

“Here, far away – Suche nach Heimat”

Written by Cornelia Fiedler

“What remains of a place when you undress it? How does it show itself to us in its nakedness? Do we allow it to discard its name for us? To no longer be found on the display, the street sign, the map, the globe, the satellite image? What remains if we free it from all coordinates, categories, localizations, and evaluations?”

Do we allow ourselves to stand here, in this place where others stood before our time, non-local and equally native in a world in which we may belong without asking permission?

The place of our encounter always holds a possibility, a whispering promise, a stochastic daydream. What if... I stayed here forever. Or until further notice. Or returned here someday. Or left this place for good? The present perception slips from us like quicksilver. Only we can keep still for a moment.

Our viewpoint focalizes at the intersection between the place's infinite transience and our own progressing biography. For a moment, its topography and architecture intertwine with our story. Combined we become the texture, the mesh of light and shadow, familiarity, and alienation. In this overlap there is an elusive and fragile belonging. Our gaze and the landscape on which we direct it merge to form the visible, the ostensible and the concealed.

Home is rarely just a place, but rather a state that tenaciously tries to hide its ambivalences. A backward-looking longing and a forward-looking hope for predictability. An oscillation between pride and melancholy, between feeling uplifted and afraid. The loss and lack of home in turn, is a never-ending attempt to heal one's own uprooting in a foreign place.

Sometimes a new place refuses to give us its attention. It remains defiantly turned away from us. But sometimes it chooses to expose itself to a stranger, or maybe even to a local. Then it reveals itself to us - the traveller, the flaneur, the displaced, the newcomer, the locally experienced who pauses at this very spot, slightly puzzled.”

www.pierreyngve.de