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Bibliothek der Alten: Keeping memories alive!

Frankfurt Migrant Women Association stores their works in the Frankfurt Historical Museum

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Abstract

This paper aims to present the cooperative project between the Frankfurt Migrant Women Association and *Bibliothek der Alten* in Frankfurt Historical Museum. *Bibliothek der Alten* is an open archive, which interrogates the concept of memory in an artistic perspective. The project aspires to collect individual and institutional memories in the city of Frankfurt, focusing on various themes (such as World War II, childhood, the 1960s, the '68 generation, art-culture, architecture, migration, and everyday life), and

Visitors at "Bibliothek der Alten" – Reading the biographies in the workshop box of "Routes to Frankfurt", 2013 ©hmf, Foto: Petra Welzel

display them in form of books or in boxes with complementary programs (such as exhibitions, talks, film screenings, and workshops). In this regard, this project can be considered as a museum identity construction with the contribution of communities, so-called *authors* in this project. The content development belongs definitely to the authors. They tell their story freely. The museum's role is to moderate the process, and provide assistance for authors' needs.

Frankfurt Migrant Women Association at March 8th demonstrations,
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In this context, Frankfurt Migrant Women Association composes a box to narrate their works. The Association was founded in 2005 with the objective of fight for women's right. They have political demands and work very hard to organize Turkish migrant women through various workshops, talks, and social gatherings to expand their ideologies (such as same job, same pay; free child care, instead of stove premium; and residence and work permit independent from husband). It is possible to assume museum express its support to their works by hosting them in this project.

Bibliothek der Alten consists of several aspects to interrogate "Museums Alive" concept; both internally (museum professionals) and externally (authors) identity construction; intergenerational structure; and participation to social issues in the city in an interactive approach. In this manner, I argue that, Frankfurt Migrant Women Association's box composition process will be significant to discuss the definition of *living in museums.*

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