

## **recto/verso**

### **An Installation by Andrea Morein**

The installation “recto/verso” by the artist Andrea Morein refers to the verso pages of Charlotte Salomon’s cycle “Life? Or Theater?”. Salomon created this cycle of 1300 annotated gouaches as an account of her life at a time of highly personal, emotional crisis and of simultaneous external aggression and marginalization. A short while later, the then 26-year-old native of Berlin was deported to Auschwitz and murdered there.

Andrea Morein, born in Vienna and residing in Cologne, deals with Salomon’s haunting life in her very own and emphatically subjective manner: starting point of her artistic work are the cycle’s recto pages, rejected by Charlotte Salomon, which she had pasted over and thus invalidated, yet had used them anew on the other, the verso side. The destructive act of pasting over, carried out deliberately and systematically, was the source of Morein’s fascination over a long period of time. This invalidating act inspired her to reinterpret issues concerning the ambivalences of control, qualification, and discredit in human relations, which she has translated into an idiosyncratic esthetic form: Fifteen collages are integrated in a metallic installation, which reflects the prison called human beings in their emotional predicament, caused by time and space, regarding relationships. These collages take up the theme of censorship of one’s own self toward the other as well as the censorship of the other toward one’s own self.

Excerpt of Flyer Text by Dr. Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek