

Exhibition	DIALOGE + 2 (Dialogue + 2) A Project of Standard Euro (Anne Metzen) <i>Wolken (Clouds)</i> in dialogue with Roland Stratmann <i>Hemelenhel (Heavenandhell)</i>
Opening	Saturday, 3. 9. 2011 at 5 PM
Welcome	Dr. Iris Jana Magdowski, State Capital Potsdam Head of Department for Education, Culture and Sports Isolde Nagel, curator Standard Euro + Roland Stratmann
Exhibition Dates	4. 9. – 3. 10. 2011
Location	Art-Container Potsdam Quarter Schiffbauergasse 14467 Potsdam Next to VW Design Center Potsdam, Schiffbauergasse 17
Opening Hours	Thursday - Sunday (and Mo 3.10.) 3 - 8 PM Tuesday - Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM Standard Euro FeldArchiv (FieldArchive) Saturdays 3 PM Happy Talk with invited guests

With sincerest thanks for the kind support:
State Capital Potsdam | Dep. Culture and Museum | Dep. Urban Renewal and Historic Preservation,
SCHIFFBAUERGASSE Potsdam, VW Design Center Potsdam

The exhibition project *DIALOGE +2*, which involves three art containers, is set in the open areas of the Potsdam Quarter Schiffbauergasse (Shipbuilder's Lane) facing the water. For the duration of the exhibition, which lasts four weeks, the containers – next to the VW Design Center Potsdam will become working spaces and container labs for the Berlin artists *Standard Euro (Anne Metzen)* and *Roland Stratmann*.

Anne Metzen has been working on the archive *Standard Euro* since 1997. She searches out traces and engages in research along the interface between various media and disciplines. Her meticulous investigations of everyday phenomena and world events are considered under the aspects of standardization, norming, and formalization. Emerging from the sum of investigations, which consist of straightforward individual observations, is a complex space of thought, one that presents itself under radically different aspects through confrontations with its respective location, surroundings, history, and zeitgeist.

On the occasion of the Potsdam exhibition, *Standard Euro* and the archive will appear as a temporary, self-enclosed unit and will occupy one container as a workstation (*FieldArchive*). Two additional containers will be set up in relation to one another with their opening panels facing. Visitors/viewers will be able to enter this laboratory through the central area, and to participate in the processual aspects of archival activities and the associated passage of time. Various moments and stations of the exhibition period will be registered and reworked in a system-immanent way.

For the theme of this investigation, *Standard Euro* has chosen "Clouds." The independently established *Institute for Fictive Research* is dedicated to the *Free Standard of Cloud Formation*. Beginning with the phenomenon of storm clouds, clouds – considered as components of weather events or as deliberately generated states such as smoke clouds or clouds of ash, dust, or radioactivity - become the objects of localized research interest. With precision, *Standard Euro* attempts to fathom the ephemeral, difficult-to-grasp aspects of clouds, but also their disturbing and destructive qualities.

Serving *Standard Euro* as points of departure are newspaper photographs and direct observations made on location in the *FieldArchive* in contact with cultural producers and residents as well as visitors.

Standard Euro has invited Berlin artist *Roland Stratmann* to serve as her direct dialogue partner. *Stratmann* will occupy the third container with an installation that bears the title “Hemelenhel” (Heavenandhell). This work too thematizes the “ephemeral” and the “difficult-to-grasp” – here however in the context of migration and integration.

Translated into German, the Afrikaans expression “Hemel en hel” means “Himmel und Hölle (heaven and hell in English) - two perspectives which together circumscribe the entire spectrum of human life and existence. *Hemelenhel* attempts an artistic rapprochement with the complexity of phenomena of migration - a topic that is charged with emotional, ethnic, religious, political, and social differences and tensions - with the objective of transforming into a significant image a conflict which encompasses society as a whole.

In our globalized world, shipping containers facilitate the smooth, efficient, and cost-effective transport of goods between continents. These receptacles - closed to outside view - are also used to conceal illegal cargo and to smuggle people. Installed on the roof of the third container is a spatial structure consisting of plastic bags which are tied tightly together. These are the types of simple bags in which refugees transport their meager belongings. The bags bear signatures, behind each of which stands an individual fate. In the form of a cloud, they waft now above the heads of visitors and passersby.

Inside the containers, delicate shadows are delineated on white sheets of paper. These are physiognomic portrayals of migrants. Stimulated by these only indistinctly visible portraits, the beholder experiences a process of morphing. For a brief moment, the foreign assumes a familiar appearance, while the searching gaze in turn converts the familiar into the strange.

Stratmann's installation interrogates social contexts and employs simple resources in order to engender an incisive image of our uneasy dealings with those of foreign appearance.

The exhibition will be accompanied by artist's discussions, lectures, and readings, to take place on the respective weekends.

The exhibition project *Dialogue + 2 (Dialogue +2)* is curated by **Isolde Nagel**.

For further information see www.atrans.org | www.standard-euro.de | www.rolandstratmann.de