

Press release

Pipeline Principles

The group exhibition Pipeline Principles is a curatorial work by Rusa Morke and me. For the program of the Institut für moderne Kunst Nürnberg, we conceived an exhibition concept, that is based on questions around the conditions of our both lives. In the collaboration between Rusa and me, who we are both trained as artists, the question of the legitimacy of our curatorial work, as well as the local context (site of the Institut für moderne Kunst and the kunstbunker Nürnberg) quickly arose. In the search for connections and commonalities in our biographies and lives, this very question quickly emerged as the unifying element, as a source for further questions. Connections, dependencies and relationships between us, and more general: between any entities.

Out of personal interest we soon focused on economic, as well as material connections, such as pipelines. The preoccupation with circulation and distribution technologies became the starting point, along with a reflection on how these intervene in and perhaps also determine artistic work. Through conversations with exhibiting artists, we were able to understand different perspectives on the working and living conditions of each individual position, be they biographical, material, economic or psychological. The conception of the exhibition was thus carried out in close collaboration with the artists.

Therefore, the exhibited works are intended to be rather exemplary of a much wider range of artistic work in the context of their condition. We believe that it can be profitable for one's own work to reflect on systematics in which artistic work is embedded, in order to be able to formulate oneself more specifically.

In many ways, the recent past has made the living and working conditions of our globalized world more visible than ever before – events such as the spread of the Covid virus or the transverse cargo ship and the associated blockade of the Suez Canal are just two examples among many. Where the realities of everyone's lives now increasingly involve questions about forms of coexistence and climate change, these simultaneously pose new challenges to art. It seems almost impossible today to think of an artistic practice that is unaware of the conditions of its work. Certain economies, materials of modern life and labour inevitably become political. But what does the awareness of material, environment and infrastructure mean for contemporary art production and reception?

With works by Tekla Aslanishvili, Sophia Eisenhut, Giorgi Gago Gagoshidze, Katharina Keller, Georg Kliesch, Ghislaine Leung, Klara Lidén, Alina Manukyan, Charlotte Posenenske, Ed Ruscha and Gili Tal.

The exhibition takes place at Atelier- und Galeriehaus Defet aswell as the kunstbunker Nürnberg – forum für zeitgenössische Kunst.

Evelyn Kliesch