

NO SUCH THINGS GROW HERE



- Press Release -

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A temporary art project by Susi Gelb in the public space of the city of Munich

date: 21 July - 21 August 2017
location: Max-Joseph-Platz, Odeonsplatz, Lenbachplatz Munich

press meeting: Friday 21 July 2017, 11:00, Max-Joseph-Platz
opening: Friday 21 July 2017, 19:00

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City of Munich
**Department of
Arts and Culture**



NO SUCH THINGS GROW HERE is a project created by the Munich artist Susi Gelb. It will be on show from 21 July to 21 August 2017 in the public space of Munich's city centre.

Over a period of four weeks, multimedia installations will be growing on three city squares: Odeonsplatz, Max-Joseph-Platz and Lenbachplatz. In this urban exhibition concept, tropical plants, sculptural works and intelligent materials are arranged in hybrid formations, an amalgam that forms an unfamiliar and at the same time experiential biosphere. An oversized LED screen lights up above Max-Joseph-Platz; on Odeonsplatz a tropical palm tree rises up from the cobblestone; and on Lenbachplatz stand set pieces showing a banana plantation.

A film made specifically for the project is at the heart of this urban intervention. Played as a loop on the LED screen, the film carries us off to Susi Gelb's world of research: The video acts like a window, a means of hyper vision. Time becomes space. Based on Susi Gelb's artistic exploration, the video brings together her profound ideas, thoughts and research of the past years:

Panta rhei ~ all things are in flux in this time-based medium ~ a shimmering drop of water on the head of an eagle that lifts off and flies through a jungle-like woods to a stream ~ gurgling water in slow motion ~ the oscillating, perpetually changing colours and patterns of the Belousov-Zhabotinsky reaction ~ a snake swimming in clear turquoise water ~ crystallization processes ~ a lizard runs across a keyboard ~ reaction diffusion ~ patterns on the reptile skin

This is where we become explorers on a visual expedition. Flowing, mysterious and seductive, an albino snake takes us to scenes that are almost unreal – there are no such things. It is an inspiring exploration of the unknown and forgotten secrets of nature and the animal world, in which metaphysical processes from alchemy and science are shrouded in a pulsing strangeness.

Susi Gelb's environments conceptualize nature as a medium and question the existing categories of "natural" and "artificial". The artist creates a living setting which has, to a certain extent, an independent existence. At the centre of the installation on Max-Joseph-Platz are smart materials that change their properties of their own accord, adapting to the changing surrounding conditions. In the process, the intelligent materials come to form a second natural cosmos. The processes and energy conversions at work in the material give rise to one another through their interaction and begin to communicate to the plants, animals and human beings around them. The artist's choice of materials is timeless, and tension is deliberately created through unusual combinations of material.



The complex steps of Gelb's process resemble an elaborate root system that has no linear narrative and no hierarchies. Rather, this network consists of many cross-references that are grounded in a number of different areas of expertise, knowledge and research.

Susi Gelb's installations speak to the audience's senses. Employing a very unique artistic language, she creates multimedia landscapes which weave together the most diverse elements, inexorably casting a spell over the visitor's sense of vision, touch and smell. The mysterious title NO SUCH THINGS GROW HERE is an invitation to explore Susi Gelb's world of research and its boundless possibilities.

The three installation venues were chosen in a way that would allow a tension to arise between them. The artist deliberately chose high-traffic locations, places that are characterized by a high energy potential of their own. The arrangement, of plants, organisms and intelligent materials that constitute the artist's intellectual cosmos, is further energized by the streams of passers-by and lingering visitors, and yet is also rendered an inner-city oasis of calm.

Munich looks back on a long tradition of art in the public space. More than almost any other city, Munich has placed great value on art in the urban space and has been funding projects for many years. Susi Gelb's project was selected in a competition by invitation organized by an expert panel appointed by the city and will be on show for four weeks in Munich's city centre during the summer of 2017.

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