SlovoKult :: Intersession 2026

Manifesto

10 Years of SlovoKult, a Multilingual Online Magazine, and the Development of an Avant-Garde Concept Centered on Language

Since at least 2020, we have been living in times when it is very clear to see how political power “protects” its subjects and seeks to subdue dissenters through repression, forcing them to submit to its sick (colonial and coronial) ideas and crimes against HUMANITY. History repeats itself with other countries and peoples, but the principle remains the same: to keep all people and the planet under control and to act against humanity in order to generate profits—and as we already know from history, they usually stop at nothing to achieve this: Genocide as the highest form of criminal violence against humanity abroad, and disproportionately severe state repression against peaceful protests by opponents of genocide and war—including, among others, German Gen Z youth, who are currently fighting for their future—at home.
All of this is portrayed by propaganda as normal and right.

And what is propaganda? Stolen, crippled, and nearly devastated language that brainwashes—and continues to do so very successfully even in the 21st century. Language is simply taken from us and turned against us (human beings) for inhuman purposes. This explains why only mediocre journalists, intellectuals, and artists are generally visible; they say nothing of substance; they repeat what has already been said, the usual clichés, the lies, until they become political and media “truth.” For in a strong fascist-capitalist system like the European one—and especially the German one—the public has no need for a cultivated mind; it is left to clichés and repetitions until the lies, as the only source of information, reprogram the brain. Instead of “brainwashing,” perhaps we should use the term “coordination” again? Will the intellectuals react then? I don’t think so; the numbness and conformity are far too deeply ingrained in German society.

And this brings us to an important repetition of a linguistic error that shows how language and the mind are separated from each other and how the crime is trivialized:
Crimes against humaneness - as the error is officially called, one that no one addresses, and certainly no one corrects, but which is simply passed on, repeated, and allowed to be repeated, thereby trivializing it. German has two words for “humanity”—whether someone was “lost in translation” or how the mix-up occurred is unclear. But: One cannot commit a crime against “humaneness”; one can only commit a crime against humanity. Yet “in the German mind,” this isn’t corrected—neither journalists, nor intellectuals, nor artists address it… This is a dangerous linguistic error in the system… This is just one example, but a very, very important one. Guilt for a crime against humanity must be taken seriously and addressed in The Hague—but a crime against humanenesss is a trifle; it’s a loophole in the line of reasoning used in the service of propaganda —yet no one is held accountable for it.

Every word is important, and every word counts!

That is why, for 10 years, SlovoKult has stood not only behind language as the most important human gift and ability—one that guides and enhances thought and intelligence—but also as a vital element in art. Using language as playful sounds or slogans and catchphrases is no longer a political weapon—it may have been 100 years ago—but today we also want to use it as a weapon against stultification, against brainwashing, and against the suppression of the human spirit by giving words their meaning(s) and withdrawing them from the clutches of propaganda. Of course, this is becoming increasingly difficult because AI feeds the human brain with simple—but actually mostly incorrect—language, causing a subtle short-circuit in thinking that one does not immediately notice, but which sinks deeper into language and imperceptibly alienates thought even further, for language is, above all, one thing: NATURAL. And when it is “driven” by artificiality, it loses its inner connection to the human mind, becomes automated, and—as a linguist i have long observed— languages are simply (this time truly unsystematically) spoiled because AI itself has no intelligent plan; the lingering errors

persist, repeat themselves, accumulate, and if they aren't noticed and stopped in time, they become an integral part of the language and confuse the brain. They sound clever, but they're nonsense, just like the example above, which was created by a person who wasn't thinking and has now officially caught on. This topic deserves its own essay…

