



Learned Homeland

A project by Martin Krenn & Oliver Ressler

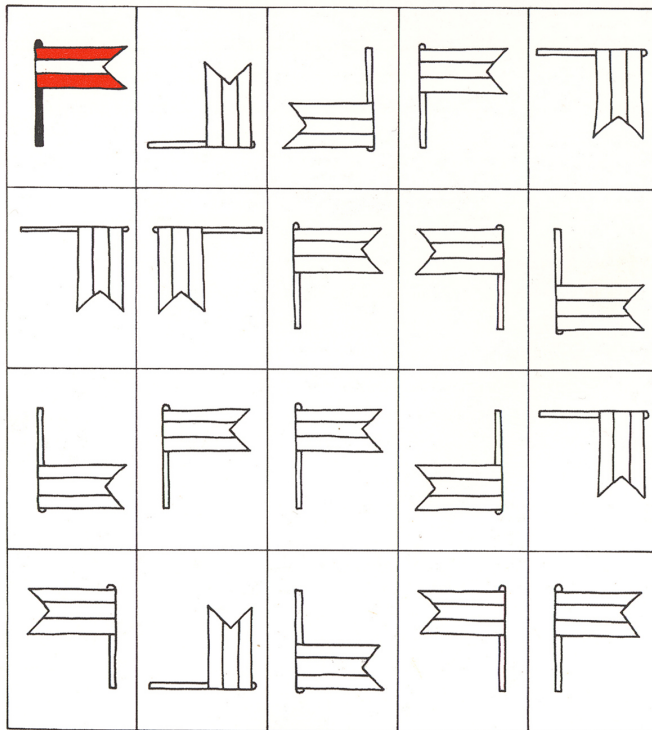
Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, 17.12.1996 – 12.01.1997

Billboard-object at the Main Square of Graz, 03.12.1996 – 12.01.1997

In Austria, the concept of homeland is implemented not only regionally but also on a supra-regional and state level. This is meant to facilitate and force the citizens' emotional attachment to the state. This type of manipulation already takes place in the institution school. "Learned Homeland" ("Gelernte Heimat") attempts to illustrate these "nativizing strategies" with Austrian school books. The construction of "homeland" is particularly vivid in school books.



GELERNT



Suche diese Fahnen und male sie an!

38



Das weiß ich schon - Lesen zum Sachunterricht mit Arbeitsblättern, 2. Schulstufe (S. 38), Wien: Jugend und Volk, (1975) 1991

HEIMAT

Neue Galerie
am Landesmuseum Joanneum
Sackstraße 16, 8010 Graz
Tel. 0316/829155, Fax 0316/815401

Graz

"Learned Homeland", invitation card, 1996

In creating collective identities through the concept of homeland, the "own" is always valued against the "other" and in this way demarcated from it. The "own" history is glorified, or even falsified. "Natural beauty" is pulled in for symbolization and concretization of the "Austria homeland" and used to produce a sense of the citizens' ties to the "homeland."

Through the early influence of the state school institution on the pupils, equating Austria with homeland is deemed natural. This leads to a situation in which an obviously constructed sense of homeland is seen as a natural fundamental human necessity and is hardly ever questioned.



"Learned Homeland", Neue Galerie, billboard-object at the Main Square of Graz, 1996

Poster object at the main square:

Two school book pages expanded with blocks of text and an announcement of the exhibition in the Neue Galerie animated observers to confront the construction of a concept homeland, using their own school experiences. Interviews with passers-by reading the texts on the posters were carried out and recorded on video.



"Learned Homeland", Neue Galerie, billboard-object at the Main Square of Graz, 1996



"Learned Homeland", Neue Galerie, billboard-object at the Main Square of Graz, 1996

Exhibition in the Neue Galerie:

In the first room of the exhibition, the video documentation of the reactions of those passing by and reading the posters was shown. On display in the next two rooms were twelve digital prints, which discussed further examples of homeland constitution found in the school textbooks.

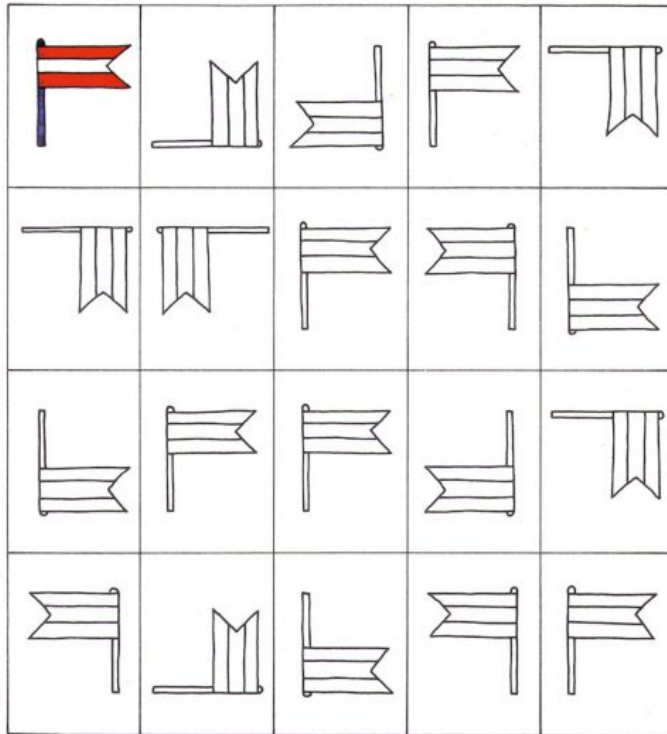


"Learned Homeland", Neue Galerie, Graz, 1996

In the fourth room the video "Learned Homeland – Working Talks" ("Gelernte Heimat – Arbeitsgespräche") was presented. This video includes theorists from Austria and Germany who have published texts on racism and homeland.

Interviews were carried out with: Jost Müller, Nora Räthzel, Juliane Rebentisch, Mark Terkessidis, Vera Kockot, Herbert Nikitsch/Bernhard Tschofen and Walter Manoschek.

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H E I M A T

The conversations expand the content of the theme by pointing out the relationship between homeland and racism in Austria and Germany.