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AFRIKA

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When filming 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind', Steven Spielberg is said to have been so respectful of Francois Truffaut, who played the role of the French UFO expert, that he wouldn't dare direct him. In the scene where Truffaut's line was supposed to be "They belong here, more than we" the intimidated Spielberg accepted the first take in abstraction¹ from Truffaut's poor pronunciation of the sentence. On the next day, the stunt coordinator came to work wearing a T-shirt reading "Zay bee-long ere Mozambique".

Portrait Mode, 2011

Second-hand clothes, frame, 180 x 110 cm

Portrait Mode, 2011

Second-hand clothes, frame, 100 x 70 cm

Portrait Mode, 2011

Second-hand clothes, frame, 80 x 60 cm

Portrait Mode, 2011

Second-hand clothes, frame, 100 x 140 cm

Writers Readers Senders Receivers, 2011

Video 11'30 min

French UFO expert (Lacombe): Chris Fitzpatrick

Translator (Laughlin): Post Brothers

Subtitles of scenes and deleted scenes from the movie 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' by Steven Spielberg

Afrika (The Exhibition Poster), 2011

10 found posters, screenprint, various dimensions, exchanged daily

Abstract, 2011

glass head, fabric, 25 x 16 cm

¹ Abstraction may be formed by reducing the information content of a concept or an observable phenomenon, typically to retain only information which is relevant for a particular purpose. For example, abstracting a leather soccer ball to the more general idea of a ball retains only the information on general ball attributes and behavior, eliminating the characteristics of that particular ball.

The first symbols of abstract thinking in humans can be traced to fossils dating between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago in Africa. However, language itself, whether spoken or written, involves abstract thinking.

Abstraction uses a strategy of simplification, wherein formerly concrete details are left ambiguous, vague, or undefined; thus effective communication about things in the abstract requires an intuitive or common experience between the communicator and the communication recipient. This is true for all verbal/abstract communication.