
INTRODUCTION

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For temporary interventions, documentation is at the same time crucial and impossible. How can a simple photo or a piece of video ever capture the sensation of a spacial, site-specific intervention affecting the space? These are some of the most important questions we were confronted with when preparing this catalogue for the Sprawl Festival, a festival for art in public space, which took place in the Austrian city of Innsbruck in autumn 2011.

Instead of producing a documentation of the festival which strings together photo after photo, we decided to concentrate on the textual reflection of the event. For the publication at hand, we gathered essays around topics important for the festival, at the same time we asked the involved artists to produce short pieces of texts about their work. The book serves as a tool for communicating the research behind the works, the thoughts behind the festival as well as the insights gained from the production. We asked two external authors to produce essays: Axel Borsdorf, a geographer from Innsbruck who published several texts about the specific situation of outskirt development in Innsbruck and Anette Baldauf a sociologist specialised in public space and art.

The artists either composed experimental essays, like Sylvia Winkler & Stephan Köperl or produced texts by answering e-mail interviews. It was our intention to let the artists speak for themselves – text production in this publication should serve as an additional tool for the artists to communicate the research and the thoughts behind their production. When posing the questions we tried to point out information

and references we believed to find in the works. Interestingly, some of the answers proved our notions about links to other works or possible intentions of the artists wrong, in this sense the intention to question our own interpretations succeeded.

We hope that the publication at hand is not only of interest for those involved in the festival, but also for all those who are interested in recent developments in public art in general or in artistic production in the Tyrol in particular.