



P R E S S E M I T T E I L U N G

9. April 2010

Vortrag Johannes Fabian: Objects of Pleasure and Pain

Popular painting, studied in Katanga by the anthropologist Johannes Fabian in the 1970s, emerged when urban Africans took pleasure in decorating their living rooms – often with reminders of painful events and experiences. Fabian’s current project represents another take on Katanga (Democratic Republic of the Congo) genre painting, one in which objects are given a voice. Drawing on a series of conversations with popular painters, recently transcribed and translated from recordings made over thirty years ago, Fabian posits that links between images and stories, far from being incidental, are essential to genre painting as a cultural praxis mediated by shared colonial and post-colonial memories. Because Congolese socioeconomic conditions seemed comparable to those that facilitated the emergence of “genre painting” in Europe, the label was adopted to describe the phenomenon.

Johannes Fabian

Objects of Pleasure and Pain: Another Look at African Paintings

Vortrag am IFK, Wien

19. April 2010, 18.00 Uhr c.t. (öffentlich zugänglich, freier Eintritt)

Johannes Fabian, Guest of Director at the IFK, is Professor emeritus of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. He has conducted research on religious movements, language, work, and popular culture in the Shaba/Katanga mining region of Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Publications (among others): *Ethnography as Commentary: Writing from the Virtual Archive*, Durham 2008; *Memory against Culture: Arguments and Reminders*, Durham 2007; *Out of Our Minds: Reason and Madness in the Exploration of Central Africa*, Berkeley, Los Angeles 2002; *Anthropology with an Attitude*, Stanford 2001.