



# ***Trust/Change: Future Perceptions for a new WE Art and Dialogue***

**A Project by  
Beate Winkler**

at

**The Austrian Cultural Forum,  
Warsaw**

## **Why this project now**

### **Our societies are changing dramatically: New perspectives are needed**

We are all confronted with tremendous changes and challenges: Globalizations, climate change, social tensions, migration, digitalization, loss of perspectives and credibility in politics – to mention but a few examples. All this happens at the same time and under an enormous time pressure. Many people feel deeply insecure about their future: We are in a crisis of identity.

There is an urgent need to change our perspectives – besides resolving many difficult problems. It is time to look at the great opportunities of our crisis and to support dialogue between different societal groups and areas, in order to overcome polarization and fragmentation. It is time to concentrate on human capabilities, in order to live peacefully in a society marked by diversity. It is time to embark on an expedition to future perceptions for a new WE.

### **New forms of dialogue**

New forms of cooperation beyond professional and societal boundaries are needed - for democracy and open, plural societies. In times of profound change we need not only dialogue between people of different backgrounds, but free space and creativity – free space for new thinking, in order to avoid downloading yesterday's answers for today's and tomorrow's questions. We must address key question such as: "In which society would we like to live? How can we develop a society offering scope for individual development to every one of us and at the same time ensuring cohesion?". These are questions tantamount to future and renewal which are relevant for all of us.

### **The role of art in times of change**

Art and culture have always been pioneers and resources for new developments. Art and culture are strong – but often underestimated – bridge builders between people from diverse backgrounds: They foster societal cohesion. Art and culture provide free space for new thinking, creativity and innovation. Art and Culture strengthen identity and facilitate a change of perspectives.

### **The context: "Creative Austrians"**

The project is part of "Creative Austrians", a new programme promoted by the Austrian Cultural Forum Warsaw aiming at identifying key challenges of today and tomorrow and presenting innovative solutions at the interface between arts, culture and societally relevant creative work. "Creative Austrians" strives for an open discourse between Austrians and Poles exchanging experiences and perspectives which are to facilitate societal and cultural innovation.

## Target groups

Representatives of civil society, experts in the field of intercultural dialogue, artists, pioneers of societal change, teachers, families – and children.

## The exhibition: “Trust/Change” by Beate Winkler Warsaw, 7 March – 30 April 2019

In the large room of the Austrian Cultural Forum, Beate Winkler shows different types of her work. She involves her paintings in processes of change, which are partly controlled by her and partly exposed by her to influences that are not controllable. She rolls her paper in and out – lifting them into sky, nailing them on walls in different ways and formats – or installing small painted books on the wall. Part of her paintings are present, but not visible, as they are either rolled in, covered in closed books or also painted on the backside. By hanging of paintings in the open space she makes her paper rolls float – taking up the vision and longing for flying. Blank, empty paper, which she consciously employs, is a symbol of inspiration, to constantly think anew and be inventive: An impulse for our society to react creatively and openly to situations of change.

### Dialogues: Interaction between Arts and Civil society

In the smaller room of the Austrian Cultural Forum, Beate Winkler opens her work for interaction with visitors and participants. Small paintings are installed on a wall, leaving space for comments, ideas, dreams, wishes of the visitors. Each of them is asked to write down their dream or hope for a new WE. All these written dreams and wishes are thrown into a “future box” and are then installed on the wall. Thus, new future perceptions for a new WE are born – diverse, contradictory and vivid.

### Exhibition opening, dialogue with performance, Warsaw, 7 March, 2019, 6 p.m.

At the opening in the Austrian Cultural Forum Warsaw (ulica Próżna 7/9) on 7 March 2018 a dialogue between the Polish performance artist Maria Stokłosa and the art of Beate Winkler will take place. In her choreographies, Stokłosa tries to give answers to the question of the effectiveness of art in the context of problems such as identity, change and the necessity of pleasant perceptions. Although both artists use a completely different formal language, their art is engrained in a related subject – depicting, respectively initiating processes of change.

## The workshops: “Future Perceptions for a new WE” Warsaw, 8-9 March, 2019

Two workshops in the Austrian Cultural Forum Warsaw on 8 and 9 March, 2019, conceived together with the foundation Polish Migration Forum will be dedicated to developing concrete future perception for a new WE – an essential introduction by Beate Winkler about the concept of her exhibition will be the point of departure. Workshops will on the one hand bring together families from diverse backgrounds, on the other hand teachers. Art pedagogues will support the process. In the family workshop, adults and children will be given separate free space for developing their distinct perceptions. Teachers will also be shown how they can use arts projects in their schools in order to organise future and cohesion oriented dialogues.

### Ongoing process

The project can be seen as a process where the exhibition is a source of inspiration for a change process which integrates the results of the workshops and the continued commitment of people involved. This should be spread out to other people and organisations, with the hope to make an active contribution for overcoming the polarization of our societies.

## Possible outcomes

The project “Trust/Change: Future Perceptions for a new WE” should have concrete results, e.g.

- stronger focus on culture and art as a bridge between people in society
- stronger support for an open, diverse society
- creating new networks between artists, teachers, families, the social, media and education sector
- museum of ideas in action
- innovative ideas for living together – for a new WE
- new forms of partnerships between Austria and Poland