

g e o r g k l e i n

EUROPEAN BORDER WATCH



Who's guarding the border? It's you — via webcam

The European Border Watch Organisation (EUBW) was founded on the basis of a US-Texan model and has established its recruitment centre the first time in the Berlin border watchtower. EU citizens can register there as web patrols, in order to take an active part in the extensive monitoring of EU external borders via the Internet. Blue EU flags at the entrance create an "official" atmosphere. **Registration** takes place in the middle, surrounded by webcam images of ostensible border events are seen on them which only show desert, ocean or forest, together with a dark drone sound and intensive green monochrome light.

The publicity for the installation became part of the artistic work and was fully integrated into the project. Using the website www.europeanborderwatch.org, which appeared to be very serious, as well as electronic and written invitations, EU citizens were invited to actively monitor the European external borders. In addition, an invitation to the opening of the local registration centre of the EUBW was sent to the press and everyone accessible via the Internet.

Responses were collected by reply mail and the feedback form on the website and were pasted into the comment book that was made available in the office. For on-site visitors there was a special **guided tour**, with a welcome at the entrance on behalf of the European Border Watch and a green informational handout with a web patrol registration form on the back. In the video showroom *members of the EUBW* appeared as guides and explained the satellite webcam system and the goals of the organisation to the visitors, inviting them to take part and to choose a surveillance area.

The main goal of the project was to get in discussion with the visitors, forcing them to tell their opinion. At the European Media Art Festival about 300 people demonstrated against the organisation. The work - still going on - was awarded 2015 with the Dialogue Prize at the EMAF.

European Border Watch Organisation (EUBW)

Installation | Performance | Organisation

Awarded with the "Dialogue Prize of the Foreign Ministry of Germany"
at the European Media Art Festival Osnabrück EMAF 2015

Apr. 28th - May 05th 2015
BBK Osnabrück / EMAF Osnabrück
Performer: Ralf Erdmann, Mareike Cordes, Georg Klein
Feb. 9th - 16th 2017
Kunstmuseum Horsens / Denmark

www.europeanborderwatch.org

[VIDEOLINK: 037_EUBW_dv.html](http://VIDEOLINK:037_EUBW_dv.html)

