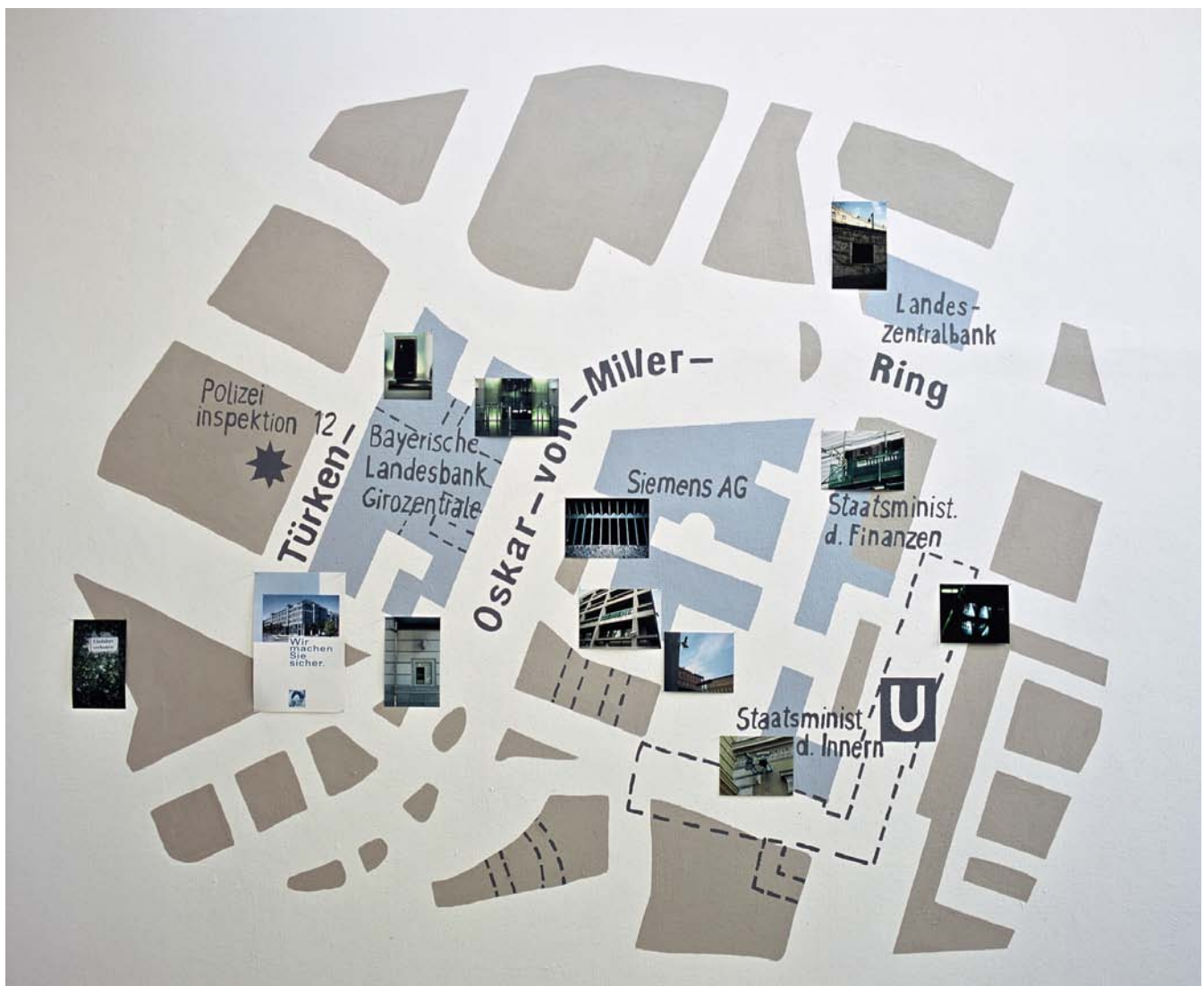


Mit Sicherheit in München – eine Sonderermittlung Riskless in Munich – a special investigation

Guided tours: "special investigations", wall painting with photographs and found footage
Exchange & transform (Arbeitstitel), Kunstverein München, Munich/Germany 2002

Under this banner and within the framework of the exhibition "Exchange & Transform (working title)", Pia Lanzinger initiated a critical observation of the subject of law and order with all its effects and repercussions. Her project can be subdivided into three sections that pursued different medial strategies but were related to each other: an installation in the Kunstverein, a folding map of the city, and guided tours through Munich's inner city. The installation was made up of a wall depiction that focused on centre city details: areas, places and institutions at which certain types of security measures have accumulated. During the four-month exhibit, this layout served Pia Lanzinger as a kind of pin board on which she arranged the photos, objects and newspaper clippings that resulted from her research. The city map – made up to resemble an x-ray – shows the chosen focal points in their urban context and, in addition, indicates where surveillance cameras and web cams are located. At the core of the work was a reconnaissance-like guided tour that, under the concept of a special investigation with groups of an average of fifteen people, gave the whole a participative as well as a performative content.

On six Wednesdays at 1:30 pm the Kunstverein served as the starting point and meeting place for the artist as tour guide and a group of those interested in personal safety. The city tour as an artistic format required of the initiator, Pia Lanzinger, great communication and presentation abilities. During the research that led to her choice of the different locations, instinct, a detective-like skill and tact were crucial. A delicate subject such as this naturally provokes a suspicion that,



for security reasons, not all the information is being made available. Pia Lanzinger coaxed interesting facts, opinions and stories out of her opposite numbers on the security precautions taken by the institution in question, as well as on their safety ideologies. She opened doors, for instance, to the high security tract of the Bavarian Landesbank or to police records, doors that normally remain closed. During the tour, Pia Lanzinger was in demand as a moderator who tactfully mediated between the questions of the visitors and the replies given them, and yet wanted to see the participants' most burning questions answered. For her the issue is less the transmission of knowledge as the creation of an open dialogue via the special investigation format.

Each of the locations visited took its own security precautions – whether visibly or not – and had its individual security maxim: the state chancellery, the Kunstverein, the American Consulate, the Bavarian State Bank, the police, a school of self-defense, etc.

Where does security start and where does it end? Is there a natural need for security and where does it get perverted? When do security measures begin to become threatening instead of reassuring? One example is the incursions of the Black Sheriffs in the Munich subway. This kind of discrepancy is what drives Pia Lanzinger's special investigations and provokes questions and discussions. *Katharina Schlieben*

