



A Visit, 2002/03. Top: the photo made in collaboration with the three residents, 2002. Above: M. Karusa, M.Gross, Ms. Murke, dr. Werner Fenz, and myself on the occasion of the discussion about the photo organized in the Volkshilfe home in January 2003.

A VISIT

Austrian Triennial On Photography 2002/3

Here, my collaborators were three senior residents of a Volkshilfe retirement home in Graz where I spent a week in September 2002: Mr. Karusa (94), Mr. Gross (89) and Ms. Murke (81). Through individual meetings and conversations, together we selected their most important professional and private experiences. Then, we chose an object to represent each of their important life-stories. Together we created a set for a photo of them where all of the objects were clearly visible.

The photo was and still is exhibited in the café and reception area in the Volkshilfe Residency for Senior Citizens in Graz, above the piano, where Mr. Karusa used to play late afternoons. I wanted to benefit from the infrastructure of the Austrian Triennial on Photography in motivating its audience to come and visit the retirement home and meet old people: tram no.7 till the last stop and then a free taxi to the residency. Not many people came, all together maybe 50, but this is already a lot, because normally nobody comes. Even family members do not come for visit often enough.

We also organized conversations about the photo where senior citizens exchanged their experiences and opinions related to the stories i.e. key objects from our photograph: a piano, a brush, a train, a soldier's hat, a letter...