

Postcards: A thinking and writing task

Write a text inspired in some way by a postcard. So: Use someone else's postcard to mark an element on it: picture, existing text, addressee or sender - not everything! the choice is free – to create something.

The idea of this task was to playfully open up with the picture, to stimulate the imagination and to open up the possibility of not (directly) writing about oneself.

- do not start biographically
- detach from one's own solidified memory

Of course, one's own biographical memories can be used, but the strange scenario prevents the otherwise frequent fixation on the real events of the time, it

- opens a distancing
- enables new, unknown scenarios
- suggests an alien perspective, world of thought, time
- the image often appeals to emotions, is lighter, alternative to purely verbal ways of expression

In addition, a reflection on postcards:

General properties commonly ascribed to postcards in their usual usage:

Communication: Two people (or collectives) communicate from a distance, the production precedes the reception, in between there is a local mediation through the post (it is given out of the hands). Both the picture that was found and bought for this purpose, and often intended for the addressee, can make statements like the text. The text, other properties, is limited and can be read by strangers.

- Communication between two partners
- local distance
- postponed, not directly
- Image and text make statements, carry meaning
- Post as an intermediary
- open, readable for others
- you paid something for it, voluntarily
- to a person or collective at a fixed address, at home
- The sender is usually in a special place, vacation, travel

In the discussion we asked ourselves whether and with what feelings we read other people's postcards. What it means that so many of us have been encouraged by our parents to write holiday cards. The difference to blank postal cards, which used to be used for messages without a picture, and postcards with a photo. The joke postcards, art postcards. It turns out that many of us have also used this medium in matters of love and that in this case the geographical distance does not have to be related to holidays etc. Another example are postcards placed inside envelopes.

The change in function after technical alternatives have actually made the postcard obsolete; the strange way of making postcards digitally and writing them and having them printed out and mailed to the recipient. Digital postcards.

Possible realizations:

A. Because of the photo

- Own holiday greetings from this place
- a poem
- love story
- Invoice
- Thoughts about the picture
- Interpretation of the image

B. Based on the text, address, name, etc. curse and ridicule

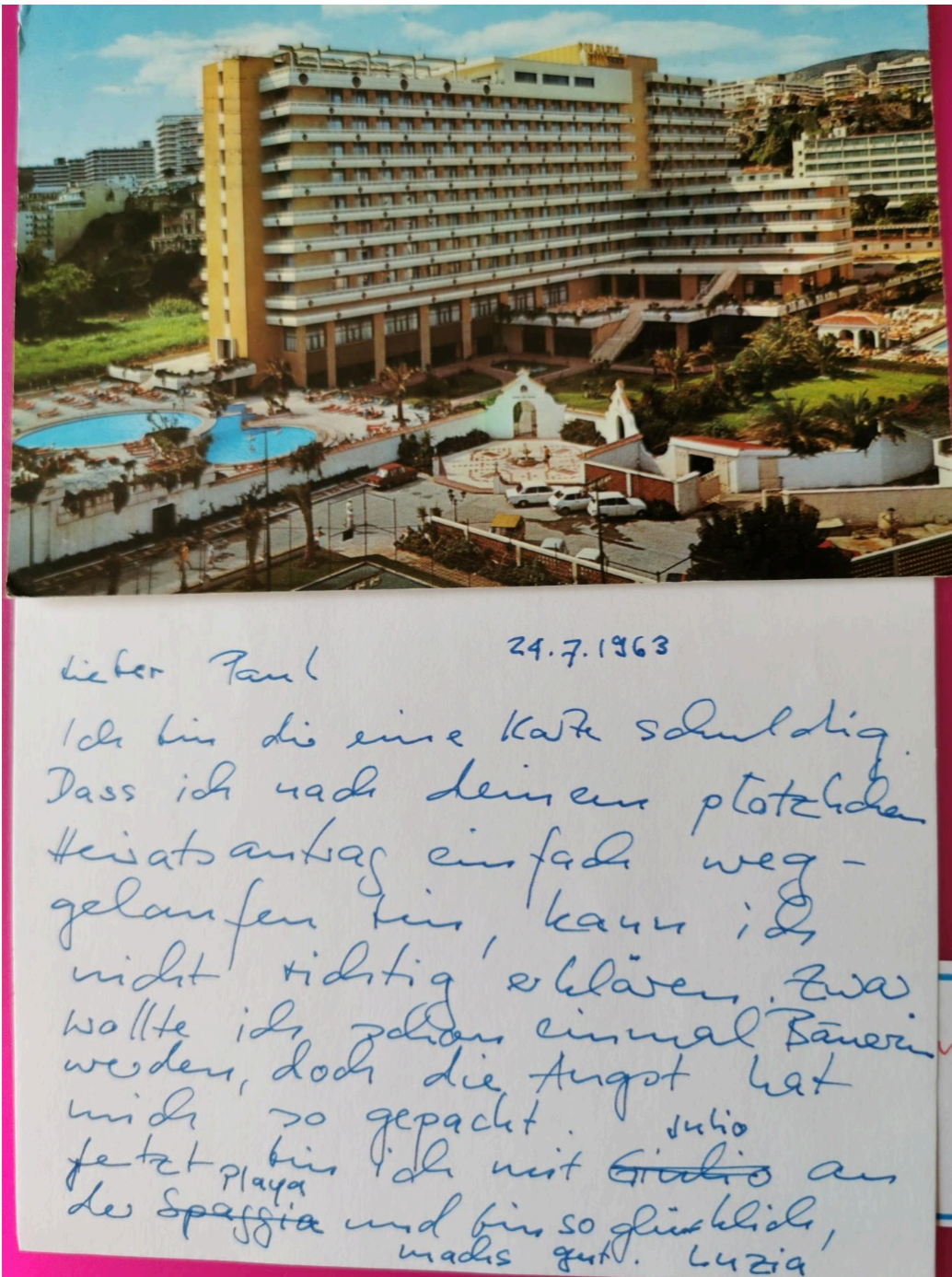
Recently I bought a packet of old postcards, relatively expensive (nearly like new ones), unseen, to let myself be surprised, to dare visits to strange pasts, to see what people wanted to say to each other on postcards a hundred years ago.

