

# Unfolding in Lisbon.

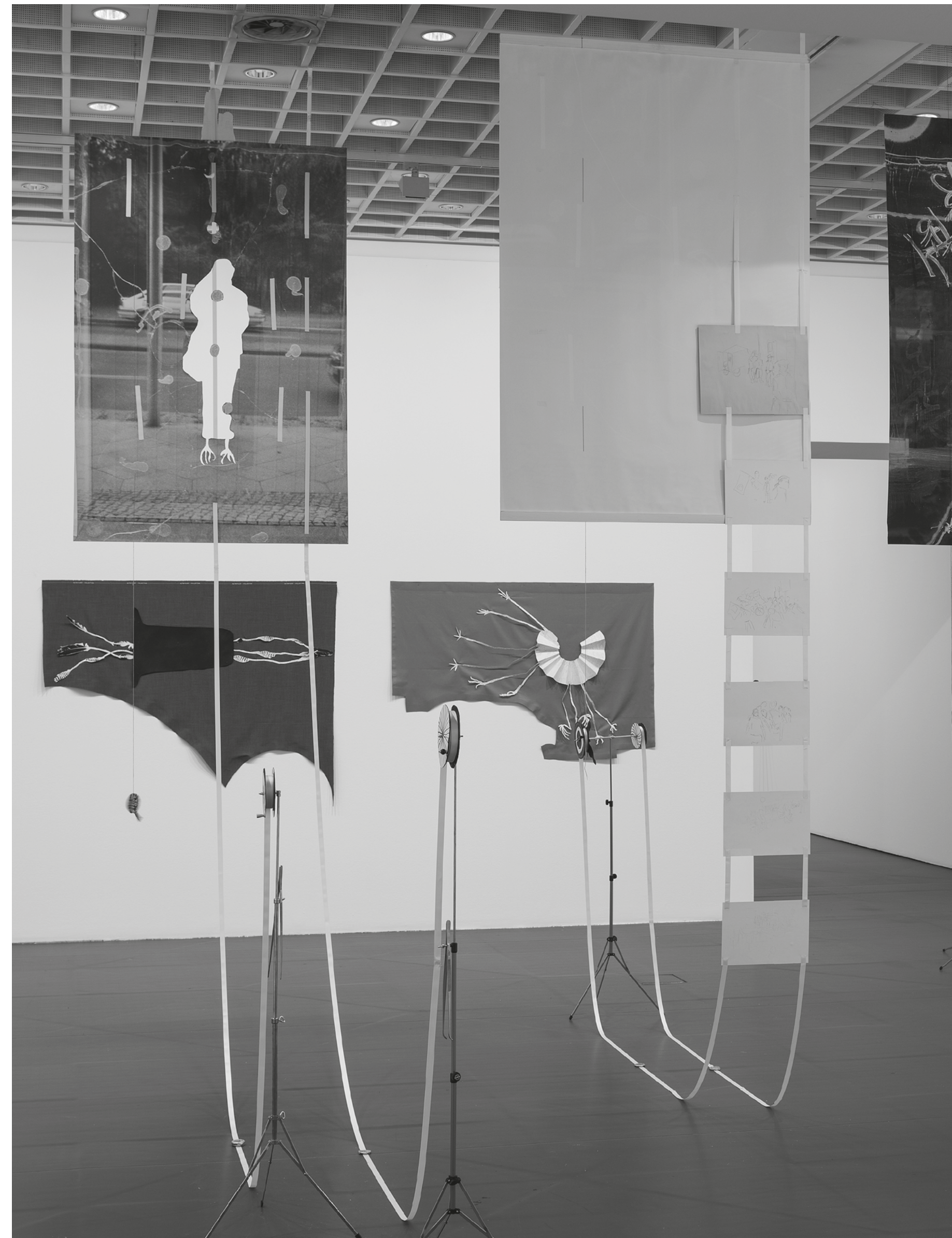
“It is March, 24th 2000 which is compelling to be prospective”

Alice Creischer’s exhibition at Culturgest

This was an exhibition I really wanted to see:

