



Creative Intervention

PINK. GLITTER. VIOLENCE.

MIRJANA MITROVIĆ

Berlin University of the Arts, Germany

In the summer of 2019, two cases of minors who reported to have been raped by police officers in Mexico City became known. A 16-year-old woman stated that the rape happened during her internship at the Archivo de la Fotografía Museum. A 17-year-old testified that she was raped at night on her way home just two streets from her home in the north of the city by four police officers in their patrol car. The evidence was not properly documented, thus afterwards a legal process according to the regulations became impossible. In addition, the name of the 17-year-old was passed on to the press. These are not isolated cases, but it was the final straw.

First, on August 12, feminists demonstrated in front of the Municipal Security Building in Mexico City against police violence and for the investigation of the crimes and the punishment of the perpetrators. Thereby pink glitter and the shards of a knocked-in door collided. The mayor of Mexico City, Claudia Sheinbaum, called the protests a “provocation.” As a result, there were spontaneous and decentralized calls for new protests in more than 30 Mexican cities for the following Friday evening. Pictures with pink glittering fists were sent and hashtags such as “They don't protect me, they rape me” and “We want justice!” accompanied the call.

On the evening of August 16, shards of glass and pink glitter shone on the asphalt of Mexico City to a completely different extent. The connotation of pink glitter changed radically and a broad social discussion about violence was sparked. On the one hand, it was about the deadly violence in the country, which has been costing the lives of several women every day for years due to deeply rooted machist structures in the population, the media and state institutions. On the other hand, the public discourse also focused on the destructive anger of the protesting women that evening, which was unleashed at bus stations, monuments and police stations. The mainly young women, carrying bags of pink glitter, smashed any social expectations towards them.

How can this protest, between popular feminism and destructive anger, be documented and perceived, represented and remembered in public and private spaces?

Correspondence Address: Mirjana Mitrović, Berlin University of the Arts, Berlin 10623, Germany; email: m.mitrovic@udk-berlin.de; www.udk-berlin.de/person/mirjana-mitrovic/

ISSN: 1911-4788





















Pink.Glitter.Violence. is a photo project by artist and scholar Mirjana Mitrović which so far has been exhibited in Berlin, Leipzig and Bochum and accompanied articles about the protest in newspapers, magazines, and books.

mirjana-mitrovic.de