

Wolfgang Temmel Eine Kunstgeschichte

Ein Listasaga

Síðan ég varð listamaður get ég ekki hætt að hugsa um listina. Ég er varla vaknaður - stundum er það á morgnana, stundum ekki - þá fer ég strax að velta listinni fyrir mér. Ég spyr síðan sjálfan mig þessarar spurningar: "Hvaða list gætir þú skapað í dag?"

Nú, og síðan fer ýmislegt um huga minn. Það eru jú svo margir möguleikar. Ég meina, að velja einn úr hinu fjölbreytilega úrvali möguleika, að taka einn fram yfir aðra, það er alls ekki svo einfalt.

Jæja, og svo vel ég einmitt einn og byrja að vinna að honum og með hann. Og einhverntíma segi ég sem svo: "Nú er eiginlega komið nóg."

Inkuru y'ubhanzi

Kuva aho mbereye umuhanzi, ubuhanzi ntibukimva mu mutwe. Mfa guhaguruka – akenshi ni mu gitondo, akenshi oya – ngahita ntangira gutekereza iby'ubuhanzi.

Ubwo nkibaza nti: "Ushobora gukora buhanzi ki uyu munsu?"

Ubwo ngatekereza ibintu byinshi mu mutwe. Hari uburyo bwinshi cyane bushoboka. Ndashaka kuvuga ko bitoroshye nabusa guhitamo, gutoranya mu buryo bwinshi mba mfite.

Ubwo nyine, ngeraho ngafatamo bumwe, hanyuma ngatangira umurimo wanjye kuri bwo, hamwe na bwo.

*Ni uko bikagera ubwo ngira nti:
"Nibyo, ubu birahagije."*

Storja wahda tal-arti

Kemm ilni artist l-arti dejjem kienet fi hsiebi. Hekk kif nistenbah - xi drabi fil-ghodu kif ukoll f'xi waqtiet ohra - nibda nahseb fuq l-arti.

Nistaqsi lili nnifsi:

"Liema arti ser issawwar illum?"

Imbagħad jiguni hafna hsebijiet f'moħhi. L-ghazla hija tassew kbira.

Nistqarr li mhix haga hafifa biex naghzel wahda mill-varjeta hekk kbira t'ghazliet li nilmah quddiemi.

Insomma, imbagħad naghzel wahda u nibda nahdem fuqha u magħha.

U f'hin minnhom ngħid bejn u bejn ruhi:

"Issa lesta tassew."

In 1983 the Austrian artist Wolfgang Temmel wrote an art history. This work is a concentrated text consisting of a few lines and represents nothing but the description of the creative process — no more and no less.

There is the claim that art is energy in its most beautiful form and — by agreeing with this assertion — Temmel affirms the existence of art, as he is convinced of its positive force. It is irrelevant here that art and its diverse manifestations in the varied cultures on this planet have in part a totally different social context.

It is the description of creative thought and action in simple and reduced language that raises this text beyond its cultural context and gives it a general validity — over and above all cultural borders.

Arsmvltisqvasilingvaalienamortva

This text was chiseled into a marble slab and constituted the sole content of a work created by Temmel in 1981 ("Art for many is something like a dead foreign language"), and with it he hit upon a clear, and thoroughly ironic, statement on the readability and comprehensibility of codes.

To translate An art history in all possible written/standard languages represents a further step in this work and has turned into an enormous project, as it is the (mad) attempt to make the impossible feasible: as for one thing, there is the impossibility of the authentic translation of a text from one language to another, and for another, approximately 2000 written/standard languages exist worldwide today...

In spite of this or rather for this very reason, Temmel has dedicated himself since 1983 to this project.

War of the Languages

'The limits of my language' mean the limits of my world. (Wittgenstein)

Languages are going to disappear — like plants in rain forests — even before they have been discovered. The hegemony of only a few languages at the end of this millennium is pure colonialism, with the difference that this language colonialism has absolutely no interest in other languages, does not want to enrich itself on them or see them as enrichment, aside from a few adapted terms which pepper each of these hegemonic languages like an exotic spice (... the outlook for English is very favorable: it will be used as the Web language and eventually be the only language left). With only a few languages ruling the world, the project "An Art History" is a counterpoint and surfaces on the WWW like an exotic alien being.