Alice Creischer’s work at Culturgest in Lisbon, curated by Miguel Wandschneider. Its title was “It is March, 24th 2000 which is compelling to be prospective” and was on view from February until May of this year. Over time my plan to see this show evolved into an elaborate escapist fantasy of a trip to the city by the sea while I stayed stuck in Berlin’s drizzle. Finally I had to reluctantly accept that I was going to miss the show and thus would just have to resort to photographs. The photos showed structures freed from their cases and crates. Unfolded, fanned out, unravelled and hung from the ceiling. Such an airing! The work’s interaction with its negative space was so liberating that it evoked in me a yearning to physically unfold as well somehow. Looking

at the images, I thought of how exceptional Alice’s work is in the way her specific political discourse materializes into complex multifaceted physical structures that incorporate text and direct address as well as the lyrical, the fragile and the poetic and how they unabashedly enjoy their own beauty. As within a stage set incorporating several sculptural systems, the intricate interweaving of personal memories and images, historical aspects and so called scientific facts around the “debt crisis” in Portugal and the “PIGS” States revealed and enacted the construction of the crisis as a “deliberate delirium”, thus coined by Pierre Bourdieu in his critique addressing the German finance technocrat Hans Thietmeyer, as Alice kindly informed me on the phone. And upon my further inquiry, Alice supplied this brief summary:



Alice Creischer; *It is March 24th 2000 which is compelling to be prospective. ...*; 2015/2016; Installation view Fundação Caixa Geral de Depósitos - Culturgest, Lisbon, 2017

