



Fall 2012 Newsletter
CIEE Berlin – Language & Culture Program

As we are in the middle of the current semester we would like to share with you some impressions from ongoing CIEE events, excursions and student activities here in Berlin.

You can read and see more on the CIEE Berlin blog which can be found at:
<http://study-berlin-lc.ciee.org/>

Visit to the Memorial Site of the Former GDR Ministry of State Security (Stasi) Prison

On the 14th of September CIEE students took an excursion to the former GDR **Stasi Prison at Berlin-Hohenschönhausen**. They attended a tour through the prison guided by a former inmate. From 1951-1989 thousands of political prisoners passed through this jail, including nearly all the prominent figures opposing the GDR regime. Portions of the 2006 film *The Lives of Others* were made at Hohenschönhausen.



Trip to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp

We also made a trip to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp located just 40 minutes north of Berlin. It was here that the Nazis developed many of their integration, torture and murder techniques. It was a somber day of learning and reflection when students came face-to-face with the horrors of the Holocaust.



CIEE Workshop: History, Memory & Identity

After these intense site visits and excursions on the 22nd of September our CIEE Berlin students attended a special one-day workshop on *History, Memory & Identity* with Berlin Artist & Educator **Roman Kroke**. We worked at the [Kunstfabrik am Flutgraben](#), a unique historical Berlin location that formed part of the Berlin Wall. The "**Grenzhaus**" (**border-house**) was a East German truck workshop, heavily guarded by roof-top guards with shoot-to-kill orders. Today it is artists' studios.



Border House today

Border House Before the fall of The Wall

Artist & Educator Roman Kroke

Roman Kroke presented the students his work on the diaries of **Etty Hillesum**, a Dutch Jew murdered at Auschwitz. During the workshop students focused on the diary of Etty, studied passages from her diary, and looked at photographs from her life and time at the Westerbork concentration and transit camp in the Netherlands.



"I wish I could live for a long time so that one day I may know how to explain it, and if I am not granted that wish, well, then somebody else will perhaps do it, carry on from where my life has been cut short. And that is why I must try to live a good and faithful life to my last breath: so that those who come after me do not have to start all over again, need not face the same difficulties. Isn't that doing something for future generations?" – Etty Hillesum. 03 July 1942



After studying the passages the students presented their thoughts, associations and interpretation of Roman's illustrations. They also worked with Roman to develop works of art of their own to reflect on the life and words of Hillesum and their experiences at **Sachsenhausen** and the stasi prison



Hohenschönhausen. After a few hours of work and reflection and in the spirit of the liberated Grenzhaus, each student presented to the group their "rough and honest" art pieces and accompanying thoughts.



More on this powerful day can be found [here](#) as well as photos of the students' artworks.



Sincerely yours,
 Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Benjamin Lorch

Maren Specht

Resident Director
 CIEE Berlin

Program Coordinator
 CIEE Berlin