Language is powerful, but its power lies in meaning—or even in nonsense—when used consciously in that way, but not when the meaninglessness happens "by accident," automatically, or thoughtlessly. In this sense, we can forget all the other "languages": the "language of images," the "language of music"—the word "language" is used far too often "as decoration" without actually making any real sense: it sounds nice, but it's nothing more than a cliché that lends something very important to the other subject: LANGUAGE! and in doing so, it shows just how important language is, BECAUSE everything wants to be language. For language also serves to translate everything so that it can be understood… Even feelings. We want to put everything into words—even though some would never admit it and give priority to emotion, claiming it's untranslatable—which is fine; some things must or should remain untranslatable—but the attempt to understand them always goes through WORDS. Yet at the same time, language remains the most abused human ability, one that is exploited and used for manipulation, lies, and injustice. That's why the mainstream and its language are dangerous: because they simplify language and use it solely for self-promotion and profit. Most of the time, there are only egos—not thinkers—behind it, giving what's said no substance; it's AI fodder that then turns into systematic linguistic errors or systemic language failures. Language is the prerequisite for thinking. Those who do not use it properly and try to carry on conversations with ChatGPT and co. lose their connection to thought. Mainstream culture and its literature and art rarely produce anything of true artistic or linguistic value; it is entertainment and it is p-u-r-e b-o-r-e-d-o-m (as Walter Serner noted 100 years ago). The mediocre mind rejoices in shining linguistically within the mainstream and even winning awards. From mediocrity to mediocrity, perpetuating the inhuman system.

WORDS are more important than one might think, because without them there is no thought, no development of the mind or the world. It's essential to quote Wittgenstein here, because his words make particular sense in this context: "The limits of my language are the limits of my world."
Words are important; the clearer and more natural they are, the better.

SlovoKult—has enshrined the importance of the word in its name since 2007/2008, when the first portal went online: "Slovo" as a word in many modern Slavic languages (but especially Old Slavonic) and "Kult" as a place of secret, divine, and occult gathering—outside the masses or, in today's terms, the mainstream—that is, the "cult of the word," known only to a minority. But we want to reach more minds: Our passion is to make words and texts accessible through translation into other languages, thus presenting both the original and the translation as linguistic art within the cult—in multilingual polyphony: a specialty and innovation of SlovoKult, where the text resonates in multiple languages alongside one another, like a linguistic chain reaction.

Because text as art and especially poetry often instills serious fear in people (will they understand it if it deviates from mainstream language?), we have embedded the presentation within an interplay of improvised music and a video exhibition (projections of selected artworks). This engages all the senses, but the mind must also immediately grapple with the words—and that is very important to us.
The concept began in 2018 as SlovoKult :: literARTour—the first edition of the Biennial of Contemporary Arts (text + image + translation as a projection)—and in 2020, improvised sound was added (text + visual + sound art), and despite COVID-19 restrictions, we managed to present the trilingual polyphony with one live voice and two audio recordings, establishing it as a unique and avant-garde concept, that we continue to present live since 2023.
You can watch videos on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@slovokult
We still have a lot of unpublished material.

Unfortunately, no further funding came through to support it, because starting in 2020 we were uncomfortably critical and different—but it continued as a DIY interdisciplinary art happening: SlovoKult :: Closer (5 events in

2023) and, since 2024, it has been SlovoKult :: intersession—due to its complexity, held only 1–2 times a year, still without state or municipal support—but firmly established in the underground scene.
SlovoKult connects the sayable with the unspeakable, presenting it in a real-time avant-garde happening—text in multilingual polyphony + sound improvisation + video exhibition.

We present the arts in an interdisciplinary manner, yet each work and every artist also maintains their individual presence within the overall presentation. We provide a space especially for interdisciplinary artists who express themselves in multiple “artistic languages”—but all SlovoKult :: artists do it so differently, freely, critically, and politically. Differently.
What else unites us: We think of the people of this world who suffer under the war machine and commemorate the many victims we were unable to save because the intellectual majority has fallen silent once again. We have something to say, and we do so through words and art—at one of Berlin’s best underground venues, West Germany in Kreuzberg, which has been wonderfully hosting and supporting us since 2023.
A DIY festival would never survive without the collaboration of everyone involved.
Only the truthful will reach the new future.