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Something New under the Sun?

Paper with Film Examples

In the frame of the “Conference on International Opportunities in the Arts:
Exploring New Horizons”:
February 22nd – 24th, 2018 in Québec City, Canada

– Abstract –

The lecture focuses on questions raised by the subject of the *2018 International Conference on Opportunities in the Arts: Exploring New Horizons*. What are possible *new horizons* in the arts: experimental art, mixed media, digital art, avant-garde-art of the 21st century? Do these new trends contradict Solomon’s statement in the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament that *there is nothing new under the sun?*

Between the complex web of diverse restrictions set by society and the various possibilities open to us for creating art on this planet, there is an interface: human potential for exploration. The lecture, together with the accompanying documentations on film, takes a close look at this interface, zooming in on the example of performative arts. The documentations provide insights into attempts by persons from “Western-oriented” cultures, using the possibilities for expression and presentation available to them, to explore an open or hidden issue in a corner of their existence and thereby reveal *new horizons* for themselves and for their cultural and social environment – each in their own individual artistic language.

The platform of activity, discussion and artistic research that provides a framework for these explorations is Lab Inter Arts (LIA), which until 2013 was a workshop for interdisciplinary and transcultural projects at the Mozarteum University Salzburg in Austria, and since then has continued as an international, free platform for experiment and performance, open to persons from (not only) artistic fields of activity and life spheres – then, as now, under the direction of Helmi Vent.

LIA participants made the following statement regarding the conference subject: As long as we remain learners in our processes of exploration and discussion, we – as active players at the crossroads of arts and (life) cultures – stand, every day, for a possible NEW beginning, for *new horizons*.