

A GUIDEBOOK TO LIFE ELSEWHERE



C.A.T. CONTENT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SNIPPETS

MACHINE

PLANETARY CONCERT

01

Margit Busch



What are those
muppets up to today
then?

TIPPA

an alien thing to become familiar

machine

- an assemblage of parts that transmit forces, motion, and energy one to another in a pre-determined manner
- a mechanically, electrically, or electronically operated device for performing a task

Selected definitions for 'machine'
from Merriam-Webster online dictionary

TIPPA

An old typewriter, small, not heavy (approx. 6.5 kg). It is made for travelling, it is called TIPPA. It has 4 x 12 keys + the blank key. It was developed and produced in Erlangen by P. Gossen & Co GmbH around 1950 and sold in Braunschweig by Walter Hellstern Büromaschinen. I can't remember how it ended up in my possession. Flea market, probably. I got in Germany, brought it to Vienna and took it with me to Ukraine. 6.5 kg, mainly metal. The colour ribbon is raddled and so the machine needs specific care and attention when you use it. It is a wilful machine.

Meanwhile it broke. I will repair it, but for now I have to use another typewriter to make these notes. I have several typewriters. I like typewriters.

ENVIRONMENT

We were in the woods ... not exactly, but a place far from modern Western urban civilisation. Pasture land, granges here and there in the distance. No electricity, water from the well. A shepherd with his herd, sheep and goats, passed by in the morning. A typewriter is an alien body in such an environment. Some adaptations were necessary. A place to sit and a kind of table to turn the typewriter into a useable machine. The question was how to adapt to the place and how to adapt the place to create a temporary home.

USING THE
MACHINE

A typewriter does nothing if nobody types on it. It is not like modern machines which are operated by electricity. It is a machine which always needs an operator to fulfill its purpose, to act as a machine. No auto correction, correcting typewriting is difficult anyway. Independent from content a typewriter conveys a lot about the user (typing pressure, concentration, spelling abilities ...) - involuntarily. The machine influences thoughts indiscernibly. Rhythm, sound, interruptions to fix the colour ribbon, getting annoyed about misspelling. The result of typing is immediately materialised, no printer needed. Signs on paper, thoughts on paper. Thoughts fished out of a billion others, thoughts transformed into words, into letters on paper.

A typewriter's sound might never have been heard in these surroundings and probably never will be heard again. The typewriter is not of our time.

(BIO)SEMIOTICS
OR BUBBLES OF MEANINGS

A typewriter probably means nothing to a sheep, except an obstacle it could stumble over. As for an insect it might constitute a metallic landscape, possibly dangerous when in action. Different bubbles of meanings for one and the same thing.

This attachment of different meanings to objects in the environment should be also assumed for different kind of C.A.T.s. An oligarch might interpret a mountain area primarily as an area of potential financial profit, whereas a naturalist might admire the richness of biota and sees the entanglement of all the creatures living in the area. A mushroom seeker sees a source of mushrooms, a hiker a source of recreation, a geologist the history of earth, a woodsman the trees which can be logged.

But those perspectives are not frozen. The woodsman can be also a mushroom seeker, the oligarch a hiker, the naturalist has access to the bubble of the geologist and so on. I imagine those bubbles of meanings in movement, they change shape, they vibrate, they connect and intersect, they communicate. There are bubbles in bubbles.

COMMUNICATION RETURNING TO THE TYPEWRITER

A typewriter is a nostalgic ~~tool~~ instrument nowadays, not necessarily of real practical value, but still a machine which can perform a task. From a mechanical perspective it is "an assemblage of parts that transmit forces, motion, and energy", from a mental perspective it serves to store and transmit signs, thoughts, observations, theories, world views. It is a communication tool, an instrument to join the C.A.T.s' planetary concert.

communicare "to share, divide out; communicate, inform; join, unite, participate in," literally "to make common", related to communis "common, public, general".

Online Etymology Dictionary

typing at the landing zone – snippets

Friday, 21 September

Out in the woods. Not exactly, there is a meadow, a walnut tree in front of me.

The place ^{where} I'm sitting faces more or less north-^{east}
 , I guess so. People are collecting nuts.

protocol. Do we need a protocol? A protocol represents the
perspective of the protocol writer, subjective, un-
avoidably.

We want to stay her^e over right,
we will sleep?

A place like this offers many possibilities
play, express, exchange, shape. to

Things offer themselves to be used or not.

Make yourself feel like home.

This morning a herd of sheep passed by. They had bells and
produced a very nice musical sound.

Contingency ... not governed by rules,

something with offers opportunities?

without any rules

freedom if you want.

use the free dom.

Things would not make sense.

F put on red socks, M

is getting support
building a shelter,

B and V have

a conversation, M

is handling a blue plastic ^{tarp} plate

Making sense of something.

What do you add to the community

It's not a survival camp.

It's dinner time.

Saturday 22 September

fireplace

When the ice was broken
people started to percuss and sing even dance.

The fire kept us
warm but most of us didn't make it through the night.

two of the so baptised "random dudes"
guarded the night. Sun set was around 7, birds started
earlier X was reported to me.

We talked about how we should proceed and if our invasion
can be regarded as respectful or invasive as the word invasion
suggests. Is disrespectful invasion possible?

adapt to the environment ... adapt the environment to our
needs, shaping ... landscape.

Reminds at the sheeps. Again they passed by, sheeps and goats,
3 or 4 dogs, loyal to the shepard.

garbage

There is no municipal collection.
we started to clean the area.

what means cleaning?

mainly sorting.
Plastic to plastic, glass to glass, metal to metal, ashes to

ashes.

Against entropy? Is shaping

always against entropy? Separation, categorization, rules.

Discipline.

nature?

A steady oscillation between

contingency and lawful interaction, a steady, never ending

dialogue or conversation.

Does that make sense?

Sunday 23 September

The kids came.

Bird mask

Crazy

with

rhythm

dancing and running

M

a refuge

at R's place.

the rain came as announced or invited by the crazy dance
(... are there rain avoidance dances too?)

The kids got fancy plastic ponchos and looked
like dwarfs from a fairytale.

P , P and V in the hut, reading
remember that it is about alternative science.

Outside party time. Vodka, music. M' with the loud-
speaker in his hands. M' , M' , M' , R dancing

Dancing against the chill, dancing to keep the need.

The rain lasted quite long but not until darkness. As seen
as it stopped we started a new fire.

Talking about the experiences of the day.

M about doing nothing, M and M analog filming, R
traps M about shelter, R and the mess, J
found suitable places
placement of things in the environment
F children activity indoor improvised

made ~~me~~ think about the entanglement of perception, perspective and representation.

P attentive to the surface of the totom the terrain

wearing a jumpsuit produced by V . Sustainable clothing

T
costing, hostⁱable, serving tea and coffee.

Site specific art. Fit into the environment.
things and actions

Mornings are often, may be always, peaceful

Got up at six, left around 6.30. Dogs barking, cocks
crawling, crows gathering, morning performance. Fog ... not
dense but red-tiful.

the random dudes were sitting at the fire.

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JOHANNA FOLKMANN, MAXIMILIAN GALLO, ATHANASIOS GRAMOSIS, MATILDE IGUAL CAPDEVILA,
BERND KRÄFTNER, RAFAEL LIPPUNER, MARKO MARKOVIĆ, FRÉDÉRIQUE NEUTS, MARINA REBHANDL



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