

in process

Karen Packebusch

**Do you hope?**

(From Gorbitz into the world)

Since 2013

Hope – that is difficult!

Asking that essentially means asking what is behind the clouds!

João, Recife, 2014

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(From Gorbitz into the world)

Since 2013

I have returned to Gorbitz, the city district in which I grew up and that shaped me as a person, time and time again since 2011.

Thousands of homes were built all across the German Democratic Republic (GDR) during the 1970s and 1980s as part of a major residential project. Gorbitz, which is located on the western outskirts of Dresden, is just one of these prefabricated housing estates.

Similar to many other places built in this style, Gorbitz today attempts to dissociate itself from the negative reputation of the “Platte” industrialised housing estates. The net household income of many of their inhabitants lies below the poverty line. The city of Dresden uses buildings urgently in need of refurbishment to accommodate refugees. Almost all of the shopping centres built in the 1990s stand empty. Gorbitz is considered as the hotspot in Dresden.

With the work “Do you hope?”, I access both utterly unknown and also entirely familiar places. The work began in Gorbitz in 2013.

So far, I have visited the cities of Dresden & Berlin/ Germany, Skopje, Ohrid & Tetovo/ Macedonia, Recife/ Brazil and Maputo/ Mozambique as part of the “Do you hope?” project and have spoken with over 425 people about their hopes. Many more places are to follow. The starting point for my work are dialogues and consideration of the people living and shaping the different places: I meet people on the streets, at bus stops, in schools, on regional football pitches, at town festivals, in refugee centres, in local clubs and weekly markets and speak with them about their wishes and hopes. I use a simple formula to begin the discussion with two questions:

*Do you hope?* and *What do you hope?*

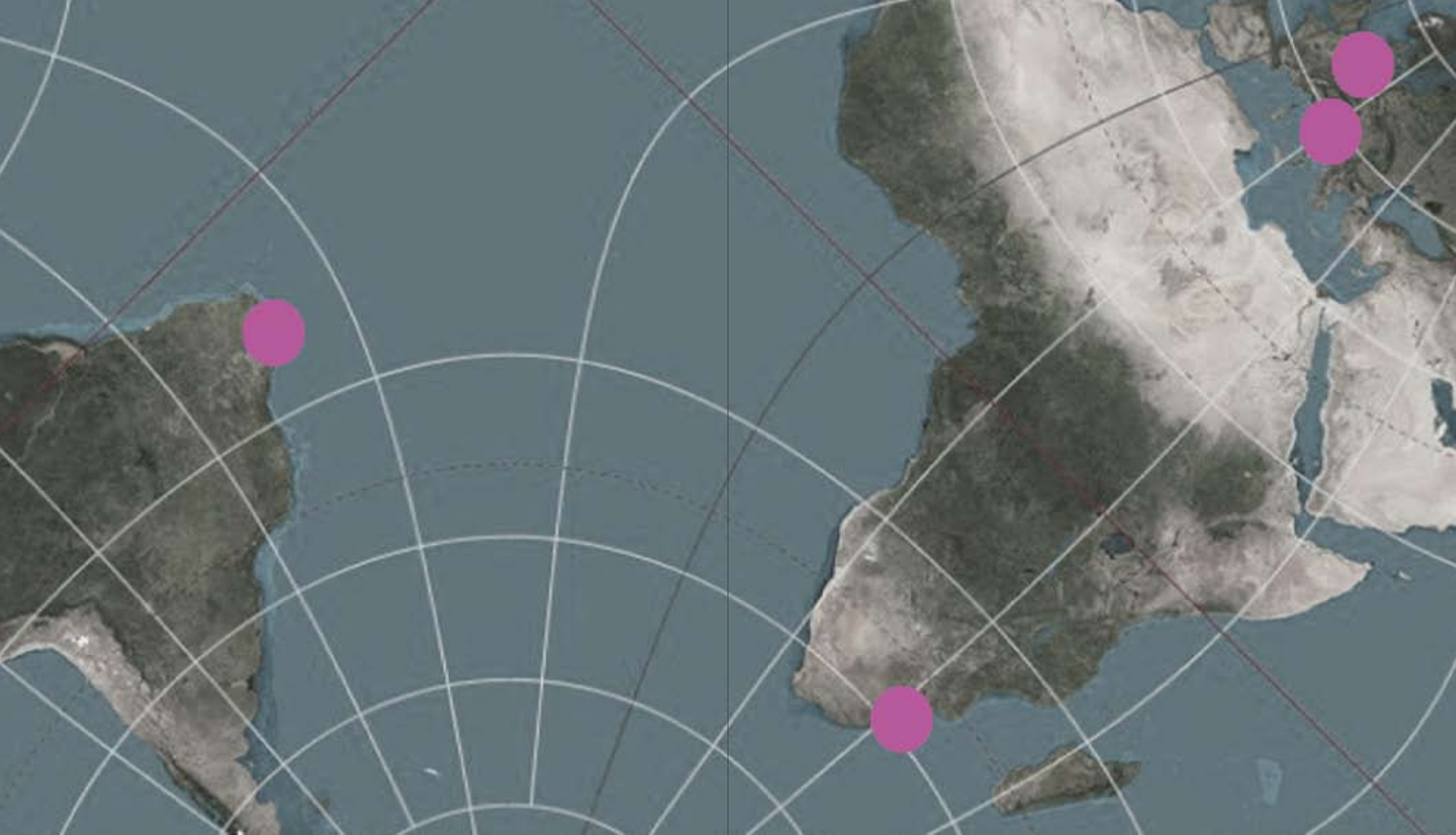
While these questions may appear simple, the responses are astoundingly complex. People provide lively accounts of their hopes and wishes, enabling intimate insights into their living situations.

