

## Obituary

ZMO mourns the death of Daniela Swarowsky (1960-2019). Daniela was an Austrian filmmaker and artist who lived and worked in Vienna, New York, Rotterdam, and since 2010, in Berlin. Her artistic and curatorial work involved bringing together people of different backgrounds and approaches, be it in electronic music, in a neighbourhood project in Rotterdam, or – in her most recent work – through universal questions around migration and imaginaries of a better life, which she tackled in numerous films, public debates and art-projects. In 2009, ZMO was glad to show *Egypt:Austria*, part of her film-trilogy *Messages from Paradise – About the Permanent Longing for Elsewhere* (44 min) in cooperation with *uqbar* in Berlin. In this film, dreamers of migration (in Egypt) meet migrants that have actually lived their dreams and now have to cope with Vienna in real life.



From 2010 to 2014 Daniela was curator researcher at ZMO for the research/art project *In Search of Europe* (ISOE). Daniela was the artistic curator in a group with six researchers who examined inter alia what if invoking or moving to “Europe” were in fact not about Europe? In this framework she developed together with Samuli Schielke “Our Foreign Agenda” in Alexandria (Egypt) and Dakar (Senegal) consisting of different films and audio-pieces. As a

cultural producer she brought together tandems of researchers and artists mostly from the countries of the researchers’ focus. The ensuing artworks approach the question to what degree Europe still is a standard against which people in other parts of the world measure themselves. The successful exhibition was shown in 2013 in Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien. Daniela was also co-editor of the exhibition book *In Search of Europe? Art and Research in Collaboration. An Experiment*, (Heijningen: Jap Sam Books, 2013) in English, Arabic, Turkish, Portuguese, French and German.

Daniela moved many of us to think about the worlds of art and research and re-think twice the all too frequently used term ‘auf Augenhöhe’ (at eye level). Her work has been shown in Europe, the U.S., Canada, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Senegal.

Daniela remained an always interested and outgoing colleague for many at ZMO and beyond. Already during her illness her home(s) became a welcoming meeting point for refugees who interacted with ZMO. On June 1st, Daniela Swarowsky died at home after a long illness with breast cancer. She has left us too early. We deeply empathize with her husband and her family.

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