

SuSy Berlin Uferstudios January and May 2015 (6 weeks) Olivia Schellander

keywords:

Feedback Laboratory on Artistic Processes, Let's Talk About Dance, Tanztage 2015, the one & only Barbara Friedrich, Social Muscle Club, Berlin Mondiale, lectures and showings, community, audiences, art and society

I am still super thankful! As part of SuSy 2015 I was invited to spend 6 weeks in Berlin, a city I only learned to meet and love then. My first part at Uferstudios started with the Feedback Laboratory on Artistic Processes, where my role was to be one of the three observers (together with Inge Koks and Nik Haffner). During and after the laboratory I collected and summarized the basic content, text and information which later on served as a basis for the Feedback Lab publication. Connected to that we participated at the public feedback initiative „Let's talk about dance“ at Tanztage 2015.

As a feedback facilitator it was particularly interesting for me to be part of a lab that engaged with feedback culture on a broader level. How can we, as cultural workers, focus more on the expertise of the audience, engagement with audiences, whatever the content or concern of a work of art.

<http://www.lifelongburning.eu/projects/events/e/lets-talk-about-dance-feedback-lab-goes-public.html>

At Uferstudios I also assisted with duties such as production, hosting, information. Besides that I attended showings and lectures and visited numerous performances and venues. Sharing stories with Barbara Friedrich and getting to know her and her path was a personal highlight.

As part of Berlin Mondiale, the syrian refugees film screening with danceoke (dance karaoke oh yes) at Uferstudios was a most beautiful evening, where dancing to music and films on a huge screen, eating and laughing brought people together. Activating neighbours as well as being a welcoming host was a memorable experience for me. Another social highlight, the Social Muscle Club! I still owe someone special a breakfast and still receive a boat trip from someone special. Now, one year later, it also happens here in Vienna too. Solidarity and community is something that I connect to my overall Berlin experience, and especially to the atmosphere at Uferstudios.

One personal issue as a culture worker is that it allows plenty of direct, numerous yet often superficial encounters with many big issues (and people) in the art field. Constantly being in touch with artists and their ideas, giving support, offering frames and services is an immensely important necessity for artists.

SuSy and Berlin was yet another reminder for me to become more courageous in dedicating to that artist and activist side of me, yet to integrate that essential broader understanding of the cultural field into thinking about my role as an artist. In that sense, the relationship between the artist and the cultural worker in me has gained new perspective and confidence.