

Kulturen der Selbstständigkeit / Cultures of Self-Reliance / Women in Expanded Europe Symposium with Exhibition

FLYER Page1:

The theme "Cultures of Self-Reliance" addresses a range of efforts made by women, aiming for economic independence by means of gainful employment and autonomous activity. These efforts also find artistic expression, for example in painting or film. A range of such endeavours will be addressed in the course of the symposium.

The presentations of the symposium approach facets of lived autonomy and self-reliance which still have received little attention and which are characterised by a wide array of ambivalences. "Booby Traps of Autonomy" is the title of one contribution, which - using the example of the neo-fascist party in Hungary - demonstrates the attempts of the political right to take possession of the concept of women's autonomy. Economic self reliance also proves itself ambivalent when it is considered exclusively in light of employment towards gain – as is the case in neo-liberal rationality – and thereby loses the connection to the occupational fields of reproduction and care-taking. In all European member states caretaking is progressively handed over to women with a migration background from the East or the South. These lifeworld interrelations - with all of their contradictions - will be discussed using Poland as case study.

Taking Slovenia as example, paradoxical aspects of the current situation of women in their pursuit of economic independence are broached. Do women reach more independence by preferring self-employment? Role Models from South-Eastern European films mirror such ambivalences and multi-directional dynamics. For example women's self-determination is cut short - rather than strengthened - by images of their sexual subjugation.

In the closing discussion with the contributors we wish to build a bridge between the experiences of women from Central, South-Eastern and Western Europe, for handling the tension-fraught relationship between autonomy, economic self-sufficiency and self-determination.

The symposium wishes to continue the debate with women from Eastern and Central Europe, initiated in November of 2005 by the foundation Women in Europe and the Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen/Bund. The 2005 symposium has been documented in a book published by Klartext Verlag, Essen 2007, titled "Gesellschaftliche Perspektiven. Frauen in Osteuropa" (Perspectives on Social Development. Women in Eastern Europe).

DATE & TIME:

Opening of the Exhibition: Friday January 18, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Symposium: Saturday January 19, 2008, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

römer9, Evangelische Stadtakademie
Römerberg 9, 60311 Frankfurt/Main

ORGANISERS:

Stiftung "Frauen in Europa"

Frankfurter Stiftung maecenia für Frauen in Wissenschaft und Kunst

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Hessen e.V.

römer9, Evangelische Stadtakademie

FLYER Page2: PROGRAMME

Saturday January 19, 2008

Opening of the Exhibition:

Friday January 18, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

"Crumbs from the Table"

Paintings by the Lithuanian Artist Indre Sataite

römer9, Evangelische Stadtakademie,

Römerberg 9, Frankfurt/Main

10:00 a.m.

Arrival and Welcoming Coffee

10:30 a.m.

Welcoming Address and Introduction

Mechthild Veil,

Founder of the Foundation Women in Europe, Frankfurt/Main

Margret Krannich,

Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen, Frankfurt/Main

10:45 a.m.

Self-Reliance between Pursuit of Autonomy and Neo-Liberal Rationality.

Contradictions found between Feminist Organisations and Everyday Problems of Women in

Poland after 1989

Teresa Swieckowska,

Faculty member of the Division of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Warsaw,
and member of the Initiative Feminist Think Tank in Poland

Chaired by:

Margret Krannich, Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen, Frankfurt/Main

11:45 a.m.

Coffee Break

12:00 p.m.

The Ambiguous Current Situation of Slovenian Women in Their Stride for Economic Independence

Paula Zupanc Ecimovic,

Scholar of Sociology and Comparative Literature Studies, Assistant Professor for Cultural Studies

and Anthropology at the University Primorska, Koper, Slovenia

Chaired by: Eva Brinkmann to Broxten, Foundation maecenia, Frankfurt/Main

1:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

2:00 p.m.

Booby Traps of Autonomy. A Historical Perspective on Neo-Fascist Women in Hungary

Andrea Petö,

Historian and Sociologist, Associate Professor at the Department of Gender Studies of the Central

European University in Budapest and Director of the Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities

Centre of Miskolc University, Hungary

Chaired by: Mechthild M. Jansen, Foundation Women in Europe, Frankfurt/Main

3:00 p.m.
Coffee Break

3:30 p.m.
"Mila from Mars" and Other Stories. Women and Autonomy in Fiction Film from South-Eastern Europe
Lecture illustrated by film excerpts
Christine Kopf,
Film scholar and Head of goEast Festival of Central and Eastern European Film, Wiesbaden

Chaired by: Birgit Laubach, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

4:30 p.m.
Autonomy and Economic Self-Reliance. Experiences from the East and the West.
Closing Discussion with all Contributors

Chaired by: Mechthild Veil, Foundation Women in Europe, Frankfurt/Main