

Christa Donner

The ReDistribution of Curiosity

In the spirit of the keepers of sixteenth-century Kunst- und Wunderkammern, I am drawn to the spaces between ignorance and knowledge, seeking to translate and transform sensory phenomena that exist beyond language. By its nature, the archive is carefully and systematically organized, bringing a sense of structure and order to the chaos of the natural world. As increasingly vast amounts of specialized data are collected and stored there, this collected knowledge also attains a growing measure of unknowableness: any serious researcher can become familiar only with a small fraction of its contents, and for non-specialists outside the institution there is very little access to its contents at all. This situation opens up new opportunities for curiosity and wonder once again within our ordered archives.

My work with the MPIWG began with a series of conversations with scholars working in diverse areas of research, from medieval medicines to early computer graphics. Through this process I collected and responded to a personal archive of images and ideas, while also considering the complex role(s) of imagery throughout the history of science. The act of drawing has the capacity to

abstract and ambiguate any sense of time, space, scale, and origin of this source material, allowing for creative recategorization, unexpected visual connections and the emergence of new narratives. The ReDistribution of Curiosity takes place in the process of reproducing and sharing this reconfigured collection as a series of 20 postcards, allowing images inspired by selected subjects to be easily circulated within and beyond the MPI community. It is a project that can only be completed with your participation.

Christa Donner

is a multimedia artist exploring sensory experience and social structures. Her work is exhibited internationally, including projects for the Museum Bellerive (Zurich, Switzerland), BankArt NYK (Yokohama, Japan), the Anti Festival (Kuopio, Finland), Chiaki Kamikawa Contemporary Art (Paphos, Cyprus), the Horst Janssen Museum (Oldenburg, Germany), Centro Columbo Americano (Medellin, Colombia), and throughout the United States.

Donner was Artist-in-Residence at MPIWG from September 2015 – January, 2016.

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