

Michaela Melián
Foehrenwald

Slide projection with soundtrack, 2005, 160 slides, 1 CD
(English version of soundtrack 2007, 160 slides, 1 CD)

The model housing estate of Foehrenwald was built on the Upper Bavarian floodplains of the Isar river and looks back on an eventful history. It had served as a camp for slave labourers of the gunpowder and ammunitions factory in Geretsried between 1940 and 1945. Shortly after World War II, Foehrenwald was converted to a transit camp for Jewish DP's (i.e. displaced Jewish persons) under U.S. military supervision. The first voluntary occupants moved into Foehrenwald only from 1955 onward. These volunteers were German occupants, who referred to themselves as settlers, and were displaced families from Czechoslovakia and Germany's former eastern territories.

Despite this historical turn the overall layout has hardly changed. Its structural invariance can be most easily discerned in regard to its streets. Names of a single street were indeed given according to the momentary political situation: Adolf Hitler Platz for instance was renamed to "Independence Square" and finally to Kolping Platz. The buildings, however, which had been designed under National Socialist rule, have essentially remained unaltered and nowadays represent the ideals of modern personal homeownership.

Melián's art project *Foehrenwald*, a walk-in installation with a panoramic slide projection, illustrates this history in drawings with white lines depicted against a black background. The accompanying soundtracks of music and voices produced by Radioplay, the Art and Media Department of the Bayerischer Rundfunk Munich, portray this place as a product of cultural, ethnic, technological, economic and media-related constructions. The voices in the play report on different time periods in the life of the Foehrenwald estate. As witness statements the contents of the narrating voices are based on the original accounts of former inhabitants. The rough material of the music consists of fragments of classical music and of the simple hissing and scratching of shellac records dated from 1931 to 1935. These records had been published in collaboration with the 'Jüdischer Kulturbund' (i.e. the Jewish cultural association).

Melián's *Foehrenwald* has so far been exhibited at the *Kunstraum München*, the *Börne Galerie Frankfurt*, the *Jüdisches Museum Fürth*, the *Kunsthau Dresden*, *k42 in Friedrichshafen*, the *Kunstverein Graz*, and the *Kunstwerke Berlin*. It is forthcoming to the *Museum Ludwig Köln*, the *Museum Ulm*, the *Lentos Museum Linz*. The audiotracks of *Foehrenwald* have widely been broadcasted as a radioplay by public radiostations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and received in 2006 the "*Hörspielpreis der Kriegsblinden*", one of the most renowned prizes for audioart in German language.

Press:

Jan Verwoert, »Michaela Melián. Past, Present and Future«, *frieze* (London), March 2007, S. 168 -173

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Michaela Melián lives in Munich. She studied Music and Art in Munich and London. 1980 –1986 she coedited the magazine *Mode und Verzweiflung*. As a musician in the band F.S.K., she has toured Europe and the USA. She did numerous recordings with F.S.K. and others. Lectures and lectureships at the Academies of Art in Berlin-Weissensee, Munich, Nuremberg, Vienna, Stuttgart, Lueneburg, Hamburg, at the Bauhaus Weimar, Goldsmiths College London and the Office for Contemporary Art Norway in Oslo. In 1998 and 1999 she was a Visiting Professor at the Academy of Arts, Munich. From 2006 until 2008 she has been a Visiting Professor at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg. Since 2008 she is teaching at the Art-Department of ETH Zürich Switzerland.

Melián's recent solo exhibitions have taken place at the following institutions
2009: Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Ludlow 38 New York, Glasmoog Cologne, Kunstverein Moers
2008: Cubitt Gallery London, Ulmer Museum,
2006: Kunstverein Graz, Kunstwerke Berlin
2005: Kunstraum München, Jüdisches Museum Franken, Fürth
2003: Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck

Melián's participation in group exhibitions includes
2009: *See this Sound* at Lentos Museum Linz, *The Dwelling* at ACCA Melbourne Australia,
2008: *ReCollecting* at MAK Vienna
2007: *talkshow* at Tranzit Bratislava,
2006: *Das achte Feld* at Museum Ludwig Köln
2005: *Die RAF-Ausstellung* at Kunstwerke Berlin and Joanneum Graz Austria
2004: *Gegen den Strich* at Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, *Common Property* at Werkleitz Biennale, *Atelier Europa* at Kunstverein München
2002: *Import Export* at Villa Arson, Nice France

Installation Instruction

For the installation of Foehrenwald the following material is needed:

- A dark white-cube room (size variable, but not smaller than 40 m²)
- projection distance: more than 5 meters; projected image should be approx. 2.80 m (height) x 4.20 m
- 1 high quality stereo with cd-player (with repeat key) and high quality speakers
- 1 base, pedestal or board to install the projectors on
- 2 slides objectives 2000 45 mm f/2,8
or
2 Kodak-Zoom-Lenses resp. 2,8/60 PC Doctalux
(if projection distance is more than 6 meters)
- 2 Kodak Ektapro slide projectors with bright light module, P-Bus-in interface and carousel
(one projector has to be a model which preserves master-function like Kodak Ektapro 7010, 7020, 9010, 9020, the second projector could be any model of Kodak Ektapro with P-Bus-in interface and und bright light modul)
- 1 Kodak Ektapro dissolve cable and 1 Kodak infrared remote control, programming code 650* 860*

any other system for programming slide projectors with dissolve function can be used as well!

- programming: time for one slide: 50 sec, dissolving time: 6 sec

every slide takes 6 sec to appear, stays on for 38 sec,
takes another 6 sec to dissolve again

- All slides are numbered:
Projector A: all slides with uneven numbers
(no. 1 - 79 and after that again no. 1 - 79 = 80 slides total)
Projector B: all slides with even numbers
(no. 2 - 80 and after that again no. 2 - 80 = 80 slides total)

Projector A starts with slide no. 1, which fades over into slide no. 2 from projector B, which again fades over with slide no. 3 from projector A, and so on....