I am searching for hope. People hope because something is missing in the here and now – I empathise with these longings!

João in Recife responds to the question about his hope: *Hope – that is difficult! Asking that essentially means asking what is behind the clouds!*

This is what sets my work apart.















HOPEFORM  
Dresden Gorbitz/ Amalie Dietrich Platz, 2015  
Maputo/ Instituto Commercial, 2016



HOPEFORM  
Recife/ Madalena, 2014  
Skopje/ Shutka secondary school, 2016





Workshop *Tem esperança?*, Instituto Commercial,  
Videostills, HDV Video, 31. 26 min, Maputo, 2016

Você tem esperança? ☒ sim ☐ não

Quais as suas esperanças?

TRABALHAR E RECEBER  
O DINHEIRO ENVIADO DA  
R.D.A. - PARA MOÇAMBIK.

Nome: *SANTIAGO* Idade: *52*  
 Profissão: *MECANICO* Sexo: *M*  
 Religião: *CATOLICA* Língua materna: *CHAGANA*  
 Lugar de nascimento: *PORTUGUES*  
 Local: *MAPUTO* Data: *19.10.2016*

I wish for work for myself and that I retain my salary from the time of the GDR.

Santiago, 52, mechanic, male, catholic,  
mother tongue: changana, Maputo, 19.10. 2016

DO YOU HOPE?  
Form, Maputo, 2016

At the moment, I am on strike so that I can finally find work again. I am in desperate need of money.

Xarija, 53, construction worker, male, muslim,  
place of birth: Bosnia, Skopje, 07.09. 2016

DO YOU HOPE?  
Form, Skopje, 2016

Дали имаш надеж?		да <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	не <input type="checkbox"/>
За што се надеваш?			
Моментално страјкувам вкМ за работа и за плати(плата).			
Име:	XARIFA	Возраст:	53
Професија:	LEAR	Пол:	MEN
Религија:	MUSLIM	Националност:	BOSNA
Место:	SKOPJE	Датум:	07.09. 16





I hope that Syria will become safe again, that there will be no more destruction, and that I can return to my home so that I can meet with my relatives. I also hope to be able to return to my country in safety and to rebuild it. I wish that everyone could lead a happy life. Good Bye!

Amer Arafe, 13, male, muslim,  
place of birth: Syria, Berlin/ Lichtenberg, 26.05.2016

هل لديك أمل؟ ☒ نعم ☐ لا

بماذا تأمل؟ أنا أأمل بأن ترجع سوريا أمنة بلا أي ضرر وأن أعود إلى بلدي سالمة أمنة كباقي أقرابي فيها وأنا أعود إليها أمناً سالماً لأن أراهم ثانية محمدين وأزسعد الجميع فدينا وإلهنا العاقبة

الاسم: Amer Arafe العمر: 13  
المهنة: X الجنس: سوري  
الديانة: أسلام الجنسية: سورية  
المكان: دمشق التاريخ: 26/5/2016

Você tem esperança? ☒ sim ☐ não

Quais as suas esperanças?  
A VOLTA DE CRISTO

Nome: Thiago Pereira      Idade: 17 anos

Profissão: Estudante      Sexo: masculino

Religião: Protestante      Cor ou raça: moreno \*

Local: Recife      Data: 19/03/14

## The return of Jesus.

Thiago, 17, student, protestant, light brown,  
Recife, 19.03. 2014

\* Cor or raça: This questionnaire is inspired by the public census forms in Brazil. Besides their name, occupation, gender, age and religion, people are also asked about their skin colour here – something that is unique to Brazil. This last question amazed & alienated me. In response to my query, a member of the Movimiento Negro in Recife exclaimed: “You’re new here, Karen! What do you see? Who works as a doméstica? Who as a bus driver? Who are the crackheads? Who are the prostitutes? Who has died during the unrest in the past year? Take a look at them: they’re all black!”

DO YOU HOPE?  
Form, Parque 13 de maio/ Recife, 2014



















Dear Ms. Packebusch,  
the cloud should indeed still be eaten.  
Stabilising the clouds of sugar will, in all likelihood, prove relatively futile. The only possibility here would probably be an absence of water (incl. humidity) combined with (relative) weightlessness (depending on the actual size/mass of the cloud, of course). One very suitable environment for this would be the surface of the moon. I hope that this information is of use to you.

Best wishes  
M. Kaufmann, chemist, Technische Universität, Berlin

Blueprint for catching a cloud in Recife, 2014

Boy in Gorbitz with a piece of a cloud which came out of a window, 2015





Model for clouds of sugar for WBS 70,  
1:100, mixed material, Gorbitz, 2014









RENATA  
p. 40/41

JOÃO  
from the performance *Clouds for everybody!*, Parque 13 de maio/ Recife, 2014







FERNANDA  
p. 44/45  
Parque 13 de maio/ Recife, 2014

MAXI  
from the performance *Clouds for everybody!*, Gorbitz, 2015





To be continued!

HOFFST DU? / VOCÊ TEM ESPERANÇA?  
Book - with all hopeforms, published in 2016

p. 10 DO YOU HOPE?, Installationview - Gorbitz 2015  
p. 12 LILIA, TOM, FABI, from the performance *Clouds for everybody!*, Gorbitz 2015  
p. 26/31 DO YOU HOPE?, Installationview, Maputo Museu - Instituto Commercial  
(IC) 2016 / Gorbitz - Amalie Dietrich Platz 2015 / Maputo - IC / Maputo - IC 2016,  
Recife - Parque 13 de maio 2014  
p. 56 DO YOU HOPE?, Installationview, Gorbitz, Quartiersmanagement 2014

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