

Public Faculty No. 7 : 'Europe's landlocked island'

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Curating ZHdK @curating123

What questions, comments and answers arise when you run a public faculty on the streets of #zurich? Look at #pf7 @jeanneworks June 4, 2013

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«Who do you turn to, to complain about a racist system when you cannot turn to the system for help?» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«As a legal Austrian resident, I have the right to circulate around Europe without being harassed just for the color of my skin.» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«Security in Switzerland is based on trust in institutions, a trust based on facts not feelings.» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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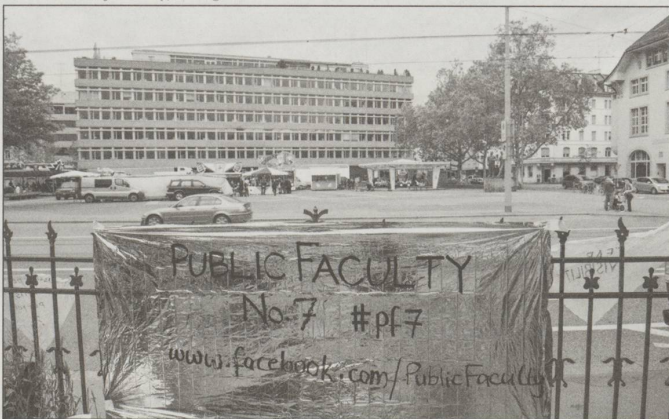
«ich bin Obdachlos und habe Angst draussen zu schlafen und es gibt niemand der mich beschützt» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«@menuedata: @curating123 I pay but I don't agree with the price - in many ways...!» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«Das macht mir Angst, es macht mich paranoid überall Kameras und Polizei.» #pf7 June 4, 2013



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«ja ich finde es fast schon übertrieben hier mit der Sicherheit.» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«It bothers me that people here dismiss my PhD and assume that I just run a Chinese restaurant based on how I look.» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«Do increased security measures make you feel more anxious and therefore less secure?» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«Ich fürchte dass es bald keine Freiräume mehr gibt hier in der Stadt.» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«Wovor haben Sie Angst?» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«Can your mindset be changed?» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«We should provide more visas to people from countries whose wealth we hold in our banks.» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«What borders your imagination?» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«Does your comfort disengage you?» #pf7 June 4, 2013



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«Can we protect ourselves without becoming overly guarded?» #pf7 June 4, 2013

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«I'm afraid to drown in the middle class.» #pf7 June 3, 2013

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«Schweizer Grenzen sind gemacht aus Gierde.» #pf7 June 3, 2013



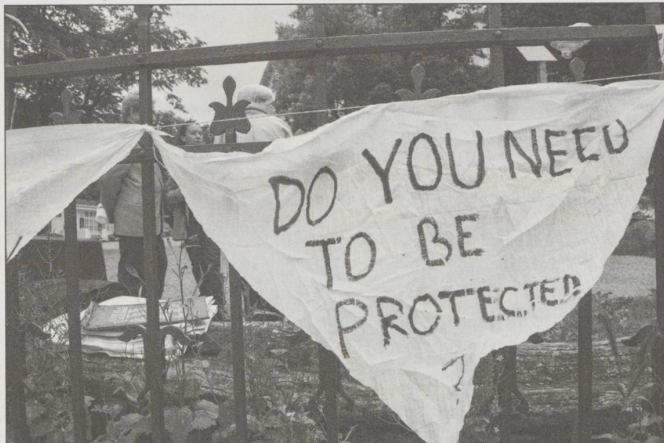
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«Ich habe Angst vor dem Verlust, der Dunkelheit
und dem Tod.» #pf7
June 3, 2013



Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Ich habe Angst vor der Frechheit und dem
Geiz.» #pf7
June 3, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Are you trained to be neutral?» #pf7
pic.twitter.com/4S7x8sbywc
June 3, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Ich habe ein bisschen Angst dass ich älter
werde und dass ich allein bin.» #pf7
June 3, 2013



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«Security cameras don't make me feel secure.
On the contrary, I think they make people more
afraid.» #pf7
June 3, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Normalerweise handeln wir nicht» #pf7
June 2, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«I feel comfortable everywhere, but I don't feel
at home anywhere.» #pf7
June 2, 2013

