

An English Man in Berlin

Blog about life and culture in Berlin, Germany

Creative in Berlin: Laura Fong Prosper

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Visual artist [Laura Fong Prosper](http://laurafongprosper.com/) (<http://laurafongprosper.com/>) has been living in Berlin since 2007. Her solo video exhibition *Gēn* opens tonight at the [Vesselroom Project](http://www.vesselroomproject.com/) (<http://www.vesselroomproject.com/>).

Here's your chance to meet her and find out about her work and relationship to the city.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

My name is Laura Fong Prosper. I am an artist and film editor from Panama. I love yoga, cats, nature, music and good food. I am a melting pot with legs. I am Chinese, Native American, black and white.



(<https://englishmaninberlin.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/screen-shot-2013-04-03-at-6-30-35-pm.png>) Why did you, like so many artists, choose to live in Berlin?

Since I came in 2004, I knew I wanted to live here. Freedom and creativity breathe in Berlin's air. Since then, of course I've seen some dramatic changes; everything is more organized, controlled and less anarchic than it used to be, but I think change also brings other possibilities. More opportunities for artists, more spaces, more global exchanges and local community work. Let's hope Berlin grows for the better.

What's your favorite place in Berlin?

I can't have one favorite place in this city. That's why I love it so much. Some places are, Treptower Park, Richardplatz, Tempelhof Airport, Prinzessinnengarten, the Thai Park, Teufelsberg and anything in the outskirts of the city all the way to beautiful Brandenburg. I usually spend my weekends outside the city in the countryside of Brandenburg.

Tell us about your work.

I mix VJ (video jockey) techniques and film editing techniques into my work. I also like to use analog formats, and mix it in with newer media. I love color saturations, over impositions and glitch. I am

into experimental film making, video installations and visual essays. My VJ work is more about video painting on a canvas and live video art projections than syncing video bits to music beats.

What themes are you con

<https://englishmaninberlin.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/screen-shot-2013-04-09-at-1-10-56-am.png>cerned with?

Identity, the expat life, being a foreigner since 2001 in different places all over the world gave me a constant nostalgia or homesickness of missing family on a daily basis. But also, being a walking melting pot, I can't relate only to one culture. And that's how I feel every time I go back home. I feel I don't belong there anymore. So I like to deal with that space in between. That identity limbo and its consequences.



Describe your process.

Trial and error and free play. There's no other way for me. I came from film school where everything is very strict, pre-planned and hierarchic (especially fiction filmmaking). With my art I like to break from all those conventions and just play. I like unexpected – accidental – results the most.

Editing is on one hand intuitive/dreamlike and on the other about story-telling and construction – your video art seems to rely more on the former than the latter – or do story-telling principles still apply?



<https://englishmaninberlin.files.wordpress.com/2014/11/screen-shot-2013-04-03-at-5-57-42-pm.png>

You're completely right. When I work as a film editor, even though I bring my intuitive abstractions once in a while I have to rely on telling a story, thinking about the spectator... is it clear enough? Is it boring? How can we make it shorter? My art work is the complete opposite. Its more about feelings than rationality. Sometimes, I like to leave the interpretation open to the spectator. It's more about telling fragmented stories than a linear one. I pay a lot of attention to trying to show moments of my life, seen through my eyes. It's about creating an ephemeral experience.

What are you working on now?

An experimental film about Berlin. After all these years here, I haven't done any project on the city yet. It's about time. You might be interested. I'll keep you posted...

[Laura Fong Prosper's solo video exhibition \(http://www.vesselroomproject.com/exhibitions/upcoming\)](http://www.vesselroomproject.com/exhibitions/upcoming) Gen opens (<http://www.vesselroomproject.com/exhibitions/upcoming>) at 7 p.m tonight at the Vesselroom Project, near Kottbusser Tor and runs until 12th December 2014. (<http://www.vesselroomproject.com/exhibitions/current>)

If you are being creative in Berlin and would like to chat about it, [contact me](https://englishmaninberlin.wordpress.com/contact/)

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