

Anike Joyce Sadiq Thomas Locher

1 March - 7 April 2024

AFTER THE BUTCHER, exhibition space for contemporary art and social issues, is pleased to present the exhibition by Anike Joyce Sadiq and Thomas Locher.

The exhibition is based on two artistic projects concerning the law. In both works, demands and expectations are touched upon and negotiated in different ways, which are once again placed in a social space of decidability or non-decidability through our exhibition. Both works raise questions that are rightly posed to the law and which in one case were negotiated as a legal case and which both directly expose political dimensions and social explosives. Both artistic projects develop a concrete concept of the fact that the law, and with it the administration of justice, jurisdiction and criminal defence, is an elementary pillar of the state's structural relations of power and violence.

Anike Joyce Sadiq's work, "*Cancelling the Protection of the Monument*", is the proposal she submitted as part of an international competition for the German Colonial Monument in Braunschweig 2022.

The protection of the monument and the simultaneous invitation to debate in the form of the competition symbolises the paradoxical relationship between the colonial past based on racism and exploitation (worthy of protection) and the realisation that this past is not closed.

In his contribution "*Soldiers' Verdict*" for the newspaper project 'The Message as Medium' from 1990/1991, Thomas Locher analysed the sentence "All soldiers are potential murderers". This sentence - which goes back to Kurt Tucholsky - was uttered by a representative of the peace movement in a public discussion in front of schoolchildren with an officer of the German Armed Forces in the 1980s. The sentence led to a long-running legal dispute that was not decided in the last instance.

Contrasting movements can be identified in the law:

On the one hand, the increasing juridification, following the need to cast political decisions, events and circumstances in legal forms - laws.

This cannot apply to all events, because politics legalises above all that which can be legalised in the sense of the logic of representation and the continuity of rulership.

On the other hand, justified and just demands are not always included in the law itself. The consequences are gaps and voids, which can then be experienced as a lack of justice and emancipation, which are a threat to the fragile relationship between equality and freedom.