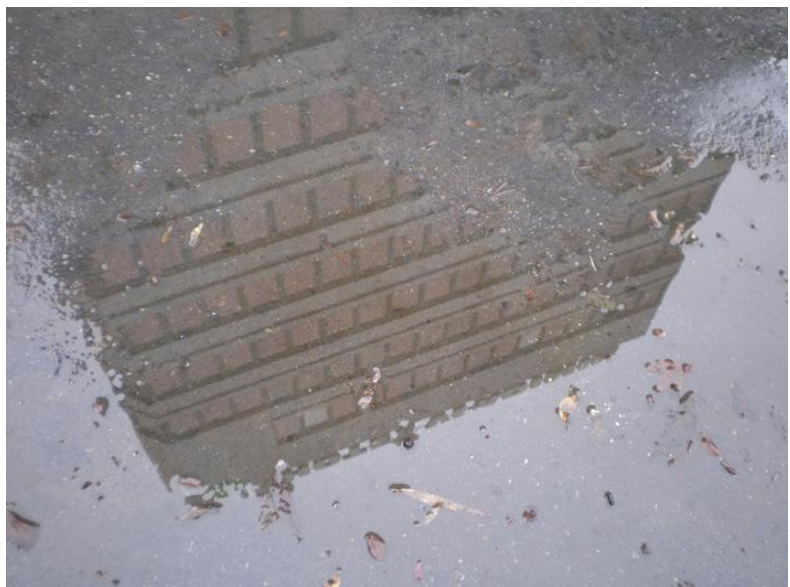
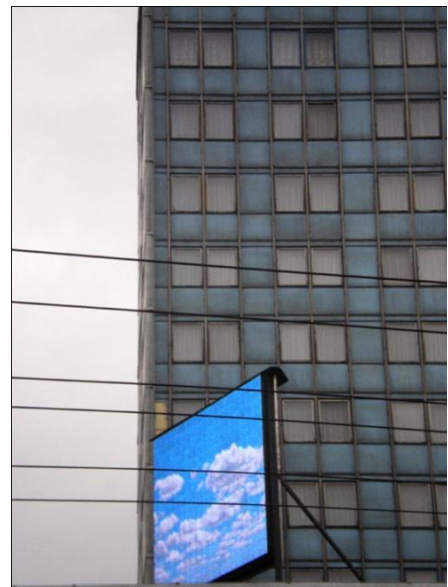


Night and Day in Ústí nad Labem 007 / Blumen für die Ewigkeit

Both artworks were exhibited as part of the group exhibition *Café Aussig*, which took place at the gallery space Motorenhalle in Dresden, February / March 2010. The show was curated by Susan Donath and included works by young German and Czech artists such as Anke Binnewerg, Michael Klippahn, Simon Mann, Libor Svoboda, and me.

Night and Day in Ústí nad Labem 007 is a video loop that was presented in a separate room within the exhibition space. It is 07 minutes and 07 seconds long. The film material was shot with an HD-camera, in Ústí nad Labem in 2007 and then cut in 2010. The resulting video turned out to be a montage that shows two different hotels in Ústí nad Labem, one at night and one during the day. At a certain point (approximately in the middle of the film) night and day overlap. The atmospheric sound of the two settings (traffic and human noises) defined an audio sphere within the space where the loop was projected.



Pre shots of the protagonists of **Night and Day in Ústí nad Labem 007**:
above Interhotel Bohemia; below Hotel Vladimir as seen on a misty day and in a puddle

Ústí nad Labem is a Czech city across the border from Germany. Rather being organized around a central core, it has real Jekyll-and-Hyde-sides. I wanted to catch a poetic glimpse of both sides without the intention of analyzing too much what I knew was there around me. One side, of course, was the simple every day routine of an Eastern European mid town, which is portrayed in the video via sound and pictorially foiled by the deserted *Interhotel Bohemia*. The other side was the nocturnal part of Ústí, which is represented by a close up of the neon sign *Hotel Vladimir* going on and off in a one-letter-after-another rhythm. Unlike *Interhotel Bohemia*, *Hotel Vladimir* was still in business when I filmed the video.

Blumen für die Ewigkeit (Flowers for Eternity) is a photo series shot in 2007 in the graveyard of Ústí nad Labem. Today, most of the graves in the cemetery are Czech, but there are a few German graves left. Germans had lived in Ústí nad Labem for hundreds of years before World War II. It was fascinating how those colorful plastic flowers on Czech graves continued to shine despite of the overcast winter sky.



Above, left: German tombstone from the end of the 19th century; right: psychedelic cabbage on a Czech grave
 Below, left: Automat na svíčky; right: Czech graves reflected in an old German tombstone