

LÜ 5/06 Sofia Hultén: Events With Unknown Outcome

04. - 28. May 2006, Opening: 4. May, 7pm

Participatory observation is a method of research (...), analysing either the behaviour (direct observation) or the effects of the behaviour (indirect observation) of the object of investigation (of a person or a group of people) (...) No matter whether the monitoring is participative or non-participative, with sociological observations one differentiates between open and hidden observations, which is often much more conclusive for the result.

When observing openly, the presence of the researcher is known to the test person(s), when observing undercover, the test person(s) should not be aware of the participation of the observer. The codex of behaviour of social researcher enjoins (implicit), to prefer open monitoring if possible, because understandably enough it is unfair to carry out a survey without the knowledge of the investigated person. Still, sometimes a hidden observation is unalterable, because it is proven that test persons behave differently when they know that they are monitored (...). On the other hand, personal involvement of the survey manager in the observed scenario bears the danger, that the aimed at, preferably objective realizations will be superimposed or falsified by subjective experiences.

Article *Participatory Observation* (excerpt), Wikipedia

In the frontier watchtower Sofia Hultén presents a four-part video as a result of her observations in the adjoining park. Four monitors extend the panopticon of the view below on the second floor of the former watchtower. In the frames of the windows and monitors, present blends with past, real with staged. The viewer cannot withdraw from the perspective, becomes an observer, begins to speculate on the significance of the happenings in the park. In the end the same applies to observations and incidents in the park: They are events with unknown outcome.

Other works by Sofia Hultén may be seen in the exhibitions *Homework* in the Gagosian Gallery Berlin and *Vorläufige Durchsuchung* in the Akademie der Künste (Gagosian Gallery Berlin, Auguststraße 50 A, Tue – Sat 12 – 6pm; until 28.05.2006; Akademie der Künste, Hansseatenweg 10, hall 3, Tue – Sat 2 – 8pm; until 21.05.2006).