

Stepping Over the Borders

What makes a division rigid? What makes a violation reflexive?

A border connotes political, economical, cultural, and psychological zones, along with conflicts and their conflicting positions. Idea of division, which is most easily illustrated with the border line, is used by political, economical and other powers that be to shape our understanding of the Other. The notion of the border is used to divide individual realities which could easily coexist if their differences (real or implied) would not be posed in-front of our eyes day-in and day-out by the political elites and their powerful allies. The notion of the border is used as tool to gain power through manipulation with the (ab)use of mass media and other tools of communication which are domesticated in the market oriented society. And this is possible only because we live in a world in which we never understand what is really going on. No one knows what's real and what's not, as our understanding of the world around us, with its complex narratives, is often ruthlessly simplified into simple stories of good versus evil.

By definition, a border is simply a line separating two political or geographical fields. The same word also inhabits the act and the possibility of trespassing. The sense of displacement and replacement follows the act of trespassing. This very act gains momentum from diverse motivations and each experience is unique.

We live in a non-linear world, with different conflicts happening all around us. And we never really know what the "enemies" are up to or even who they are. The underlying aim of the ruling elites is not to solve or surpass these conflicts but to use them to create a "constant state of de-stabilised perception" in order to manage and control. In this sense the border is used to separate differences (defined through the prism of good versus evil) although in reality it is an arbitrary line dividing similarities.

Operating as a workshop in praxis, artists are asked to reflect on the diverse motivations and the consequences of the politics of border making, enforcement, and trespassing.