



The Berbers, installation view, Naschmarkt, Vienna, as part of the exhibition Im Paradiesgarten, Wienerfestwochen, 2010.

## **THE BERBERS**

Text based installation, Naschmarkt, Vienna, 2010  
Im Paradiesgaerten, Wiener Festwochen

The Berber Family runs their stand since 1970 at Vienna's best known open market. Nowadays they sell vegetables and fruits, whereas in the past they have had home made Greek and Turkish specialties made by the mother of the family. The origin of the family goes back to a Greek island in Turkey, which was depopulated in the course of the 20th century due to the political problems and Greek-Turkish war. The Berbers, similar to many other Greek families from the island, became political refugees during the crisis of the 1960ies.

The Berber family is historically important, for the Naschmarkt and for the Vienna gastronomy in general. In early 1970 the father of the family, together with his two Austrian partners, organized the first import of olives, olive oil and feta cheese to Vienna. Today, the father of the family is retired, and the sons are running the stand.

The installation features the stories told by the family members about their stand, their family life, their past and future. Through texts, photographs and video, the stand was transformed into a memorial recalling the history of the family within a wider context.



The Berbers, installation view during a guided tour, May 2010.



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