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HAUTE ÉCOLE D'ART ET
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CCC

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Politics of Memory and Art Practices: The Role of Art in Peace and Reconstruction Processes [PIMPA/PPR]

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Overview

SNF-funded project concerned with the representation through the arts of memory initiatives and monuments in public space in relationship to conflict and post-conflict situations

Based in the transdisciplinary CCC teaching Programme[1], which bring together political, critical, curatorial and art studies, the project is in contact with students, researchers and guest researchers and benefit from the diversity of the experience and skills of all participants. (1) CCC Research-Based Master Programme, Geneva University of Art and Design.

massive violence

representation   history

politics of memory   monument

justice

public space

peace studies

situated artistic practice

commemoration   art

reconciliation

Approaches and Results

By bringing together political sciences and humanities and artistic practices, PIMPA crosses the references and implements a critical transdisciplinary methodology. The increased contact between disciplines opens up to the potential of inventing new universes of references.The complex processes of memory politics involve mechanisms that form part of a wider public domain and require a radical re-reading and a broader conception of the arts.

Added Value of the Interdisciplinary Approach

• Contributing to disciplinary decompartmentalization by leaving familiar territory research and by sharing methodologies.

• Clarifying key issues, beyond jargon or specialized concepts.

• Anchoring the project in field practices, while seeking a general public of schoolchildren, students, activists, artists, policy-makers and, more generally, lay citizens.

• Understanding art in an expanded field, as a project-based, community-based, process-oriented practice

Discussion

• **What are the conditions to best profit from group collaboration, delegation, and sharing knowledge and methodologies?**

• **How to integrate other points of view in one's own field of research in order to focus on processes that are produced in the articulation of cultural differences?**

References

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Illustrations: **1.** Ilana Salama Ortar, *Le camp d'Arenas, Le camp des Juifs, La Cayolle, Marseille*, 1998-2011, MAC Marseille, 2011; **2**. *Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe*, photographed during a research travel to Berlin, June 2013; **3**. Lecture by Esther Shalev-Gerz during the Pimpa symposium *Contructing Memories in the Wake of Crimes Against Humanity: Artistic Interventions and the Politics of Memory*, Geneva, December 7, 2011