



The Artists (Die Künstler)

Documentary

57 min, DV

Berlin, 2006

Camera: Till Beckmann
Sound: Udo Stowitz/ Christian Obermaier
Music: Dominic Hofmeister/ UP
Directing/Script/Production/Editing: Susanne Ullerich

Nine artists, four musicians, two journalists, one photographer, one actress and one designer talk about the difference between art and work

Art and work

What is work?

Am I satisfied?

What is art?

Utopia and the future of work?

The film takes on and dissects the concept of work, what work is, how people will work in the future and how artists and other independent people working in creative fields come to terms with this concept.

The film sets out to find how one can be satisfied and what one needs to accomplish this. When is an artist an artist? How can an artist earn money? How can one find utopia while steering against the current economic and work situation?

The film "Die Künstler (The Artists)" is an interview film with 18 people.

The starting point is myself, the filmmaker, graduate of Berlin's University of the Arts, with focus on Experimental Media Design.

During my studies, naturally, I had often asked myself, "How will I earn money?"

Because I couldn't easily answer this and many other questions, I decided to interview other like-minded people.

The interviews all take place in a studio, where the goal was to place the interviewees in a sort of job interview situation.

The interviewees have many different nationalities and backgrounds and were subjected to a litany of questions covering the themes of work, art, satisfaction, wishes, creativity, study and their personal life situations.

The goal was not to build a personal profile of each individual, but rather to present a forum to discuss each of the questions.

I myself am presented in voice-over commentary as well as fictional, experimental scenes in which I am presented as a split personality in different situations depicting the process of a job search.

Quotes



Luc, Painter:

The best thing would be if you were rich and didn't have problems like this - if you had enough money to live, without having to do anything for it. In the end, that's the only real solution. Everything else is just stupid.



Julien, Artist:

If work is something that makes you satisfied, then I guess I work sometimes, too.



Kolja, Artist:

The view of "not working" must be changed. So that "non-work" is not so worthless and that someone doesn't need to feel so worthless when they don't have a job.



Satoshi, Artist:

I think about it as two separate things. My artistic abilities and the work I do to make money.



Jesse, Journalist:

The difference between „real work“ and art has changed and it is blurred, today in the age of branding, internet and design and what not isn't such a division anymore.



André, Artist:

Often my favorite workdays are the days when I have to do some shit job.



Hanna, Designer:

Artistic knowledge- I believe that is really hopeless to try and pass on.



Mäx, Journalist and Hobby-Artist:

Work? What is work? Well, work is the other part of life and the first part is prayer.

Quotes



Jelka, Artist:

There isn't anything that happens every day the same way, because I never have a typical workday.



Yasmin, Actress:

Work is arduous when I must fulfill new tasks. MUST FULFILL.



Cory, Musician:

Work is what you have to do to earn the money that you need to live.



Sonja, Photographer:

When you work freelance, you constantly feel guilty that you haven't done enough, that there was more you should have done.



Dirk, Musician and Designer:

I've never thought of myself as a musician and I would also not call myself an Industrial Designer.



Annette, Artist:

I mean, that's an extremely negative perspective to have in life- this going through life with total fear.



Ufo, Musician:

You have to be able to function and in doing so, sometimes things are nudged out, and when these creative or personal releases are missing, at some point they break through again.



Pablo, Musician and DJ:

As long as I can make enough money to eat food that I like and live relatively comfortably I am somewhat happy at least.