I leave the disappointment undiscussed. In short: it was hardly worth it. After all, there were many among them that you might want to declare the ugliest postcard photos. Photos of hotel boxes from the 1970s, grotesque-looking modern buildings, facilities, street scenes. Unfortunately, many reminded me of the exact same postcards of my youth. I was expecting historical ones, with more zesty twists.

I was all the more interested in what other people bring, when you tell them to look for a few postcards at home. Amazing: Although the medium is out of date, so to speak, everyone brought postcard examples with them. Secondly, astonishing: We are all in the bubble, where postcards were used in a sophisticated, enigmatic, conscious way and in some cases still are. No: "Greetings from Mallorca, the sun is shining" without an ulterior motive, no "we're enjoying the trip to the fullest" without an ambiguity.

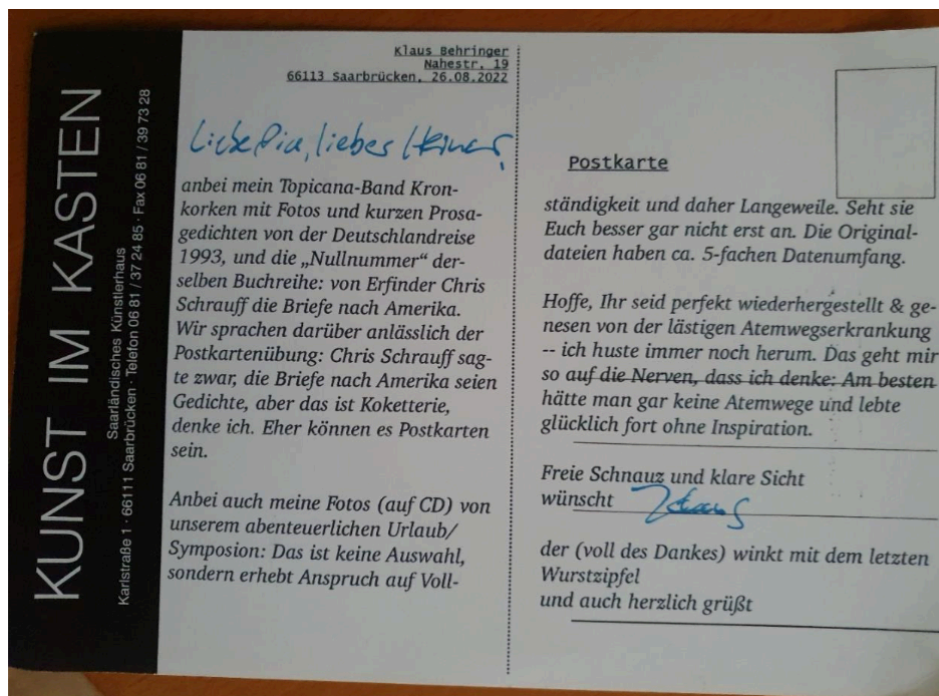
Our friend Klaus even published a booklet on the same subject, postcards. In short: I'm trendy without even knowing it. But most of us used and brought art postcards, paintings, exhibitions, photographic art.

