

„Children’s game//Kinderspiel//小意思”



Project description

We invite to the „Children’s game//Kinderspiel//小意思”, a transcultural art project initiated by iRRi ART in cooperation with Starkad Berlin.

Based on the three topics children’s games, children’s books and children’s songs we will approach the influences and impressions which form our character, our world view, our lives. Therefore we collect statements and reports, in order to shed light on childhood and how cultural imprint is given to us through games, books and songs. The focus of this project is on transcultural phenomena and people who now work in the arts in the German, Chinese and Arabic cultural sphere.

In 2012 iRRi ART held an artistic event in the independent art space “First Floor//华茂一楼” in the city of Nanjing, China. In the course of the exhibition project we showed some of our favorite games we used to play when we were children, which triggered intense discussions and a vivid exchange. It quickly became apparent that this topic needs to be further examined through as an artistic approach.

We want to create and document an international dialogue about childlike play, silliness and imaginative thinking. We understand this project as an experiment with an open attitude towards the outcome. Through individual and personal memories and experiences we want to engage in a reflection about culturally, historically and socially implied influences.

We ask: what did you play when you were a child? Did you prefer to play outside? Or inside? Alone or with other children, with siblings? Rather ready-made games or more imaginative, made up games? Building caves out of bed sheets? Lego? Cards? Board games? We are especially interested in free play and imaginative games, but we also want to know about internationally spread card, board or ball games.

We ask: which stories did you like? Did someone read to you? The stories you remember are they from books or from films? Are there stories which still have an influence on you? Do some of the stories accompany you until now? Which have been the important picture books? Were they political? Did they promote values (socially, religious, political)?

We ask: do you remember children’s songs? Cassettes? Radio? Records? What about lullabies? Which were the children’s songs which were sung the most? (Where did you sing them? At home? In kindergarten? In school? Were they political? Did they imply values?)

In this context we'd like to explore the terms "creativity" and "imagination/phantasy", their relation, and their changing emphasis within both the individual lifetime and the social development as a whole. "Creativity" has become THE paradigm since the 2000s. Even in the field of child education it has pushed aside the words "imagination/phantasy".

We do not aim to raise scientific evaluations, moreover, we want to invite to participate in an individual artistic dialogue about children's games, children's books and children's songs.

In September 2014 the project "Children's game//Kinderspiel//小意思" will be published in a Chinese art magazine. At the same time, we'll launch a website where the gathered material will be presented. On a long-term basis we will curate an exhibition about this topic.

We are looking forward to a lot of imaginative input, be it text, video, photo, songs, comic, sketches, pictures whatever the participants find the most suitable for their contribution.

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March 2014

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