

BIOGRAPHIES

Martina Bernasconi (she/her) was born in 1998 and grew up in Ticino, Switzerland. In 2017 she moved to Berlin, where after successfully completing a Bachelor's degree, she is studying her master programme in cultural and social anthropology at the FU. Always having been passionate about documentaries and visual anthropology, Martina worked as assistant of the Semaine de la Critique at the Locarno Film Festival in 2022.

Amarachi Precious Chukwukezie (she/her) was born in 1999 in Lagos, Nigeria. She completed her high school in 2015 and learned some skills that helped her survive in the space of six years, before moving to Ukraine in 2021 to study Psychology.

Precious met with the Visual Anthropology masters students at Freie Universität Berlin, and collaborated with them in making an ethnographic film after leaving Ukraine in February 2022. She is currently living in Berlin and studying at Bard College Berlin's BA degree program in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought.

Theresa Elisabeth Thuß (she/her) was born in 1995 and grew up in Berlin, Germany. After successfully completing her Bachelor's degree at Freie Universität Berlin, she is now studying a Master's program in Social and Cultural Anthropology, as well as Interdisciplinary Latin American Studies at FU Berlin and El Colegio de México in Mexico City. Her topics of interest are feminist and gender studies, the anthropology of affect and emotion, decolonial thought, and digital and visual ethnography. Currently Theresa is working as a student assistant at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, FU Berlin.

Zofia Janiszewska (she/her) was born in 1988 in Krakow, Poland where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Jagiellonian University in 2013. Since 2015 she has lived and worked in Berlin, first in projects and camps for and with refugees, now she coordinates social yoga projects for children at moment.mal association. After a break, Zofia resumed her education at Freie Universität Berlin and is currently studying a master programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology with a focus on the topics of forced migration.

FILM DESCRIPTION

1.

Our short film "Precious" is the result of collaborative work between master students of social and cultural anthropology and Nigerian students who fled the war in Ukraine within a seminar of Visual Anthropology at the FU Berlin.

The ethnographic film is about Precious, a young Nigerian woman who has just arrived in Berlin after fleeing from Kiev, and the way Precious herself crafts her definition of home in the new city. With this film we want to show how a crisis situation, such as the current war in Ukraine, can also lead to new

opportunities. In the film Precious deals with important issues such as racism and trauma, but also dreams, friendships and the definition of a place to call “home”.

The collaborative nature of the project is of particular importance for us. We consider the reflection about our positionalities and the topic of agency central to our work. All four of us were involved in every step of the creation of the artistic product, from the choice of theme, to how and where to film, to editing, and above all we tried to follow and listen as much as possible to the needs of the protagonist. This process of creating a collaborative ethnographic film as well as building trust and sincere relationship to each other is also what we tried to transparently present in the film.

2.

Our film is the result of collaborative work within a seminar on Visual Anthropology entitled 'Kollaboratives Filmprojekt mit geflüchteten Frauen in Berlin' at the Freie Universität Berlin. Thanks to the seminar's lecturers and Tubman Network e.V. - Coalition of Black Organisations in Germany & Allies' students from the second semester of the master's programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology and African students who had to flee the Ukraine met to work together on the films.

In the course of four intensive months of cooperation between three students (Martina, Theresa, Zofia) and Precious, the protagonist and now also a student of social sciences, a short film was created portraying a person at a crucial moment of change beyond her control. a situation in which a crisis, a catastrophe can lead to the opening up of new possibilities, opportunities.

The film explores how Precious crafts her new life in Berlin. Originally from Nigeria, Precious was about to start her studies in Kiev, which she had to leave all of a sudden due to the war in Ukraine.

The film is scrambled with questions such as: Why can't she go back to Nigeria? Why is she here? Her experience with racism, her life in Berlin, her plans and dreams for the future.

The collaborative nature of the project was particularly important to us. We considered our positionalities, how we should work together, and the topic of agency. As we are three visual ethnographers working with Precious, we considered how we should divide our 'focus' responsibilities, such as interviewing/observing/filming, but without losing the sense that we are all ethnographically involved. This process of creating a collaborative anthropological film as well as building our personal, friend-, relationship is also what we try to transparently present in the film.

3.

The short film “Precious” is a result of collaborative work within a seminar of Visual Anthropology at the FU Berlin between master students of Social and Cultural Anthropology and African students who fled the war in Ukraine.

The ethnographic film is based on a semistructured interview with a young Nigerian woman, Precious, who fled from the war in Ukraine and has just arrived in Berlin. The film explores how the protagonist crafts her new life in the city. In the film Precious deals with important issues such as her experience of racism and trauma, relationships and her plans and dreams for the future. The short film was created portraying a person at a crucial moment of change beyond her control. a situation in which a crisis, a catastrophe can lead to the opening up of new possibilities, opportunities.

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