

Other Homelands: Origins and Migration Routes of Berlin Park Drug Sellers



A Scott Holmquist Studio project with the Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum, Berlin

22 November 2017 – 14 January 2018
Opening on Tuesday, 21 November, 7 p.m.

FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum
Adalbertstraße 95A, 10999 Berlin-Kreuzberg

"Drug dealers count among the most hated people in our society. No other group garners such uniform condemnation across all party lines. Scarcely anyone else has to live so demonized by racist and criminal stereotypes."

**Bettina Paul and Henning Schmidt-Semisch,
*Drogendealer: Ansichten eines verurteilten
Gewerbes.* (1998)**



SETTING

African-origin immigrants have become the public face of park drug dealers in Berlin as well as in other cities across Germany and Europe.

INSTALLATION

Thirteen standing human silhouettes will function as flat displays, each containing maps, texts and illustrations that describe individual origins and migration routes. Texts will be in the mother tongue of the individual represented, with German and English translations available. The descriptions will concentrate on the economies and geographies of interviewees' origins as well as their movement as bodies through space, while avoiding matters of private concern. Interventions, presentations and discussions of racism, postcoloniality and drug prejudices will accompany the exhibit.

GOALS

By focusing on the places of origin and migration routes of park drug sellers, all from Africa, the exhibition attempts to break up the "Africa" that is rarely ever more than a post-colonial abstraction.

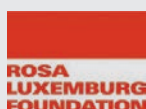
"Africa," as a single abstraction, calls up the usual specters of famine, war, corruption and poverty, or a romanticized place of exotic and authentic cultures and traditions. Together or apart these undermine any sense of individuals coming from a place like everyone else, a hometown with its ordinary surroundings. The exhibit also seeks to disrupt the peculiar hatred for drug dealers described twenty years ago by Bettina Paul, a hatred that has grown since to become among the most tolerated forms of bigotry worldwide, a hatred that blends with, and often hides, everyday forms of racism. As a result, a large group of park drug sellers are not only openly – and with permission – hated as "dealers," or pitied as victims of racism, but are in addition denied the basic humanity of being from a real place – from another homeland.

Project by Scott Holmquist in cooperation with:
Moro Yapha – refugee activist and radio presenter,
Philipp Muras-Krasznahorkai – artist, Sara Stenczer – art historian, Sophie Perl – public historian and curator.

Scott Holmquist Studio, Kiefholzstrasse 19/20,
Gewerbehof 2 DE -12435 Berlin

info@otherhomelands.website
otherhomelands.website | scottholmquist.com

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