A realization / example



Well, it's really flat, nothing deep. But it was fun to put yourself in the shoes of a total stranger who chose this exact picture from the 1960s. It stimulated me.

Heiner has painted a very funny story - maybe we'll get it. Amazingly just like me, someone on the run, with him it's a very young person, maybe still a child, who escaped. Klaus went straight to the point



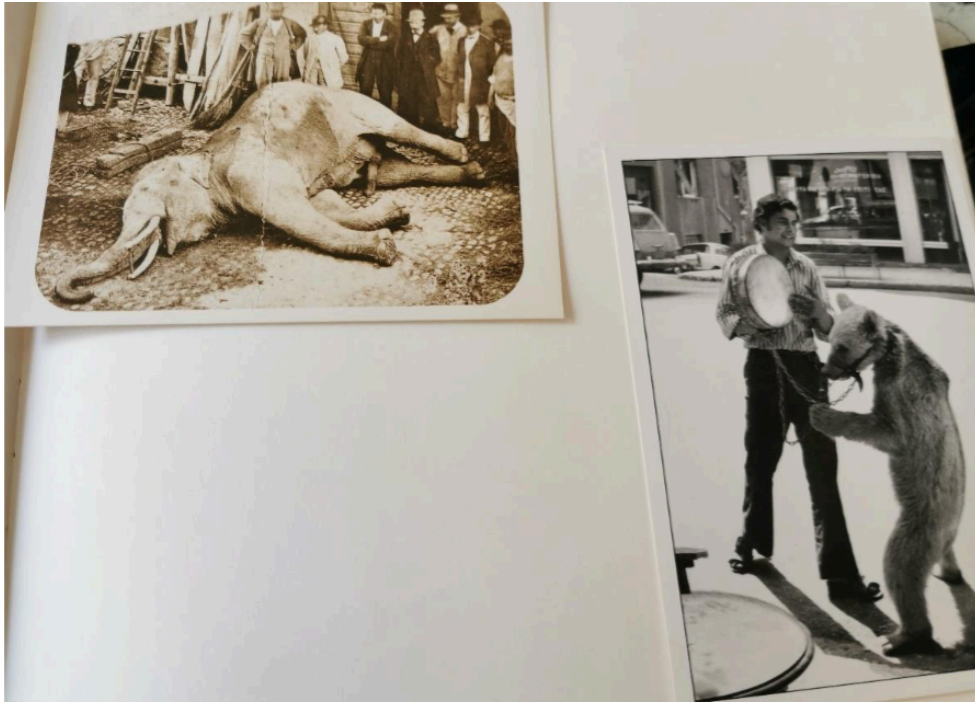
(Here are my notes: Max Ernst, Forest and Sun; Trees in Slices; 1998; Villa Massimo, Casa Baldi, Waldhirsch, advertising postcard. – Memory of Paul Verity Smith (died 2017); Max Ophüls Festival Saarbrücken; 1982 film: "E Nachtlang Fülland" by Clemens Klopfenstein, award winner, news anchor)

A few examples from my collection:

Really old postcards from distant worlds



Triumph Postcards: killed or tamed animals /below: my favorite postcard from Meiringen



Und zum Schluss meine Lieblings-Postkarte aus Meiringen

