

Inklusion og eksklusion: identitetskonstruktion i museers indsamling og bevaring

Københavns Universitet 30. april 2012 kl. 13-16

Collecting Europe. Transnational Strategies and Collection Practices today

Contemporary museum practices of collecting and handling objects is not considered to be genuinely European. “We are not collecting with a European perspective“, is how Renée E. Kistemaker, former curator of the Amsterdam Historical Museum, puts the opinion of her colleagues in Europe’s museums in a nutshell. No single specifically European collecting strategy can be derived; it simply does not exist. Instead it seems that the museum objects do not suffice to visualise Europe and grasp what it is or might be.

Nevertheless, Europe— or European integration to be exact— does influence museum practice right down to collection policy— but not as a guiding principle dictated by the centres of power in Brussels, Strasbourg or Maastricht, as claimed in previous essays on European cultural policy— whether from a political science perspective or in sociological-anthropological research. What brings insight instead is an examination of the interconnections between the collecting strategies of the present and the processes of Europeanisation as interactions of mutual influence and, as such, a cultural practice of European making. Which present collecting strategies are suited, and why, to being a part of this process of Europeanisation? This is the thesis of this paper, which will also allude to some of the central challenges to be met in the current dialogue about contemporary collection strategies. The aim is to demonstrate that the discourse about a potential Europeanisation of objects and collections is part of a general movement that seeks to redefine the prospects and qualities of objects and collections for the twenty-first century. My thesis is that Europeanisation constitutes *one* possibility for participation in this process of re-description and to help determine its ultimate outcome.

**Prof. Dr.
Stefan Krankenhagen**

Stiftung
Universität Hildesheim
Marienburger Platz 22
31141 Hildesheim

www.uni-hildesheim.de

Fon: +49(0)5121.883-699
Fax: +49(0)5121.883-671

E-Mail: krankenh@uni-hildesheim.de

Fachbereich II
Kulturwissenschaften und
Ästhetische
Kommunikation

**Institut für Medien
und Theater**

Sekretariat:
Margrit Barthauer
Fon: +49(0)5121-883-670
Fax: +49(0)5121-883-671
E-Mail: barthau@uni-hildesheim.de