www.becoming-german.de

On the Road

Der Mai ist gekommen,
Die Bäume schlagen aus,
Da bleibe, wer Lust hat,
Mit Sorgen zu Haus!
Wie die Wolken wandern
Am himmlischen Zelt,
So steht auch mir der Sinn
In die weite, weite Welt.

(Emanuel Geibel 1841)

Approximate Translation:

The month of May has come
Spring has burst forth
Stay who will with
their worries at home!
As the clouds wander,
over the heavenly canopy,
so too do my thoughts turn
to the wide, wide world.

Collecting memories in the Iserlohn city centre, June 2005

Echoing both the century old tradition of itinerant apprentices in Germany and the wanderings of the Brothers Grimm in their search for Fairy Tales in the early 19th Century I collected data in summer 2005 for my project by travelling through Germany and speaking to people on the street. This walkabout with the purpose-built *Mobile-Info-Module* enabled a direct exchange between the story-teller and listener in the oral tradition.
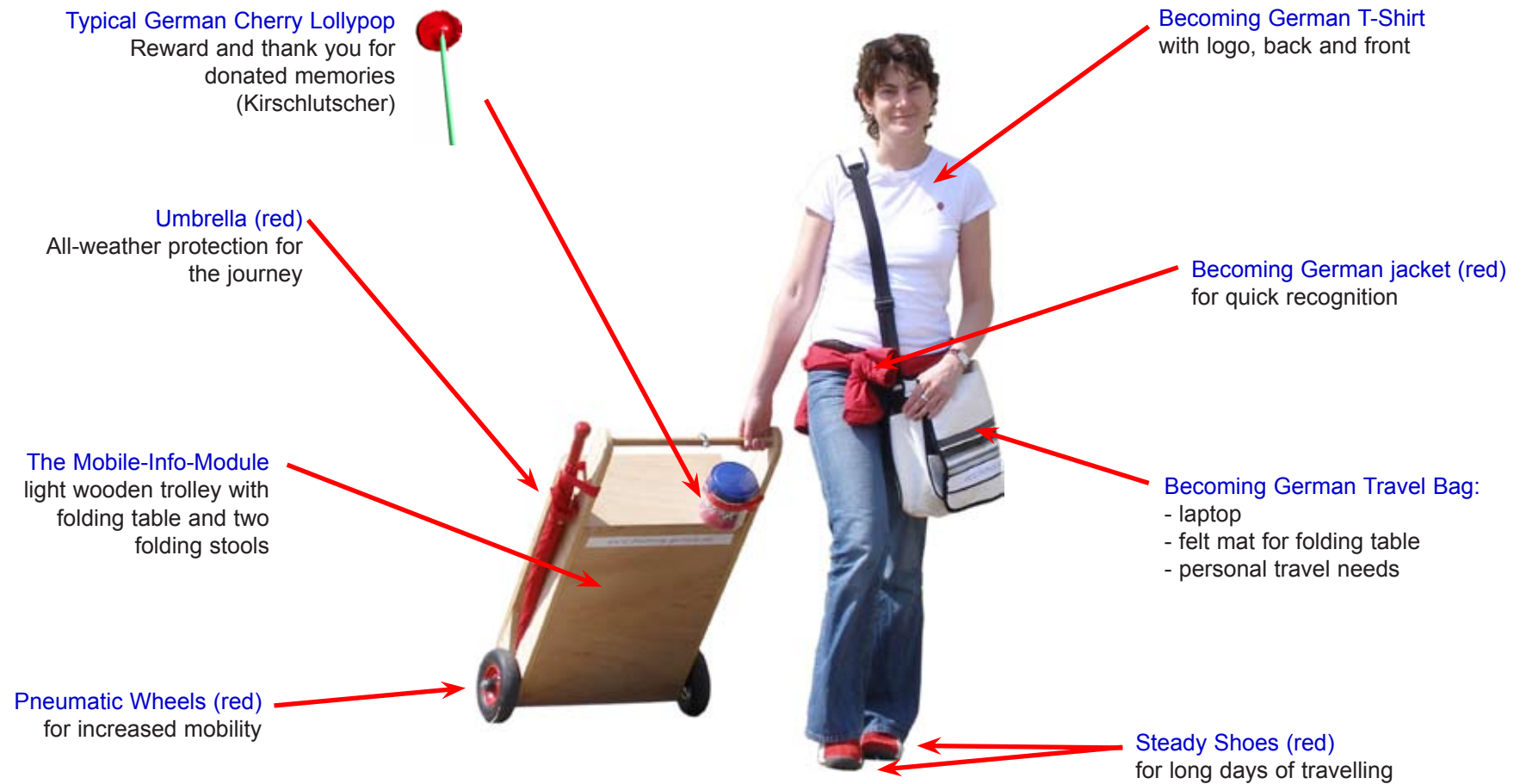
Also, the more entries in the database the more accurate the "received" German childhoods could be. The accuracy of the database relies on as many individual entries as possible, being collected from various groups of society and regions in Germany.

