

Abstract

The never-ending poem „Nicht bei Trost“ has been progressing daily since 2002; meanwhile it has reached 42,500 lines. (Daily progress can be followed on web site franzdodel.ch) Each unit of 6,000 lines is published in book form (latest edition: *Nicht bei Trost. Capricci*, bei Ed. Korrespondenzen Wien). The text in its strict form of continuously alternating lines of 5 – 7 – 5 – 7 syllables follows an associative web of thoughts covering diverse fields of knowledge.

Work in Progress

The text – evolving daily – is composed of associatively knotted-together contemplations on theology, art history and science. It is infiltrated and tied together by the writer's own considerations, while the whole is not only strict as to form (5-7-5-7 syllables), but it is also brought into poetic shape. Sober considerations, comments and quotations merge into lyrical images which become independent, but they may also foster another topic of thought to be continued in the following few lines. A vital part of the work also consists in persistently identifying visual material and source material by detailed notes (on the left-hand side of the text). The whole process is to be questioned in itself. The text, therefore, contains recurrent self-referential considerations on language, writing and script as such. After each unit of 500 lines the contents pay homage to Marcel Proust by linking up with *A la recherche du temps perdu*.

„Nicht bei Trost“ is also an attempt at creating a kind of annihilation or waste land by a superabundance of content („Everything is to be told“). This throws into relief the contrast to the things not told or the things inexpressible by words, i.e. the basis on which language happens becomes increasingly clear without being at our disposal. In this respect the text can and shall be understood as an abundance of chaotically appearing counter-stories and short-stories which evade any kind of super-imposed story. „Nicht bei Trost“ opposes such current intentions by stringing together „everything possible“ without establishing a specific order and thus creating an immense web of dreams.

Exhibitions

„Nicht bei Trost. DAS MATERIAL“. The envisaged goal still is to exhibit the full range of sources and pictorial material in art galleries and houses of literature (so far possible in Bern, Linz, Graz, Bregenz et al.). The gesture made visible by the presentation of the material should show the escalating and fraying web which supports the text. This inter-connection, made visible by analogous links (red threads), could be continued ad libitum to the „exterior“ (above and below). It is also to be understood as a gesture of gratefulness towards all those who have worked before myself and whose texts and thoughts are at our disposal, if we try to push on a little the complete works.

On the one hand it is important to me to hint at the presumption of any attempt to say and describe „everything“, and on the other hand to show the futility of such an ambitious project.

Whatever is said or demonstrated covers up what it wanted to uncover at the very moment it is being said or demonstrated. It seems to me, however, that this is the only possible approach (on this once chosen way). The „rest“ is vital, what remains for ever and can never be attained.

Musical adaptation

Parts of the text were adapted to music and subsequently performed by, among others, the composer Katharina Weber (CH) and by the Austrian composer Christoph Herndler (hm...).

The book

The transfer into printform will be continued with the volume *Nicht bei Trost. Tessitura*; it comprises verses 36,001-42,000; it is designed in the same way as its predecessors: ultra-fine India paper in a supple leather binding. The illustrations are provided by Serafine Frey (Bern), and Juliane Wolski is responsible for the high-quality lay-out of text, notes and illustrations. She already designed successfully the previous editions („Die schönsten Schweizer Bücher 2004“, Österreichischer Staatspreis für „Schönste Bücher Österreichs 2008“).

See also: <https://atelier-pol.ch/work/franzdodel-nichtbeitrost/>

Website

Since 2002 the daily continuing project *Nicht bei Trost* has been online (www.franzdodel.ch).

Links to the list of works, to the most important reviews and to radio recordings can be found online, too.