

Esther Shalev-Gerz www.shalev-gerz.net
Trust and the Unfolding Dialogue

Research program

Summary

Dialogue is a basic concept but also one that is much used and abused in many fields as well as in general discourses. Although it is frequently used as a synonym for communication, or open-ended processes of various kinds, and for finding consensus, dialogue has many different forms and formats, some of which can be contentious and unpredictable. One of its conditions of possibility is the existence of trust.

This constellation has been at the centre of Esther Shalev-Gerz's work for three decades. In her projects, the Other is treated as a counterpart, someone with and through whose agency a process of sharing is developed. Her works therefore solicit an alterity, be it that of the people involved in making them or of the people looking at them. Consequently, her works are intimately bound up with an active dialogue between institutions, participants and the public.

The new research process will consist of both an art project by Esther Shalev-Gerz and an accompanying seminar program on the topic. The research project presented here is a self-reflective response and critical addendum to the artist's unfolding exploration of dialogue and trust.

This is demonstrated in the retrospective exhibition of the artist at Jeu de Paume that assembled 11 projects, in spring 2010, each one questioning different modes and forms of dialogue, which was in itself a reflective dialogical process.

The research project will be based at the Valand School of Fine Art. It will bring together selected artists and art theorists, philosophers and social scientists for seminars and discussions.

2011-01-19



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
VALAND SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS