

## Erzählen Sie IHRE GESCHICHTE / Tell YOUR STORY

### Project in the public transport

for: Log.in (netz/kunst/werke), Institute of Modern Art, public space: Nuremberg/Fürth/Erlangen/Schwabach, Germany 2000

The exhibition *log.in.netz/kunst/werke* (=net/art/works) used the infrastructure of an area in south-east Germany for half a year as a platform for artistic interventions centred on four towns; Nuremberg, Fürth, Erlangen and Schwabach. On one hand, internet projects planned to relate cyberspace back to real space and on the other hand projects were used to thematise the linking together of people. My project, *Erzählen Sie IHRE GESCHICHTE* (Tell YOUR STORY), rested on the idea that fast



and efficient transport has become the main function of public space. Hardly anyone spends time there unless they are consuming. Communication has receded into the background. Private transport contributes largely to the isolation of the city dwellers, whilst public transport provides an opportunity to talk to fellow travellers.

I made announcements for the public transport passengers to write down their stories which would then be disseminated in an effort to reanimate and provoke the desire for storytelling and listening. I informed the passengers about this participative event using posters on public transport, asking them to write stories about their daily trips. From the fifty plus stories I received, I selected eight which were then distributed to read in public transport. Posters on the windows, each with a single quotation, were used to build interest for the stories. The final action was a pre-Christmas tram journey, complete with mulled wine, to which all the authors were invited. The public transport services provided a website where the stories were published. With this action I hope to have reactivated an experiential level through the more conscious perception of the daily journey.

