

BETTINA POUSTTCHI

BIOGRAPHY

Bettina Pousttchi, a major figure of German 21st century art, made her worldwide reputation through expressions in sculpture, photography, video and site specific large-scale installations.

In 1971 in Mainz, Germany, Pousttchi was born into a German and Iranian family. She studied Studio Art in Paris, at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in New York, as well as pursuing studies in philosophy, art history and film theory. Pousttchi's interdisciplinary trainings in mind and practice position her to make art with scientific and philosophical approaches, scholarly research and historical analysis.

In her work the artist examines the relationships of time, space and history in a transnational perspective. Her site-specific public installations often cover entire building facades that challenge the perception and memory of the world that surrounds us. In her sculptures, she explores the structures of public space and their impact on social behavior, often by using everyday objects that she deconstructs and recomposes.

The artist has received significant recognition internationally, with solo exhibitions of her work in museums such as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington D.C., the MoCA Shanghai, the Berlinische Galerie, Museum of Modern Art, Berlin, the Phillips Collection, Washington D.C., the Arts Club of Chicago, the Kunsthalle Basel, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Bundeskunsthalle Bonn and the Nasher Sculpture Center Dallas.

Her works are included in numerous public and private collection worldwide, such as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington D.C., The Albertina Vienna, the Nasher Sculpture Center Dallas, the Arts Club of Chicago, the Philips Collection Washington D.C. and Berlinische Galerie Museum of Modern Art Berlin.

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WORLD TIME CLOCK

On February 29, 2008 - a leap day -, Bettina Pousttchi decided to photograph a public clock in every time zone of the world at always the same time: five minutes before two, for the course of her life. Since then, *World Time* clock has become the most expansive photographic work by the artist to date.

Bettina Pousttchi traveled the globe to make *World Time Clock* and photographed more than twenty-four clocks in more than twenty-four cities to cover twenty-four different time zones. In each location, the artist captured an image of an iconic clock at the same local time: five minutes before two in the afternoon. Her traveled places include Mexico City, Bangkok, and Tashkent, "The photos together suggest an imaginary global synchronism.", the artists says, and "The series also charts the reach of colonial power, showing, for example, how

imitations of London's iconic "Big Ben" denote the public time in faraway places like Mumbai, Cape Town and Shanghai."

World Time Clock was first shown as a full circle installation at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., in 2016-17. The second time, the set was shown at the Berlinische Galerie, Museum of Modern Art, Berlin in 2019-20. Shanghai is the third stop in the world and the first stop on the Asian continent to present the work.

World Time Clock is used as a measurement of time; its physical image remains with its distinguished manufactured features, representing the progress of change as history evolves into years in lineage lines, the physical image symbolizes external cycle; Externally, the universe passes through cosmic, astronomical, astrological and historical cycles; The clock's circle is an inner one which acts as a reference or tool for the individual and societies to measure 24 hours directing immediately to day and night and night and day, passing through continues sunrises and sundowns, with repeated conception, growth, old age, death and rebirth relate to the individual and societies.

World Time Clock has neither beginning nor ending, the beginning is the ending, the complete circle symbolizes an alternative cycle. While searching for the alternative cycle, Pousttchi's *World Time Clock* captured in real time and space is a "performative journey" to seek the liberation and truth of the nature of reality in history.

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QUOTES

"Occurring quadrennially to bring the Western system of time into line with the earth's solar orbit, this special day - leap day - made me think about the phenomenon of time and the ordering systems with which many societies seek to structure nature. That day, I decided to photograph a public clock in each time zone, always at the same time, over the course of my life."

"World Time Clock embraces the present, the now, the elusive transition between past and future, which is our sole sphere of action. "

"Photography is a medium that inherently promises to capture a moment, it rises to the impossible task of freezing and stretching time."