

g e o r g k l e i n

G N A D E | M E R C Y



**Installation + Intervention
in public space and a representative building**

A: Media Altar of Mercy
in Castle Schwetzingen (near Mannheim/Frankfurt)
6 channel sound-video-installation with scenes of grace
out of Mozarts opera "La Clemenza di Tito"
With a text by Walter Benjamin and
8 stories of suicide victims out of the financial world

B: Four writings of the word GNADE / MERCY
with sound interaction in front of institutions of financial power (city of Mannheim):
Commerzbank (Alter Messplatz/Schimperstr.)
Job Center / Arbeitsamt (Bismarckring/Ifflandstr.)
SignalIduna Insurance (Vorplatz Hauptbahnhof)
Deutsche Bank (P7, Wasserturm)

Nationaltheater Mannheim / Mozartsommer 2012
1st - 8th July 2012

In Mozart's life "mercy / grace" plays a big role as in his work. In the transition time from aristocratic society to an autonomic civil society with their ideas of freedom and equality, Mozart was one of the first artists, who tried to be self-determined. And in his work Mozart made "grace to his general orientation. Grace and autonomy are fighting, mixing and interfusing there: two times, two political systems, two philosophies" (Ivan Nagel).

The project GNADE | MERCY brings this old-fashioned term in a modern environment. This word appears in public space in big golden letters, gaining an actual and provoking diagnosis: it looks like we have left a society where the subject is addicted to favor and mercy of the sovereign. But since some years new "financial" aristocrats grew up, renewing the old structures of grace. The disposers of capital are granting credit and financial support - or may be not - and are dictating the conditions. Whether as an unemployed asking for welfare, as a small credit receiver at a bank, or as a big insolvent company or even insolvent nations - favor and mercy are playing an important role.



Or may be it's the opposite - to be merciless - which is marking capitalism? With this aspect the second part of the intervention and installation is dealing in the baroque castle of Schwetzingen: there in a media altar of mercy all elements of past and current forms of grace are mixed up, using scenes of grace out of Mozart's opera "La Clemenza di Tito / The mercy of Tito". 8 reports of suicide in the global financial world from China, USA, India, Germany, England, Italy and Greece, and a text fragment of Walter Benjamin analysing the "cult of debt" in capitalism are part of the installation. In this grace altar the existential side of grace is coming out, during in the city of Mannheim - in front of the banks and other institutions of financial power - an ironic and critical side of the word GNADE | MERCY appears in public space.

< text screen in front of the kneeler with the stories of suicide victims

media altar of mercy >

