

MY GIFT

From the series [Bridges]

This is the last private mini-exhibition I am doing in Berlin. Since from next month on, I will be living in **China**. I am going to work as an art teacher in Hangzhou for 1-3 years.

While I am moving out of my apartment in Berlin I am showing "**MY GIFT**". This is one artwork consisting of 1 transparent Perspex box (18 x 18 x 18 cm) and 1 photograph (18 cm x 18 cm). On the box is written: Please Donate. The finissage of "**MY GIFT**" will be on the day of my birthday, the 23rd of July.

Initially, I wanted to make a special case around one of my cherished Bridge-Performances photograph. A treasure like kind of box with the artwork in it as a specimen. So the simple looking holiday picture would become **fetishized**. Since I have this excessive or irrational devotion to this activity of doing Bridge-Performances. I pour my soul and all my money into it.

Around the world, I am doing **Bridge-Performances**. These performances are the makings of photographs of me by tourists on bridges. The temporarily co-creating with the tourists are the Bridge-Performances. In post-production, I experiment with these photographs to emphasise certain ideas. Using the bridge as a metaphor symbolizing process and transition. Mostly topics as communication, power and self-development especially interest me.

As a performance artist, I work with **my body**. So my body is also my tool and therefore extra important. Without it, I cannot work. Also since I do Performances on bridges all over the world I need to travel with my body. So I need good health and money.

During the making of this work via several echoes a 2 cm node was found in my left thyroid gland. I have had 2 punctures but no usable cells were found. During the moments when I was feeling anxiety, stress and fear I noticed that I made plans for **my art**.

The title to me can have **several meanings**. "Gift" as in something you give and "Gift" as in German meaning something poisonous or bad. Working as an artist is sometimes also a gift in another sense.

More and more I see my work as "My Gift" to the world. When an artist creates s/he contributes to the creation of our world. Being an artist comes with a price, together with all the benefits of freedom, adventure and expression there is precariousness and prejudice. As artists we give but we need also **support**. So my work is a gift but with this work I am also asking for a gift.

The work partly looks like a small version of a monetary donation box one might also see in the museum. On the back is added one photograph showing a promise or hope and vision of a new artwork.

Gallery 1 Flat Wall:

Max-Beer-Straße 12, 10119 Berlin

Finissage:

Sunday 23 July 7 PM – 9 PM

And on appointment:

Feel free to get in touch for more information, or to arrange a viewing.

www.kimengelen.com/bridges

facebook.com/gallery.1.flat.wall