



Border Crossing Certificate Forms of political (out)bordering and possibilities of a democratic coexistence

An exhibition of the *Roma Information Center* with works by Shira Wachsmann and Tamara Moyzes at FHXB Museum

April 4 - 15, 2023

Vernissage & panel discussion with Hajdi Barz, Milan Rakovic and Magdalena Benavente.

April 4 at 6 pm

In the beginning was anger.

April 8, 1971 marks a turning point in the political self-awareness in the history of the Roma and Sinti. On that day, numerous activists at the first World Roma Congress in London made it clear that they had a voice of their own. They expressed their anger at the systematic discrimination the community has faced and continues to face in various nations. And they were loud enough to start a civil society movement that grew and continues to this day.

In their own flag, anthem and self-designation, the new political self-awareness was expressed, with which the community has since then defended itself against the attempt of marginalization and racialization: The general public is thus confronted with the history and continuities of the cultural and systematic discriminations that Roma and Sinti have had to suffer for centuries. In this way, they also expanded the community's political self-awareness and possibilities for action. These struggles will be carried on by the next generations to retell their own history. The Roma Informations Centrum - as a political and social actor - ties in with this exhibition to make the resistance of the Roma and Sinti visible and to continue it.

The artistic works in this exhibition invite to reflect on discrimination, empowerment and democracy. In their works, the artists **Shira Wachsmann** and **Tamara Moyzes** question both the historical, political and social forms of exclusion and the possibilities of democratic coexistence.

In the open archive *Re/assembling antiracist struggles* First Floor

Shira Wachsmann *Border Crossing Certificate*
Photo, 2023

Ashes
Installation, 2023

Endless Circle
Video, 2016

In the middle of the room is Shira Wachsmann's floor installation **Ashes**, in which she stages the social struggles for 'a right to rights' in a form that suggests the pain and helplessness of many migrants. The "Border Crossing Certificate" is a bureaucratic document that requires people to leave the federal territory. Many Roma and Sinti are affected by this. In both the video **Endless Circle** and the installation **Ashes**, Shira Wachsmann takes up the form of the circle, which appears again and again in her artistic works.

Here, a circle represents a rigid boundary, a closed circle. The circle, made from the ashes of burned border crossing certificates, recalls the pain left by technocratic violence, but also allows for hope of change.

In the exhibition

local histories – distant conversations – local chats

Third floor

Tamara Moyzes	<i>Museum of Ethnology # III</i> Photo montage, 2015	<i>Miss Roma</i> Video, 2007	<i>Romanistan</i> Video Installation, 2017
----------------------	---	---------------------------------	---

The photo montage **Museum of Ethnology # III** by Tamara Moyzes addresses the media construction of female Roma and Sinti and reveals the colonial, racist and exoticizing discourses behind it. The video **Miss Roma** is based on a real experiment by the artist and Jana Bluchová, through which they make visible the discriminatory experiences and exclusions in public places based on skin color and ascribed origin.

The diversity and heterogeneity of the Roma and Sinti is shown by the installation **Romanistan** (Tamara Moyzes), but at the same time it addresses the complicated longing for unity and common identity. The work is a response to the original idea of the possible existence of a Roma state, which can also be found in the Romani flag or the hymn "Gelem, Gelem". The video installation self-critically reflects this utopia and at the same time criticizes the perception of the Roma by the majoritarian society.

About the artists

Shira Wachsmann (born in Tel Aviv, lives and works in Berlin) explores the concept of "land" in her works. She is concerned on the one hand with land as material, as soil, and on the other hand with land as place and territory, thus investigating the broad natural, cultural, political and historical conditions of "land". Her practice is based on investigations of the past and the future. She integrates her findings into her work to critically uncover the foundations of ideologies that, even if forgotten or repressed, still construct identities in the present.

Tamara Moyzes (born in Bratislava, lives and works in Prague) is an artist, curator and documentary filmmaker. Moyzes is a politically engaged artist who addresses issues of gender, racism, antiziganism, questions of nationalism and religious conflict, and - as a curator - Orientalism, and has long been committed to artistic activism. Tamara Moyzes' artistic practice is rooted in her Hungarian, Jewish, and Roma identities and in her life spent in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Israel. Through the mediums of irony, satire, and the visualization of lived experience, Moyzes aims to expose social injustices.

An exhibition of the Roma Informations Zentrum in cooperation with the FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum.

Curator: Pedro Alexander Bravo Lavín
Editor and curatorial advisor: Jorinde Splettstößer
Installation: Florian Helm and Norbert Schropp
Support: David Nikolich and Denise Guerra

FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum

Adalbertstraße 95A
10999 Berlin-Kreuzberg
Tu–Thu 12:00–18:00
Fr–Su 10:00–20:00
Free admission

Rroma-Informations-Centrum e.V.

Managing director: Milan Pavlovic
Board: Melisa Beganovic
Oranienburger Straße 159
10117 Berlin
<http://rroma-info-centrum.de>