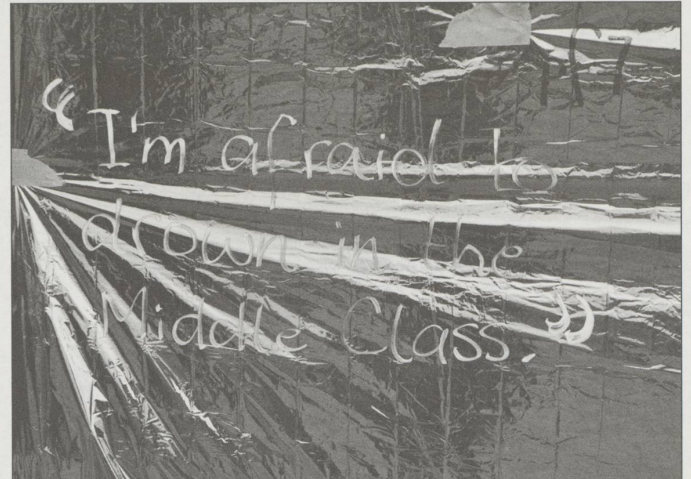
Curating ZHdK @curating123
«We should protect ourselves from our innate
desire to accumulate.» #pf7
June 2, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Ich habe Angst vor der Angstmacherei.» #pf7
June 2, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Wie kann ich meinen Standpunkt zum
Handeln bringen?» #pf7
June 2, 2013

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«Does your comfort disengage you?»
@jeanneworks #pf7
June 2, 2013

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«I feel secure, but I'm also aware that that could
change very quickly.» #pf7
June 2, 2013



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«You really have to do your best to engage me on
a Sunday afternoon.» #pf7
June 2, 2013

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«Junge Leute müssen über rassistische
Tendenzen aufgeklärt werden, um sich auch
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#pf7
June 2, 2013



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«Swiss people need to be protected from the
German invasion.» #pf7
June 2, 2013

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«I don't want Switzerland to end up like its
surrounding neighbors.» #pf7
June 2, 2013



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«Heaven is neoliberal equilibrium» #pf7
June 1, 2013

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«People should be protected from over-
protective regulation.» #pf7
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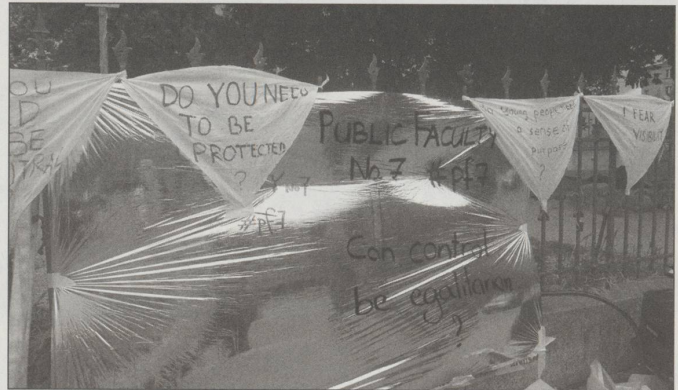
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«Who will protect us from the police?» #pf7
June 1, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«To protect a country from the imposition of
cultural ideals from other powerful nations.»
#pf7
June 1, 2013

Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Ich möchte von der Polizei geschützt werden
ich wurde vor Kreis 4 verjagt.» #pf7
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«Do you need to be protected?» #pf7
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«Wir müssen die jungen Leute vor Schulden
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June 1, 2013



Curating ZHdK @curating123
«Die Amerikaner versuchen uns ihr Denken
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«People should be protected from debts.» #pf7
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@jeannetworks today is on Helvetiaplatz along
Ankerstrasse under building.
June 1, 2013



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The #pf7 live feed for Public Faculty No. 7 with
@jeannetworks is now up and running at the
ZHdK Diploma Exhibit.
pic.twitter.com/saeOadM1sf
June 1, 2013

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«Überall kontrolliert die Polizei die Leute, ich
arbeite viel, bezahle Steuern und die Miete ist
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June 1, 2013

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«Can control be egalitarian?» #pf7
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«I fear that society will get more unbalanced,
through the disparity of the rich and the poor»
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From 1st to 4th of June 2013, the Postgraduate Programme in Curating ZHdK, in cooperation with Jeanne van Heeswijk, presented the 7th instalment of the Public Faculty series in Zurich. In this edition the project came to «Europe's Landlocked Island»¹ of Switzerland to question the idea of borders, as well as requisites for the enforcement of this idea, such as security, solidarity and compliance.

