Exhibiting: From the Event to the Document and its Remediation

Project Report
Unlike many art works, theater plays, or films, exhibitions are hardly ever re-installed, re-shown or repeated. They are often conceived as one-time events with a beginning and an end. An occasion that relies on live experience as much as on documentation and forms of remediation. At the same time the majority of artworks and exhibitions are nowadays (A tendency initially triggered by the invention of photography and augmented and amplified by digitization) first encountered as “reproductions”, as document, online or in catalogues and magazines. Furthermore artists as well as curators recently started to refer to, to re-stage and re-construct not only moments of art history but also exhibition histories. Taking a series of exhibitions as a starting point the research project will reflect upon their relation to documentation and the role of documentation for their afterlife as well as our approach to archiving. The latter is particularly crucial when it comes to re-mediating and teaching, such as in the context of my assignment at the Kunstakademiet. It proved essential to create an archive of images and materials providing alternative access to standardized, official press material and regulated selections of installation views, often emphasizing the architecture while details as well as the physical, haptic experience of the exhibition situation are dismissed as background. The grant allowed for a first step in this direction; furthermore it founded the basis for an ongoing research and reflection on the aftermath of the ephemeral, the documentation of time-bound or temporal events as well as a critical rethinking of the ‘re-enactment’ and ‘re-mediation’ of exhibitions– in particular in relation to the newly emerging fields of exhibition histories.

Research Outcome
• Material for courses in the field of exhibition practice, theory and history, ongoing
• Resident at the Goethe Institute in Salvador da Bahia, 2016
• Re-Visiting the Bahia Bienniał, research project and lecture, 2016
• Lecture at Segunda Vez Open Semianr, organised by Dora Garcia, 2017
  http://segundavezsegundavez.com/films/
• Readings of an installation view, essay with Grant Watson, in: “Re-editing the Manual of Travelling Exhibitions” edited by Andreas Müller et al., upcoming