

## EMMENLICH- A PERFORMATOVE INSTALLATION BY HABIB AFSAR (MAPS, 2016)

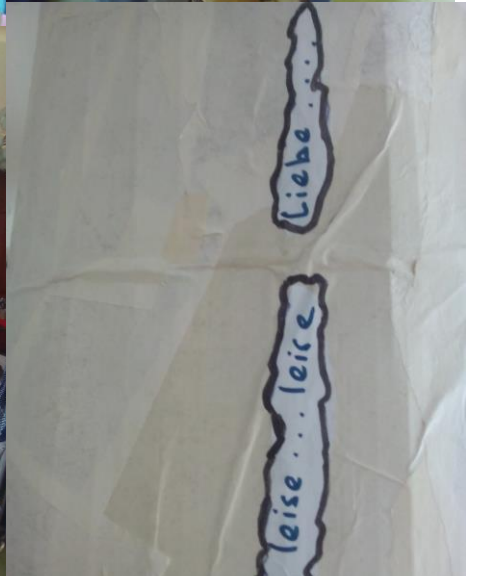
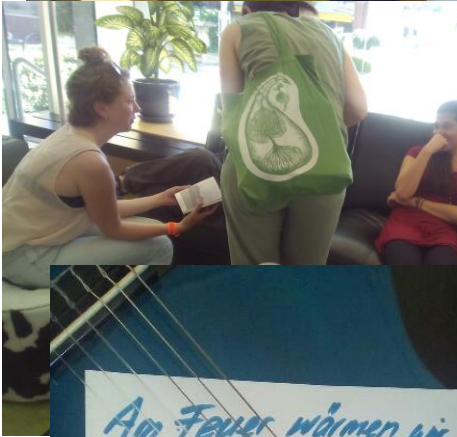


In this relational work in the form of a Performative Installation, I aimed to recreate the “safe environment” of my kitchen/art-studio in a public space, namely the Jugend Buero Office in Emmen, Luzern. Using a photographic printed collage of the real kitchen walls as a backdrop, I created the environment with furniture, plants and objects from my real kitchen and stocked myself with lots of art-material, musical instruments and refreshments.

For 10 days (16-26.6.2016) I inhabited this space and did what I usually do in my kitchen studio - eat, entertain, make art and relax. During this period, over 50 people visited the kitchen and participated in some form of art-making that included - poetry, creative writing, music and sculpture. An important outcome was the sharing of this expressive work, often with strangers. My role then essentially was to make people feel safe and comfortable enough to do so. I not only facilitated these interactions but also ensured a steady supply of tea and refreshments. What was most noticeable was that most guests spent several hours in the space.

Unfortunately by the time the local kids started to appear it was time for me to go. They had heard from word of mouth that this was a “chill space”. While the 10 days were most appropriate for establishing my presence there, I believe that the work really started then. I documented the intervention daily as a personal blog: <http://emmenlich.tumblr.com>

As a reminder of the intervention I made, and left behind on the request of my hosts, a tree sculpture of carton collaged with all the texts produced during the week and the promise to be back with another intervention whenever the chance arose.



Am Feuer wärmen wir  
uns die Hände, also komm  
rein, lass die Arbeit ruhn  
und komm rein und wärm  
dir deine Hände.  
Setz dich neben Hund und  
Kewel, reib die Hände und  
geniesse mich und die  
Wärme hier.

