

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND INITIATIVES BEING DISPLACED DURING *ART BASEL*? WHAT REMAINS IN THE CITY WHEN THE BUZZING OF *ART BASEL* IS OVER? WHO PROFITS FROM THE INFLUX OF VISITORS AND WHO IS FORCED TO LEAVE TOWN? WHY IS *ART BASEL* NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TACKLING URBAN PROBLEMS THEY CO-CREATE?

ONCE A YEAR BASEL IS PERFORMING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ART SCENE. EVERY WISH IS BEING GRANTED FOR THE ART FAIR'S WELL-PAYING GUESTS. UNDERPAID STAFF ARE WORKING NONSTOP TO FEED THE RICH. MANY ART INSTITUTIONS HAVE SETTLED HERE OVER THE YEARS AND HAVE A SHARE IN BASEL'S INCREASING RENTS. JUST LIKE GENEROUS GUESTS, WELL-TRAINED WORKING PERSONNEL ARE WELCOMED WHEREAS THE LOW-INCOME POPULATION IS FORCED TO MOVE OUT. REFUGEES AND PEOPLE ON THE MOVE ARE BEING ISOLATED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OR AT THE BORDER FROM WHERE MOST OF THEM ARE BEING DEPORTED. PEOPLE MOVE OUT OF THEIR FLATS FOR A WEEK TO GENERATE INCOME THAT ALLOWS THEM TO PAY THEIR HIGH RENT FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR. WHERE DO THEY GO?

BIENNALS AND ART FAIRS LIKE *ART BASEL* NOT ONLY TEMPORARILY INFLUENCE A CITYSCAPE BUT HAVE LONG LASTING EFFECTS ON LIVING STANDARDS, URBAN DESIGN AND THE CITY'S CREATIVE SCENE. THIS YEAR, THE *PARCOURS*, WHICH *ART BASEL* IS PRAISING AS A "DEEPER ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE ARTWORKS AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT" CREATING "NEW DIALOGUES AND PERSPECTIVES" IS MOVING CLOSER TO MESSEPLATZ. THEREBY, THE *PARCOURS 2024* EDITION DISPLAYS ART WORK IN VACANT STORES, BUSINESSES, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EVERYDAY PUBLIC SPACES ON CLARASTRASSE. CLARASTRASSE IS LOCATED IN KLEINBASEL, WHICH WAS AND PARTLY STILL IS CONSIDERED A WORKING-CLASS DISTRICT WHILE BASEL'S UPPER CLASSES RESIDE IN GROSSBASEL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RHINE. DISPLACEMENT PROCESSES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET IN MOTION AS THE CITY DISTRICT'S CENTRAL LOCATION ATTRACTS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT. SHOWING ART WORK IN UNDERFINANCED SHOPS THAT ARE ENDANGERED BY GENTRIFICATION IS SOCIAL WASHING. THE ART FAIR'S PRESENCE IS AMONG THE REASONS WHY IT HAS BECOME ATTRACTIVE TO BUY BUILDINGS AT CLARASTRASSE AND "UPGRADE" THE SURROUNDINGS. WHO ARE THE PROFITEERS WHEN THE SOCIOECONOMICALLY DIVERSE CLARASTRASSE IS SUBJECTED TO A CURATORIAL CONCEPT FOR A WEEK? WHO HAS A SAY IN HOW PUBLIC SPACES ARE BEING CURATED AND DESIGNED?