

Trading Places

I met Ann Kaneko through the »Virtuosic Siblings« video/film festival that was organized by the artist residency Villa Aurora I was at in Los Angeles. I had read about Ann's film »Overstay«, which follows the lives of six undocumented migrants in Japan. »Overstay« was screened together with my video »Incomplete Picture – Discover Japan«, which reflects on the possibilities and limits of me, a European female artist born in the 1970s, making a documentary about a commercial traveling campaign targeting young women in 1970s Japan. When we screened these pieces together, we realized we had similar interests and concerns in the documentary form.

Given this discovery and also our differences in the contexts in which we work (the visual art versus the film world), we decided it would be an opportunity to try to collaborate and consider some of these issues. At this time Ann was moving from Hollywood to Mar Vista, two distinct neighborhoods in Los Angeles, and I documented the move. There is something very interesting about moves-changing residence usually marks a decision/change in one's life. A home is something personal to most people; and, through the act of packing, one comes to think of one's life and past. However, in the end, the apartment is empty and moving is all about carrying boxes, often with people one has never met before.

This project is process-oriented, and we will continue to discuss and attempt to comprehend some of each other's ways of working: The aim of the project is (at least to an extent) to also try to »trade« and engage in each other's work practices.

»Trading Places« is a work-in-progress, which, up-to-date, consists of a discussion between Ann and me about our practices, documentation of her move and of historical and contemporary film material of the two neighbourhoods in Los Angeles.

Information about the artist

Laura Horelli is born 1976 in Helsinki, Finland. She lives and works in Berlin.

Education:

1995-2001 Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Time & Space, Helsinki

1997-2002 Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste – Städelschule, Klasse Bayle, Frankfurt

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