**. this installation explored the concrete urban environment of new zagreb with the help of some residents, their memories and the conditions of their lives. the interviews of the local participants were encountered in the museum space with others produced earlier in egypt. **thoughts meet space** in may/june 2013 was an installation in 18 different spaces. here, for the first time, the majority of the archive material became part of an artistic operation called “thoughts meet space”, a virtual space of three-dimensional thought presented in the old customs canteen in vienna accompanied by 2 performances connected to the installation as a coproduction with tanzquartier vienna. we intend for all this material, including the interviews produced in beirut, to become a part of the project **ideal paradise**, premiering in april 2014 at tanzquartier vienna, and then again in september at fft düsseldorf.

you can find more about these projects at the following websites:

www.theatercombinat.com

www.claudiabosse.blogspot.co.at