

The foes of freedom are always friends of fences
by Robert Misik

Speech for the exhibition THEY WON'T BEAR HIDING BEHIND WALLS AND FENCES
– Guerrilla of Enlightenment

Fences are being raised everywhere.

Real fences like the one between Hungary and Serbia for example, metaphorical fences. Countries seal themselves off, fence themselves off so that no one can get in.

To keep the world out of the idyll that is fenced in. The remaining idyll, of the fenced territory.

In such a discursive order, of course, no real fences have to be built; a border regime is established that is communicative and real at the same time, a corral mentality that no longer needs wagons. Also, talking about the fences creates effects in reality.

Reality is communication.

Which is why, conversely, communication also has effects on reality.

The fence mentality is the mentality of the anxious, of those who are afraid of everything, of the world outside, of change, of people, of neighbours, of everything.

In a way, the fence has always been the metaphor for this.

For narrowness, which always begins with narrow-mindedness.

No wonder that the garden gnomes usually stand around inside fences, so sweet, so terribly sweet, so terribly sweet, so sweetly terrible.

After all, the fence has this beautiful double effect, which consists of the fact that the person who builds a fence to keep others out is fencing him or herself in as a primary effect.

The fence is directed against others, but its real consequence is directed against the one who builds the fence, since it is first and foremost fencing this person in.

The history of the fence is not a history of freedom, it is more or less its opposite. Starting with the fact that what used to be accessible to the general public is now occupied for private use when it is fenced in. Land grabbing. Spatial displacement.

This is the beginning of the fence in history, greed and privatisation, the marking as private property of what has not been private property before. A spatial displacement, accumulation, the acquisition of the tenth inner-city apartment, which must then be fenced in.

A gated community.

All the way down to the ever smaller plot, the allotment gardener's self-allotted plot.

Who fences and walls himself in.

And reduces himself to the status of a zoo animal.

Those who build fences always damage themselves first and foremost.

The foes of freedom are always friends of fences.

And revolts for freedom are always revolts against fences.

The images of falling fences are always the images of the triumph of freedom.

And vice versa.

The images of the triumph of freedom are always images of falling fences.

Excerpt from the speech held by Robert Misik at < rotor > on 7 December 2018.

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