

I2: People open doors

Aaron:

Hello, we are Uma and Aaron and as part of the research module "Access - Questions of Access" at the UdK Berlin we spoke with Lucy Fricke. Lucy Fricke is an author and deals with different aspects of the topic of class and justice in her texts. In this context, we were allowed to ask Lucy Fricke various questions related to her text "Fish Factory" published in the anthology "Class and Struggle". We asked Lucy to read out a few passages from the text and now we will start with the first passage from the text Fish Factory. Before we move on to the questions.

Lucy Fricke:

"There should be no betrayal, no self-pity, no false pride. A clever writer once told me that the best texts are written after the parents are dead. And that's probably true. I made the mistake of thinking. Perhaps one could write about one's own origins. Maybe it would be if I could be ruthless and if I hadn't strayed so far from my former world, my former self. But then no one would have had the idea of asking me to write such a text. Then I wouldn't be writing at all, but would still be standing in a fish factory in an outlying district of Hamburg. Only now that I think I have escaped it, that I have managed the so-called ascent, do I dare, now that I am invited to receptions, award ceremonies, dinner parties where the feeling of being a stranger nevertheless does not disappear. I don't trust it, the seat I'm sitting in. I desperately wanted to sit.

Uma:

What associations do you see between the concept of the key and the questions of access? Perhaps you can tell an anecdote about the key?

Lucy Fricke:

I didn't think of that much right now. I just thought about keys again for a moment. The first thing I thought was: it's just so incredibly old-fashioned, the keys we still have here in Germany or in Berlin. So they really have a haptic key that you can touch. I was just with friends in Hanoi and they open their flat door with a fingerprint, and I only got a little chip as a guest. And even hotels or something have these cards or some kind of numerical codes or something. So you don't really open anything with a key any more, except the flat door, which is incredibly bulky. It's really stupid when friends come to visit or stay over when I'm not here. So there's the constant problem of having to leave the key somewhere. You have to send it off, leave it in shops, in boxes. I think the key is just totally outdated in that form. So it's more like it blocks access than it opens it. I feel like it's so tied to me as a person. I have a key and if I want to let someone else into the flat with me, then I have to have keys made for a lot of money. Instead of just saying, "You can enter 4378." For me it's somehow much better. That it's more open. That you can open your own door for more people who can also just stay in the flat when I'm not there. Or I'm away for a longer time and someone says, "I have to sleep somewhere in Berlin." And I say, "Yes, but now I'm in Greece." How do I do it with the key? So it's always a barrier somehow.

Uma:

Yes, many, many thanks for the anecdote. It definitely fits in well with our research module and also with the introduction. Many, many thanks!