

Ein Spiegel ist der See

Friedrichshafen, Uferpromenade, 2008

A text installation on PVC tarpaulin, twenty-three transparent banners, each printed with a quote; attached to the railings of the Uferpromenade; also three large text-banners, divided among three ferries, for the exhibition “Nothing to declare,” Oberschwaben Fourth Contemporary Art Triennale, April 4 to June 22

Thanks to the invitation from curator Dorothee Messmer, I discovered the natural beauty of Lake Constance. Reflective surface, refuge—I also experienced it, however, as a boundary, an end station, the status quo.

I was interested in the personal view of this place: the few long-time residents, the newly arrived, and the Swiss. They were all connected by the lake. What does the lake reflect? Borderline, beauty, or our yearning?

I heard how very much the older folks were still connected beyond the borders, and how the young are no longer. Learned about exclusion, limitations, as well as new beginnings and the love of the lake.

Sandra Wolf, excerpt from the catalogue "Nothing to declare, 4. Triennale zeitgenössischer Kunst Oberschwaben," 2008

For the Triennale, artist Karolin Bräg asked the following questions in her project, Ein Spiegel ist der See (The lake is a mirror): "How do the locals feel in their city? Is the lake a limitation, or does the wide horizon create an opening?" In addition, there are the voices from the other side: "What is the Swiss view of Friedrichshafen?"

In the artist's previous site-specific works, intense conversations also formed her basic material. Here in Friedrichshafen and its surroundings the artist also met people of different origins, education, social status, and age. Out of these conversations, the artist distilled the fact that Lake Constance is not just of central importance to the landscape, but to values and identity, as well. Condensed into single quotations printed on banners placed along the lakeside promenade and ferries, memories and sensibilities are reflected. In this way, public and private areas of life encounter each other.