

Psycho-Space

A “space in transit”—What does that mean?

First of all a “space in transit” should be differentiated from a “transit space.” A “transit space” is defined as a locality where transits of people and products take place as e.g. frontier stations, borderlines, trading centers, and markets. These “transit places” always have a symbolic meaning as they imply political and economical power, development, changes, in- and exclusions. A “transit space” has to have flexibility as it depends on changing political situations.

Flexibility and the ability to undergo transformations is what “transit spaces” have in common with “spaces in transit.” These seem to be both a modification and an extension of “transit space” in terms of their fluxus character, movement, and existence in time, but are not necessarily connected with a political claim.

We all know about the increase in distances to cover, of roaming more and more in many fields of business. The traditional idea of the traveling salesman has for long been substituted by the traveling businessman, and this career now includes the world of art, artists as well as curators. Basically there are two movements: From one starting point people disperse in various directions or from different starting points people are focused at one point. The routes are similar but the direction of the destination is different.

So, what does it mean—to be on one’s way and spend time in a “space in transit” or, on the contrary, to have reached one’s destination and to be in a kind of static space. In the static place, I have a task to fulfil, whereas the “spaces in transit” do not mean any particular demands on me. The “spaces in transit” are anonymous, neutral, free, accessible, only defined by the passing through in space and time. One becomes a temporary part of them, they host one for a while, and, in referring to Guy Debord’s term “psychogeography,” they influence one’s mood.

I very much appreciate walking, to go by train, or to sit in a taxi. I like to look around or to look out of the windows; I like to pass by a town or the countryside. To see known or foreign places, to be in motion—often without moving oneself, to be by myself and to turn thoughts over in one’s mind without having to articulate them or to make conversation is one of the most relaxing and clarifying activities I can imagine. The most important thing is that these “spaces in transit” give one the legitimation to exist just by oneself in that space.

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So I always regard this time as time given. I myself have to spend a lot of my time in these “spaces in transit” to reach my destination where a job is (again) waiting to be done. Now that these “spaces in transit” are free from duties, expectations, tasks, and commitments, they may be, provided they are a bit comfortable, absolutely enjoyable.

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