At the end of July 2005 there were approximately 700 entries in the database. Following the walkabout in summer 2005 and a large media response the number of entries at the beginning of January 2006 had grown to over 13000.

Both past and future stations of the journey can be found on the internet at: *http://www.becoming-german.de/aktuell.htm*.

A comprehensive list of media comments can be found at: *http://www.becoming-german.de/projekt_presse.htm*

Travelling Gear

Typical German Cherry Lollypop
Reward and thank you for
donated memories
(Kirschlutscher)

Becoming German T-Shirt
with logo, back and front

Umbrella (red)
All-weather protection for
the journey

Becoming German jacket (red)
for quick recognition

The Mobile-Info-Module
light wooden trolley with
folding table and two
folding stools

Becoming German Travel Bag:
- laptop
- felt mat for folding table
- personal travel needs

Pneumatic Wheels (red)
for increased mobility

Steady Shoes (red)
for long days of travelling

In order to inform the general public about the project and to collect data for the database on location - town centres, railway stations etc. - the Mobile-Info-Module was developed. This consists of a light wooden trolley with a built-in folding table and two folding stools. Carried in a Becoming German Travel Bag a laptop with the database installed on the local hard drive is used to collect data on the road. Data collected in this way is later uploaded onto the live internet database with a specially developed synchronisation software tool.

Collecting memories in the Kassel city centre, November 2004
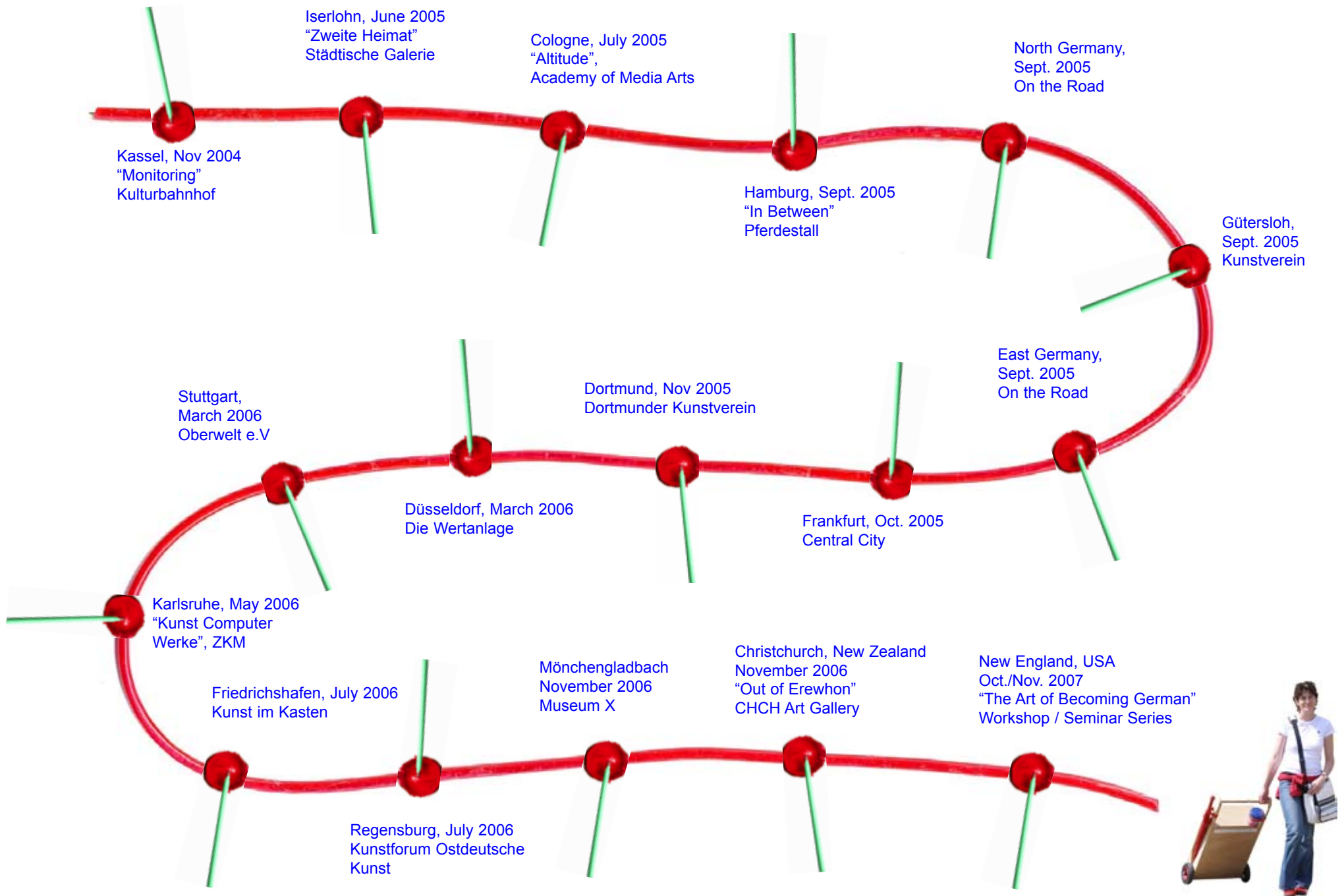
Stations of the Journey

