

GHOSTS, TRACES, ECHOES: WORKS IN SHIFTS

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Bodies that produce works are also the bodies that carry memories. Memories of skill, memories of belonging, memories of displacement, memories of resistance, memories of exclusion and memories of precarity. They play a crucial role in shaping the constellations that provide labour in service of the present time. Thus, the stories of work defy any linear chronology and continuously moves between past, present and future, and also lay in the niches between these phases in time.

Works in Shifts responds to this phenomenon by placing three research art projects as consecutive layers in the show - Ghosts appear in October, Traces are drawn in December and Echoes are made in January. Each project deals with an autonomous chapter of labor histories in the Ruhrgebiet between 1970 and 1990. These lesser acknowledged parts of political histories and public memories are trailed along the lines of creative and artistic legacies of the working class - performance element in the women's protest against de-industrialisation in Hattingen, literary action of the Turkish workers in Duisburg and the music of black female trade unionist Fasia Jansen. Installed like palimpsest layers through hanging screens, the autonomous chapters sometimes partly obscure the other narratives but more often create a dialogue between diverse histories.

The archive-based works are preceded by two artworks related to precarious labor sited on the streets at the time of pandemic - Momentography of a Failure, a workshop based rendition on the working conditions of the food delivery workers in Cologne; and Walking Away, a found image project on wage workers turning homeless in the cities of India.

Film-Work is a compilation of moving image narratives on various registers of labor. The package represents different film conventions and narrative styles that have evolved through the 125 years of cinema history.

Co-curator: Eva Busch

Artists: Abeer Gupta, Aline Benecke, Kathrin Ebemeier, Marko Salapura, Momentography of a Failure, Nesrin Tanç.