

After the Fact. Politics of the Document in Contemporary Art (Fellowship an der Harvard University)

Initiative: Postdoctoral Fellowships in den Geisteswissenschaften an Universitäten und Forschungsinstituten
in Deutschland und den USA

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The past few years have witnessed a growing interest in documentary practices in the visual as well as the performing arts. In this way, practices in the realm of the documentary have significantly contributed to a politization of artistic production by exploring and giving rise to new relations between art and lifeworld as much as between aesthetics and ethics. However, the concept of the document that underpins the documentary, the document's epistemology as well as its changing condition in the era of digital images has hardly ever come into focus. By exploring three case studies - the Atlas Group Archive, the East.Art.Map and the works by the International Institute of Political Murder -, this project seeks to inquire: how do documents become artistic objects and how are documents produced, arranged, recombined and transformed in the arts. In order to explore these questions, the project interweaves art history, performance theory, and the history of knowledge into an interdisciplinary approach. Against this background, this projects aims at the theorization of a concept of artistic document and its politics by illuminating the processes of the production and circulation of documents within artistic practices, their performed temporalities and power relations as well as the aesthetic and epistemological procedures which define the documentary in art and its claims to facticity.

Projektbeteiligte

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