The walkabout with the *becoming german Mobile-Info-Module* (from November 2004) led me to many different parts of Germany. The walkabout took place in both public space and in an exhibition context in the form of the *becoming german info-point*.

The becoming german info-point
In an exhibition situation a *becoming german info-point* is installed in the space. Here visitors can access the database online on laptops connected to the Internet. During the exhibition further memories are collected in the town centre and the exhibition surroundings. Photographs documenting this walkabout are presented as digital prints in the space. Each day the number of both entries in the database and photos documenting the project grows. In this way the work in process is visualised.

... been there!

... being planned!

The Becoming German Info-Point at the Kasseler Kulturbahnhof, November 2004

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Kassel, Nov 2004
"Monitoring"
Kulturbahnhof

Iserlohn, June 2005
"Zweite Heimat"
Städtische Galerie

Cologne, July 2005
"Altitude",
Academy of Media Arts

Hamburg, Sept. 2005
"In Between"
Pferdestall

North Germany,
Sept. 2005
On the Road

Gütersloh,
Sept. 2005
Kunstverein

East Germany,
Sept. 2005
On the Road

Stuttgart,
March 2006
Oberwelt e.V

Düsseldorf, March 2006
Die Wertanlage

Dortmund, Nov 2005
Dortmunder Kunstverein

Frankfurt, Oct. 2005
Central City

Karlsruhe, May 2006
"Kunst Computer
Werke", ZKM

Friedrichshafen, July 2006
Kunst im Kasten

Mönchengladbach
November 2006
Museum X

Christchurch, New Zealand
November 2006
"Out of Erewhon"
CHCH Art Gallery

New England, USA
Oct./Nov. 2007
"The Art of Becoming German"
Workshop / Seminar Series

Regensburg, July 2006
Kunstforum Ostdeutsche
Kunst

Kassel, November 2004

"Monitoring", Kulturbahnhof

The fixed Info-Point at the Kulturbahnhof,
Kassel, November 2004

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"Zweite Heimat", Städtische Galerie Iserlohn

The fixed Info-Point at the Städtische Galerie Iserlohn

Stuttgart, March 2006

Oberwelt e.V.

The fixed Info-Point at the Oberwelt e.V Gallery, Stuttgart

"Kunst Computer Werke", ZKM

The fixed Info-Point at the exhibition "Kunst Computer Werke".

The fixed Info-Point at the Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Galerie

Friedrichshafen, July 2006

Kunst im Kasten at the Zeppelin Museum + Artbus
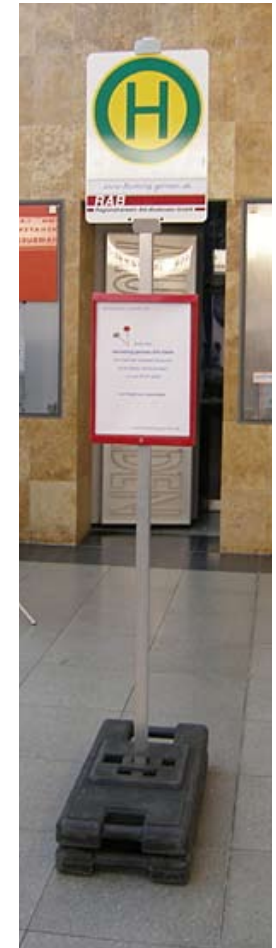
Mönchengladbach, November 2006

Museum X

Joanne Moar at Museum X
Sunday, 5th November 1-6pm

Invited Interview Partners:

Michael Schroeren (Mayor)   1pm
Helmut Freuen (former Chief Municipal Director)   2pm
Rolf Besten (Faction head of the Mönchengladbach CDU)   3pm
Horst Thoren (Head Editor of Rheinische Post)   4pm

The fixed becoming german Info-Point at Museum X, Mönchengladbach

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Contact

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