



Important Lines from Poem for Claudia Bucher, Spare Rib Revisited, 2016

LUCERNE RESIDENCY REPORT
by Carron Little



Carron Little is Scottish American and lives in Chicago, USA. She works as an interdisciplinary artist creating interactive performances and curating public performance. Her work employs different methods but since 2010 she has created four large scale city projects entitled Dream Minds, City Alive with Dreams, Neighborhood Magic and is currently working on Spare Rib. These projects begin with collecting people's stories that she re-writes into poetry that plant seeds for larger scale performances. She is Director of Out of Site Chicago, facilitating artists both local and international to create public performances in Chicago selecting sites that resonate with their practice. In 2014 she was awarded a Propeller Grant for the production of Out of Site Chicago. This award supported a Public Performance Think Tank at Chicago Cultural Center entitled On Occasion. She was awarded an Individual Artist Grant from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events in 2015.

Little received a First Class honors from Goldsmiths' College, London UK in 1996 and her Master of Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago were she currently teaches. Little was artist in residence for Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events in 2014 to develop a public performance project entitled City Alive with Dreams. She has performed in the UK working with the Art Not War Collective and Red Velvet Curtain Club. In 2009 she moved to Chicago, USA and has performed at the Chicago Cultural Center, 6018North, Hyde Park Art Center, MCA, Dfbrl8r, Open House Chicago, Lenzberg, Switzerland, the Loge Theater in Lucerne and exhibited at Slow Gallery, Willard Winkelman Gallery, Ohio, Minnesota Center for Book Arts and at The Cube in Marrakesh, Morocco. She has a collaborative practice with Daniela Ehemann in Berlin and works closely with curators Tricia Van Eck and Eden Unluata-Foley. In 2016 she was artist in residence for the city of Lucerne, Switzerland sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society and Chicago Sister City Partners. Carron most recently produced a public performance for Chicago Park District inspired by a poem she wrote for Norma Flynn as part of Neighborhood Magic.



I stayed in Lucerne for just over one month arriving on June 13, 2016 and departing on July 13. In the first week I was invited to perform at a public performance festival called FORWARD16 in Lenzburg. I wrote a score and made various costume components for the performance. I embroidered text onto blindfolds and created a special sandbag. It was an interactive performance entitled "What is the definition of territory?" and incorporated a poem I wrote called "Ode to Ishi" for Stephen Thomas. (Please see the photos of this performance on the next page).

As I mentioned in my proposal I really wanted to experiment with the vocality of my performances in the residency. I had the wonderful opportunity of doing three public performances while in Lucerne. On Tuesday June 21st I had a solo performance at Loge Theater and performed several bodies of my work from Neighborhood Magic and Dream Minds. Between each poem I would tell the story of each person I interviewed highlighting the points that arose in the interviews that inspired the poetry. This was a fun thing to do and the audience left wanting more and several people signed up at this event to participate in the Spare Rib Revisited project I was doing in Lucerne.

On Thursday June 30 I was invited to perform on Drei Fach Radio Station and was interviewed by Lina Kunz. Please find a link to the podcast here:
http://3fach.ch/blog/sprechstunde_blog/von-bells-bis-cher-carron-little

In addition to the public performances I completed the project I set out to do interviewing eight women between the ages of 21 and 91 and have completed six poems although several are still in draft form and am hoping to have time to finish them in the next couple of weeks. On Monday July 11 I hosted a dinner party for all the women who participated in the project. The women didn't know each other and one woman commented it was so great to be in the room with people from all ages. We started the evening by sharing our important moments and then had a wonderful conversation. It is these conversations that become the art for me exploring ideas that lead to greater humanity.

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FORWARD16: "What is the definition of territory?" photos by Rob Nienburg





Images of women involved in the Spare Rib Project from Lucerne, Switzerland, 2016
Photos from Left to Right: Claudia Bucher, Heidi Rebsamen, Laura Laeser, Hilda Weiss,
Othella Dallas, Blerta Berisha, Abilasa Leuenberger, and Verena Haller

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I also created a collaborative film project with Ralph Khuene where I performed in the Reuss Delta and he shot the video. I also wrote other poems that refer to specific sites around Lucerne and am excited to include this in an anthology of the work. I've also been invited to write a text documenting the project to be published in an international art journal called *nparadoxa* for the January 2018 issue.

Back in the studio in Chicago Carron developed an extensive archive of visual work in prints, paintings, and sculptures. To date these exist in private collections and are accompanied by the poetry. Please see review the sketchbook page on the website and below are more film stills created in the month long residency.

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Screenshots for videos made in collaboration with Ralph Kuehne



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