



# EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

**19.8.2011 – Stefanie Wuschitz – The De-Othering Machine**

<http://11moments.org/stefanie-wuschitz-at/>

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

INTERVIEW #6: Today we have a chat with Stefanie Wuschitz, an artist from Vienna, Austria. She will present her work "The De-othering Machine" in Linz as part of the Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival. Hi Stefanie, where are you at the moment?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

Hi dear Silvia! I'm in Taipeh! It's really hot here! :-)

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

Wow, how exciting! How is it in Taipeh? What are you doing there?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

A Mexican and a Taiwanese friend and me are giving a performance here at the fringe festival and we just gave a three days workshop for children. They were really smart kids.

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

That sounds interesting. In your project "The De-othering Machine" you also work with young people in different cities like Linz, Vienna, and Krakow. Can you put in one sentence what your project is about?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

It's a video communication platform that doesn't allow you to see the other person. Instead you can control an animal character via face expressions and make sounds, just the way animals do.

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

You have been working with young unemployed people. Is there are reason you have chosen this particular group of people?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

I think that most of them feel rather insecure about their situation and I wish I could make them see that unemployment is an international, even a global problem, not their personal one.



# EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

## Live Art Festival

### **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

The term "othering" is also being used in philosophy and anthropology to define the other in contrary to ourselves and the difference between us and them. This is also a big part in your project as far as I understood. Are virtual communication platforms like De-Othering Machine helpful to overcome the distance among people? Or how do you understand closeness and distance in our time?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

I think yes, it is a tool to overcome a certain kind of distance. On the other hand it can only create a substitute for closeness. Most young people in my workshops had made experiences with this strange dynamics.

### **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

Has communication changed in our daily lives because of the new technologies or is it still the same?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

I think that in the current revolutions we can see that social media enable us to witness changes more directly. There is this new phenomenon of civic journalism, micro blogging, etc... new forms of sharing information. Right now I follow my friend's fb threads in Syria, telling about the horrible crimes taking place there, people being tortured, disappearing etc. There are almost no journalists in the country right now and many people rely on what they hear on twitter or facebook to orientate themselves on what is going on. Unfortunately getting this information does not implicate an increase of agency from "our" side. Clicking a "like" bottom is no form of political action already!

### **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

Do you as an artist feel that you have to respond to the daily insanity with your work?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

I admire people who can respond instantly. For me it always takes a while until I can do something about something that really gets to me, gets under my skin. First of all I feel helpless. But I believe in open access, open source technology – although facebook of course is the opposite of open source technology. So I think building platforms of networking and exchange is a first step maybe.



# EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

As the title „Exchange Radical Moments!“ implicates we are looking for radical moments. How do you define a radical moment for yourself? Did you experience something like that lately?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

For me it's always a radical experience when a stereotype in my head explodes in 1000 pieces. Like when you meet someone and are totally sure in an assumption you have about him/her. And then all of the sudden (after a small gesture, conversation or event) it seems so ridiculous to continue to think this way and strange that you could have ever thought this way. I like this feeling :)

In German it's called "Wie Schuppen von den Augen fallen" =D ... and this is actually what I mean with de-othering :))

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

Is there a website where people can get more information about your project?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

Yes, it's on my website <http://grenzartikel.com/projects/?p=210> and we have this blog <http://deothering.wordpress.com/>

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

What can people expect in Linz, when they go to KunstRaum Goethestrasse xtd? What will happen there on 11/11/11?

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

They can slip into the virtual skin of an animal and meet other animals from Krakow, Vienna and Linz. You can try to communicate without knowing their real age, gender, social and cultural background, just animal to animal :D

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

... and with animal sounds. Sounds like fun. Thank you for the interview and have a good time in Taipeh!

### **Stefanie Wuschitz**

Thanks so much! Warm greetings to all of you!! See/hear you on 11/11/11!