

Anlage: Projektskizze

Performing Histories – a Project Seminar by Antonis Pittas

In a special seminar in the summer semester of 2014 the Greek artist Antonis Pittas will practically explore and (re)activate three types of archives: the collection of the Roemer Pelizeus Museum, Hildesheim (RPM), the archive of the RPM and the online archive of digital news media. In his practice Pittas creates large-scale, monumental installations that combine references to art history (Russian Avant-Garde, Minimalism, Arte Povera, and others) with quotes from news media. These fields are not anecdotally linked together, but are more the source material to create an experience of space and language that can be interpreted by the viewer as a new and independent entity with its own value and significance. His work is thereby often if not always produced publicly in a performative manner.

In his seminar at Hildesheim University Pittas will together with the students investigate the collective cultural memory of the community of Hildesheim stored in the museum and confront that with the current political reality of Germany, Europe and the world. By looking into the nature of the collection of the RPM, the way in which it is displayed and documented in the archive, he wants to question the links between such a robust and classical museum collection and the current position of Germany's society and culture, within the broader economic and political tensions that define today's moment. Especially the complex role Greek culture plays within Germany's identity, as traditionally a cultural beacon, but today also a problematic partner within the European context, is something Pittas wants to question and investigate.

The methodology of the seminar will be a combination of practice and theory – a mix specific for Hildesheim University. The students will read general theoretical texts dealing with the archive, the museum and the relation between North and South, and Germany and Greece; they will investigate and analyse the RPM and its archive; and finally they will collectively work on a presentation to translate the research in an aesthetic work.

Antonis Pittas has extensive experience as a lecturer at the Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, and did many educational projects among other in CCS Bard in New York (U.S.A). He is also connected to the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (NL), with which the University Hildesheim has long-term relationships. The Van Abbemuseum supports this application by freeing up time of staff members to contribute to the seminar as guest lecturers and advisors.

The seminar is situated within the context of the general 'Projekt-Semester' and is designed to function within this context (8 SWS).