



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

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Session III

“The Impact of Social Movements and Performing Arts on Citizenship Education”

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Dance and performing arts in public space are in no way new phenomena. Like the visual arts they look back to a development of arts production in public space for decades. Since the 1960s contemporary choreography deals increasingly with the public space, based on the New York dance avant-garde around the Judson Church Group. Here, choreography was not only transferred into the public space. Moreover, choreographers and performers use means of disassociation, irony, irritation, quotation and intervention in order to reflect on a relationship discussed largely in the field of visual arts, i.e. the relationship between theatricality and reality.

Unlike the visual arts, the choreographic projects most notably question the relationship between body, movement and space, between spatial planning and the arrangement of movement, between structure and accident, between the public perception and the specific communication of choreography – links that may be considered central for performing arts and dance. Furthermore and starting from the moving body, these projects discuss the public space, its materiality (architecture, development), symbolic and imaginations and they reflect aesthetically the dynamics in urban environments.

The lecture aims to put the characteristics of this up for discussion in dealing with the public sphere. Based on empiric results out of different research projects that explored the relationship between choreography, performance and urbanity by the examples of different performances and choreographies as well as on the basis of my experience as curator of dance and performance projects in public spaces, a theoretical draft of the relationship between dance, choreography and public space will be brought up in the discussion. Thereby the aesthetic specificity of choreography as an art form in public space will be worked out and the idea of choreography as a category of the social in the urban space will be presented.