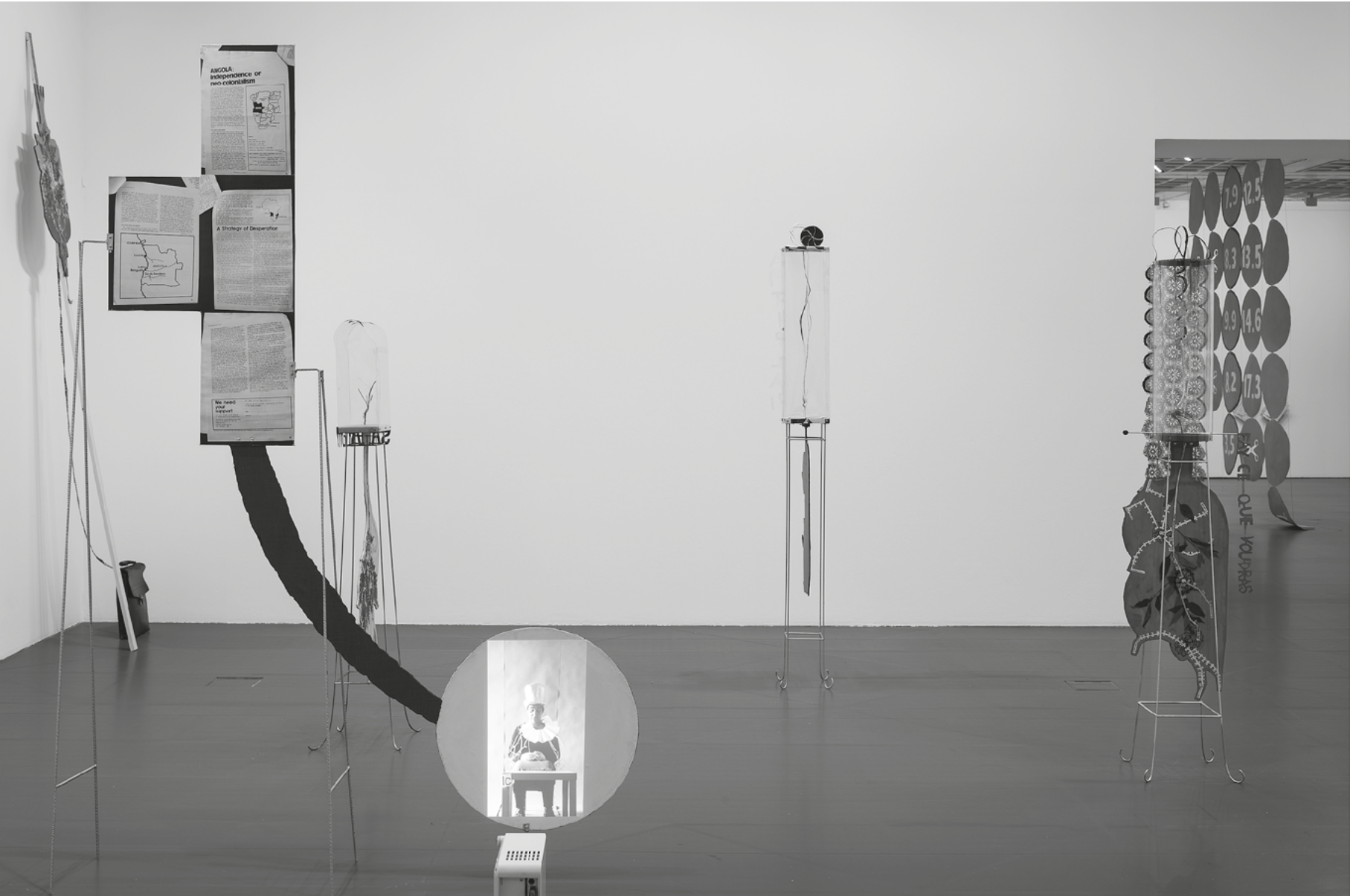


The exhibition had three parts:  
The first part introduced the Agenda 2000 approach and the de-regulation of social rights in Germany in the 2000s as well as the crisis in Argentina (known as the "mother-crisis" to its followers).

The second part consisted of 3 curtains of cardboard circles which are related to a certain method of statistics. The first curtain showed the rating of Moodys in March 2011 which initiated the inclusion of Portugal into the Troika system and created the abbreviation "PIGS" for the indebted states. The second curtain presented the development of the trade balance for the "PIGS" states together with Germany, which made the German "beggar thy neighbour" policy obvious. The third curtain showed the "suggestions" made by the Memorandum of Understanding of IMF and EU to cut the state expenditures in Portugal.

Finally the third part demonstrated economic organisation principles in the form of plants, with their roots portraying anarchistic movements of the Carnation Revolution which took place in Portugal in 1974.

It must have been beautiful. A deliberate delirium indeed.



1st Picture

It is March 24 in the year 2000 which is compelling to be prospective.

The Collar LISBON EUROPEAN COUNCIL wants to make Europe the most competitive and dynamic economic region in the world. Reforms are needed to this end. They create a whole—a single market—out of different countries.

The Collar says A:  
ensure full implementation of the Risk Capital Action Plan by 2003  
facilitate the widest possible access to investment capital  
eliminate barriers to investment in pension funds  
promote further integration and better functioning of government bond markets  
improve functioning of cross-border sale markets  
redirect public expenditure towards increasing the relative importance of capital accumulation

and B  
modernize the European social model by investing in people  
build an active welfare state  
define the lifelong learning skills: IT, foreign languages, technological culture and entrepreneurship  
raise the employment rate  
ensure that work pays

and C  
strengthen the common European security and defence policy

between A, B, and C lies the executive.  
It takes on the form of a Frill here and demands:

Progress towards these goals should be benchmarked;  
benchmark against the best in the world and  
tailored to the needs of different Member States

This means:  
guidelines combined with specific timetables for achieving the goals  
which are set in the short, medium and long terms  
periodic monitoring, evaluation and peer review organized as  
a mutual learning process  
a mutual learning process.

It means an entirely novel subject

These instructions turn into products  
that must be offered and sold.  
They are called Evaluation, Consulting, and Assessment  
and mean Fear, Extortion, and Coercion.  
They act as if  
they were without alternatives,  
as if  
– when one seeks to be prospective –

there's no way around them.  
They do not act  
as if they were a machine  
and the subjects their output.  
Instead, they act  
as if they were the same as the subject holders  
that they produce.

The instructions now march through all cameralistic organs of the assembled Leviathans:  
from the marrow to the bones, from the bones to the veins, from the veins to the flesh, from  
the flesh to the skin.  
Ter Pater noster.

Their feet and wing skeletons play yoyo and rattle

From Wehrmacht to Bundesbank  
From Bundesbank to ECB  
From ECB to Wehrmacht.  
World War is Trade War  
Trade War is World War

"Roy Jenkins, the former British chancellor of the Exchequer, recently wrote that fears of a reunified Germany are 'largely misplaced ... the currency and the Bundesbank have replaced the Wehrmacht as the quintessential German institutions.' Yet that's precisely the point: in today's world, the Deutsche mark is more powerful than the tank ... Before 1914 ... Germany accounted for a quarter of all trade flows in Central and Eastern Europe, and was the first or second largest partner of every country in Western Europe. By 2010, the European economy is going to look more like the year 1910 than any decade in between."

<http://www.newsweek.com/wealth-nation-206730>

1st reel: Pierre Bourdieu: Warning Against the Model Tietmeyer

In its interview with Hans Tietmeyer, Le Monde presented the President of the German Central Bank quite rightly as the "high priest of the Deutschmark." For we are dealing with religion here. I would like to comment on just one passage of this interview: "At issue today in all European