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Intro Call Un_University

In preparation for the *Un_University / Un_Universität* feature in this e-Journal, we put out a call to students from the TransArts department who had shown particular interest during a two-day platform on the subject at the University of Applied Arts Vienna in April 2016. The three texts submitted are included here:

Marlene Lahmer
Unterrichtssprache – Working Language

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Yen Noh – Acting Together

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Jianan Qu – A Gentle Rawness

Marlene Lahmer, who has only just begun the TransArts course, focuses on the role of language in the art context from the viewpoint of her language studies at Vienna University. Yen Noh, whose TransArts MA dealt with language performance as a decolonial aesthetics and who is now studying East-West differences in Japan, proposes

an archival approach to thinking and action as a method of collective art practice. And Jianan Qu, who is studying both at Linz University of Art and Design and at Vienna's University of Applied Arts, inquires into modes of teaching, research and communication in performative artistic expression.

Language plays a key role in all three pieces, partly in the artistic practice of the authors, but also quite explicitly in their reflection on teaching language/s at art universities. Is German or English spoken in teaching and training situations, and why not other languages? Which privileges and forms of exclusion does this involve, what potential lies in a multiplicity of languages, and where is meaning potentially lost in translation? The issue of understanding / misunderstanding / incomprehension and the underlying structures that influence our ability (or inability) to perceive and grasp knowledge, is a question that extends from production to reception. This is and remains an explicitly political question – one we encourage our readers here to explore.

Translation from the German: Nicholas Grindell