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What Is Communication?

And How To Communicate? – After Flusser

A Project of the Art Academy Kassel

Last semester I held a seminar at the Art Academy in Kassel that focused on Vilém Flusser’s media theory. His writings “Kommunikologie” [“communicology”] (Frankfurt am Main, 1998) and “Medienkultur” [“media culture(s)”] (Frankfurt a. M., 1997) were treated in particular. As part of the seminar, I initiated a voluntary study group with the goal to motivate the students to discuss Flusser on their own and to find their independent approach to Flusser. Works such as original texts, art works, photography, and films should emerge from the readings and the discussions of Vilém Flusser’s writings. The topic was: „Was heißt Kommunikation? Und wie kommunizieren? – Nach Flusser “[“What is communication? And how to communicate? – After Flusser”].

Since the German word *nach* [after] has a double meaning, after Flusser could be understood in two ways: either as discussing a theme *according to Flusser*, or as approaching a theme on the basis of Flusser’s writings *later in time*. Once students developed their own perspective, an openness in the orientation to Flusser was possible - that was a particular challenge.

The students committed themselves to these critical works, each trying to deal with the topic in a specific way. A variety of works has emerged (from our project), and three of them are presented in this edition of Flusser Studies. We – the students and I – want to thank Flusser Studies for this chance to enable a creative dialog in Flusser’s sense.