

## A new presentation of “Berlin Local” by Stephen Willats

How to re-present “Berlin Local” (at MD72, 08.11.14 – 20.12.14) at the galerie Emanuel Layr in Vienna? “Berlin Local” is a contextual project by the artist Stephen Willats that is presented here in a new context as a secondary reference. As Stephen Willats explains it in a filmed interview presented in the show, this new presentation of “Berlin Local” introduces an idea of practices and shows some of the elements of a work to understand how it was conceived by the artist. It has also a secondary educational value. There is two levels, operational and theoretical. Operational because there are some references to practices and theoretical because there are some references to abstract models like the cybernetic diagrams. Two elements in the new presentation allow the audience to understand the secondary reference and the secondary educational value: a walldrawing is presenting abstract models inspirational for the work and the already mentioned filmed interview offers the possibility to Stephen Willats to give his own explanations concerning both the project at MD72 and its new translation at the galerie Emanuel Layr.

In order to understand the original project, we also reprint below an excerpt of the press release of “Berlin Local” along with the map of the neighbourhood where the project took place.

“For this project, Willats involved a couple running an antiquarian book shop and a lady running a market garden in the direct neighbourhood of MD72. The result is a series of works presented as an installation of a drawing vinyl and eight super 8 films accompanying four double-sided panels at the MD72 space and installations at the book shop and garden, and also at an Italian restaurant and at a car showroom, both a reminiscence of West Berlin times. Over eight months, Willats worked with the participants to engage with their social relationship and their own creative potential and perception of their environment. Interviews, photographic and film material, signs and symbols which surround the participants in their everyday life are streamed together in the form of films and diagramatic panels. For Willats, the meaning and the function of art derives from the multiplicity of perception and communication of all the people involved, both of the viewers, as well as of the participants. A map accompanies the exhibition, showing the sites of the installations around the MD72 and increasing the neighbourhood connections that are an essential part of the work.”

Press release, Stephen Willats, “Berlin Local”, MD72, 08.11.14 – 20.12.14 (excerpt)