Switzerland has a history of strong borders and an established tradition of civil defence to enforce it. But what does that mean now, in the 21st century, when borders have become virtual as well as physical? What is it that needs to be protected? People? Assets? Institutions? And against what does that need to be protected? War? Global crises? Science? The Internet? Have existing measures of civil defence become merely symbolic, only an image for a vague feeling of security? In this age of civil airplanes running the risk of ending up as terrorist weapons, what are we willing to give up for our protection? Liquids? Swiss-Army knives? Shoes? Underwear? What about civil liberty? Privacy? Minarets? How far are we willing to comply? Is protection ultimately a self-inflicted trap? What about the other venerated Swiss traditions of neutrali-

ty and diplomacy? Should they be not more relevant than ever before? Is there no belief in the strength of a community? Is protection not built on solidarity?

During four days, students of the Postgraduate Programme in Curating ZHdK and Jeanne van Heeswijk were at Helvetiaplatz engaging passers-by in informal conversations on these issues. This learning from a place through a process of exchange of knowledge and cohabitation forms the basis of the Public Faculty series. Dialogues were condensed either in tweets – which constitute the text accompanying the images on the previous pages – or in short sentences which were written down on the spot on strips of white cloth and golden foil sheets that are both part of the Swiss Civil Protection equipment.

The Public Faculty took place between Helvetiaplatz and the Kanzleiareal in Zurich where many segments of the public are to be found. Public demonstrations in Zurich originate there and, according to the city-tourism website, it is «Zürich's multicultural quarter». Interestingly, the area also happens to sit on top of one of the main bunkers of the city.

1 Cf. Bewes, Diccon: 'Swiss Watching: Inside Europe's Landlocked Island', Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2010.

This is the 7th installment of Jeanne van Heeswijk's Public Faculty series. The idea of the Public Faculty derived from her on-going interest in learning about the meaning of publicness and its relation to active citizenship in our global cities. Previous Public Faculties have taken place in Skopje, Macedonia (No.1, October 2008); Rotterdam, the Netherlands (No.2, September 2010); Vranje, Serbia (No.3, March 2012); London, UK (No.4, July 2012); Copenhagen, Denmark (No.5, August 2012); and Gent, Belgium (No.6, March 2013).

Jeanne van Heeswijk

In her practice, Jeanne van Heeswijk (1965, Schijndel, the Netherlands) creates contexts for interaction in public spaces. Her projects distinguish themselves through a strong social involvement. Van Heeswijk stimulates and develops cultural production and creates new public (meeting-)spaces or remodels existing ones. To achieve this she often works closely with artists, designers, architects, software developers, shopkeepers, governments and citizens. She regularly lectures on topics such as urban renewal, participation and cultural production. Her most recent Projects include 2Up2Down/homebaked, Anfield, Liverpool 2010-ongoing; Wastelanders, Brussels, 2012; Freehouse, Afrikaanderwijk, Rotterdam 2008-present. She was awarded the 2011 Leonore Annenberg Prize for Art and Social Change and the 2012 Curry Stone Design Prize for Social Design Pioneers.

Postgraduate Programme in Curating, ZHdK

The Postgraduate Programme in Curating at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) is a discursive platform focusing on key areas of contemporary exhibition making. With instruction modules, group activities, seminars and lectures held by an international selection of guest lecturers, the course creates a model situation in which students can gain practical experience of curating and learn to think critically about the issues involved. (www.curating.org)

Credits

A project by: Jeanne van Heeswijk
Invited by: Postgraduate Programme in Curating ZHdK, as part of New Social Sculptures curated by Dorothee Richter
Coordinated by: Silvia Simoncelli
Produced by: Anna Trzaska, Anne Koskiluoma, Annemarie Brand, Ashraf Osman, Charlotte Barnes, Chloé Nicolet-dit-Félix, Gulru Vardar, Marlies Jost, Monika Molnár, Nkule Mabaso, Tanja Trampe, Tom Schneider
Digital media and communication: Ashraf Osman
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