

Johannes Burr

## KREDIT #1-2

Chainfilms and other Collaborations

//working for others//



KREDIT #1. Videostills from the chainfilm, Berlin 2006

10. March – 14. April 2007

OPENING RECEPTION	Fr	March 9, 2007	19:00
CLOSING RECEPTION	Sa	April 14, 2007	19:00

For this exhibition in progress at arttransponder, the Swiss artist Johannes Burr switched sides and has taken on the role of a banker. As mobile credit bank he travelled through the *Rosenthaler Vorstadt* in search of a new creditor.

There was another Swiss person in the same area in 1843: in the service of Bettina von Arnim, the 24 year old Heinrich Grunholzer wandered through the first proletarian poor ghetto of Berlin, in order to draw up "Sozialreport" (Report on Social Conditions) based on month long research, intended to be brought before the King. The experience, an awakening for him, transformed Grunholzer without further ado from an honorary constable into a person handing out alms.

Johannes Burrs participatory video project is, however, not about alms but rather about the right to receive credit which we, with our varied abilities, require for the realisation of projects and about the trust between credit giver and credit taker. It is about an exploration into divergent social contexts and networks, conditions determining art developing from everyday life and into the functioning of plural authorship.

The medium for the realisation of the project is a suitcase labelled KREDIT. A video camera, videotapes and contract preprints can be found therein. Johannes Burr hands out the camera as credit to a person with the contractual requirement that the suitcase is to be handed over after seven days, at the latest, to a new, freely selected person and to have made a film together with him or her. Four tasks must be realized during the process. In this his way, the suitcase circulates through the world and comes back to the bank after being used by seven people, full of interest in the form of film material. The added value accruing through these interactions, is however not limited to the video tapes the artist post produces, but involve the social interactions that would not have taken place without the project, challenging the creative abilities and potential of the users.

In the exhibition at arttransponder will show the first series of chain films produced in this way while a new film develops in the neighbourhood surrounding the exhibition space. This will be shown in steps. The visitor experiences the every day in the surrounding neighborhood through the eyes of the protagonists and will be invited to react to this in the next KREDIT circulation. One part of the exhibition will function as a laboratory and information space wherein other projects and initiatives regarding the theme; alternative economies, collaborations, grass roots organisation as well as art and money may present themselves.

A catalogue regarding the project is planned for the end of May.

Johannes Burr studied visual art in Berlin, London and Moscow. Completed Master Studies with Rebecca Horn in Berlin. Lives and works in Berlin and Basel