

“Untranslatable Words” Interactive Performance by Dovrat ana Meron

I love untranslatable words because they are so specific to the culture that produce them; many of them refer to a certain emotion or state of mind, or derive from slang, others are personal. i.e. Saudade (in Portuguese), a sense of longing for places and people left behind.

“Untranslatable Words” is an interactive action in public spaces with flexible length between 30 min. to 3 h. according to the context and character of the event and the location.

I interact with people in different locations, in the street /public space, ask them to contribute untranslatable words in their mother tongue language and evoke discussion about the word’s cultural background.

I do not consider language gaps as an obstacle for fluent communication, but rather a catalyst for cultural exchange between people. I wish to re-activate the social role of public spaces. I wish create an exchange between different quarters within the city and eventually to bridge cultural gaps between different regions of one land and between countries. I hope to produce international actions and initiate a website with forum, online and printed edition of *“Untranslatable Words”* Lexicon.

“Untranslatable Words” premiered at the *“Home made Home”* Festival in Berlin 2010 it began as a participative solo performance, criticising the oil catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico and developed constantly into interactive action. Next performance at *“Exchange congress”*, part of *“Exchange, Radical Moments”*. exchangeradicalmoments.wordpress.com/events/

Dovrat ana Meron is performance artist and curator. I was born in 1972 in Israel. I live in Berlin. Between 2007 and 2009 I co-curator at ScalaMata Exhibition Space in Venice, where I, organized and coordinated interdisciplinary projects such as ‘60 seconds FreeDoMe of Movement’ (2006) *“Parallel Worlds”* (2009), art exhibition of Israeli /Jewish Artists for the European day for Jewish heritage at ScalaMata exhibition space in the Jewish Ghetto in Venice; and *“Memory space”* (2009) site specific performance series in 10 different locations at the 53 Art Biennale in Venice. I graduated in acting, theatre directing and acting teaching in Tel Aviv (2000), and continue my studies at the space strategies (Raum Strategien) Master program at the Weißensee Art school. I perform and teach internationally. The performances, *“Bringing Stars back to the Sky”* and *“The nature of a red dot”* are presented internationally (2009 Venice biennale, KoPAS Festival in Seoul and Tina B in Prague). www.arte-misia.eu



Untranslatable words at M5 differential Berlin August 2010 photo: J.Schönemann