

The white rabbit

Bangalore, 16th–30th December 2014

One of the Bangalore's biggest problems is the individual traffic, not only making the city noisy, but first of all creating a very polluted air through emissions, dispersed dust etc. To walk around outside quickly gives the feeling of being dirty. Everything that lays around seems old and worn out very soon. Trying to handle the ever growing traffic by building flyovers is not even solving the problem in the bud, but just worsens the air quality more and more.

Now the white rabbit comes into play: Per se a cute soft toy, big eyes, round shapes, the cuddly "small child pattern", pure and pristine. The rabbit doesn't appear in Indian mythology, a sign for the moon and the colour white would be the mysterium in case of an elephant.

In its immense size of 4 meters length and a height of one meter, on first view this white rabbit resembles an elephant, or suggests an advertisement action of a nearby luxury mall.

The passengers friendly adopted him, laughed, made jokes, and went to touch the rabbit and mostly also to take a photo with him. Because he was soft and nice to touch, made like a small soft toy fabric rabbit, and stuffed with soft material. One night, while passing the rabbit, it caught my eye that his ears were being placed above his eyes, as if he could sleep better that way. The next morning he looked at the world again and his ears were hanging down on his side.

This beautiful and pure state, pleasingly revealing itself to the eyes of the car drivers passing by, was of short duration though, because pretty soon the rabbit was covered with dust and emissions, his fur lost its shiny gloss and his color changed from white to grey. The dirtier the rabbit became, the more he showed his shape as a thrown away, disposed or lost soft toy – always resembling something sad. After two weeks parts of his fur was already black.

This melancholic moment, the loss of something that one had come to love with – I was searching for with this intervention.

A bomb assassination on Chirch Street in Bangalore on December 28th, killing a young Indian woman and seriously injuring another person, led to the rabbits' investigative examination, on search for possible bombs. The only remainings of the rabbit were a few white flakes out of his innards, as if they had been draped in memory of the rabbit.

Uwe Jonas, Februar 2015



Foto: Nora Bibel



Foto: Ralf Homann