

evidence one

I use my autobiography. I will be honest. I am a product of cultural circumstances. I am product of the East, imploding. I am the result of two ideologies clashing. A macro car crash. I am the exponential rise of capitalism, I am YouTube, YouPorn, H&M, Zara. I am the war against terrorism, #blacklivesmatter, #queerrights, Putin, and iPhone 8. I am surrounded by screens, nomadic and mindful; eternal spectator of the 21st century.

A young woman, born in Germany, grown up elsewhere, speaking 7 languages, being tormented by my Russian origins and the decision to become a writer. I question origin, gender roles, culture, patriarchy and expectations.

At the age of 24, I have lived in 5 countries and never visited Russia. I have been studying non-stop without taking detours or gap years, yet have travelled 20 countries in and outside of Europe. My health record includes anorexia at the age of 20, burn out and panic disorder at the age of 22, heart rhythm disorder, muscular tissue disorder, chronic pain and migraines, several allergies, chronic eczema, hormonal and personality disorders and a number of psychosomatic symptoms. I have nearly died 5 times and I am insecure about my artistic abilities. Like I said, just a young woman; white, heterosexual, educated.

Note:

Autobiography - A depiction of a specific, relatively short (bound to the time frame of an individual's life at most) time, in an immediate way. The subject is in control of telling its story and decides what to share and how to share it. The subject shapes evidence of its contemporaneity.

evidence two

What you should know about me? I dislike namedropping. I remain mostly uninformed about the agenda of the art world. I like watching news instead. My mother told me not to gossip, not to talk about people that are not present. So why should I bother remembering all of the fancy names? I profoundly believe in the power of honesty and art. Art is spiritual, when everything around is narrow.

I am working in the first-person narrative because it allows me to work frankly. I like typing letters as I am thinking. I like telling stories from my life and stories that I have heard and seen along the way. You see, the I is interchangeable. The I can be everyone. I is me, yet also the other. As long as I is not named officially, I remain universal.

My journey as a young Kurdish man, has led me from Iraq through Turkey, Greece and the harbour of Athens to Berlin, where I live now. I am a refugee. I miss my mother. My father, back home, wanted me to become a calligrapher, just like him. But I loved to paint. I am an artist. Some call me a star. But I am a moon.

Note:

Gaze - Autobiographies emerge from the inside, not the outside gaze; the outside gaze, voyeuristic and distanced, the men with the cameras. The format and the first-person narrative urge the audience to place itself on the side of the storyteller.

evidence three

I bought my daughter a pack of cigarettes. I had just won four Euros in the lottery and we went to the kiosk because she wanted to buy cigarettes, so I paid with my lottery ticket and seventy cents. I told her not to tell her father. The last time I bought her cigarettes was nine years ago. She was fifteen then, and just returned from the boarding school her father decided to put her in. He was always harsh on her. As if she was a boy. But she's a girl, sensitive and rebellious. I never saw her habits as a problem. I went to pick her up at night, when she started to go out. I came outside with her, when she wanted to smoke in the evening. I am her mother, and there is no way of talking her out of her ideas anyway.

Today she will leave again; she's always on the run. She doesn't live with us since she started studying. She's the only child, so I miss her a lot. I decided to learn how to trade stocks. I need to do something. I couldn't stand sitting in the *patisserie* with the ladies every Friday, listening to gossip.

Before I left, as the perestroika crashed upon us, I was in the process of defending my PhD. What is left from a five year long research process; paper with archaic findings from the era of the first computers. I was studying aeronautical weapon technology in Moscow, and writing a program to calculate the trajectory of the atomic missile. Naturally, my faculty was closed before I could defend my dissertation.

Note:

Space - in relation to storytelling refers to temporality and location. A story can describe a specific date and place. The story can/has the intention to share this space with the audience. Autobiographic storytelling can bring the audience closer to a space, because of its honest and shameless format. The audience might thus experience political realities far removed from its own understanding of reality.

Note:

Evidence - Apart from creating real evidence of socio-political conditions, autobiography shares the story of a human: painful or funny, monotonous or dramatic. It is not fiction; it happened, it was a moment in time, it was reality. That moment was contemporaneity for the subject at the very time the work was created. The artistic work thus becomes a container, a capsule for a moment of contemporaneity that can be put in relation to its future and future public.