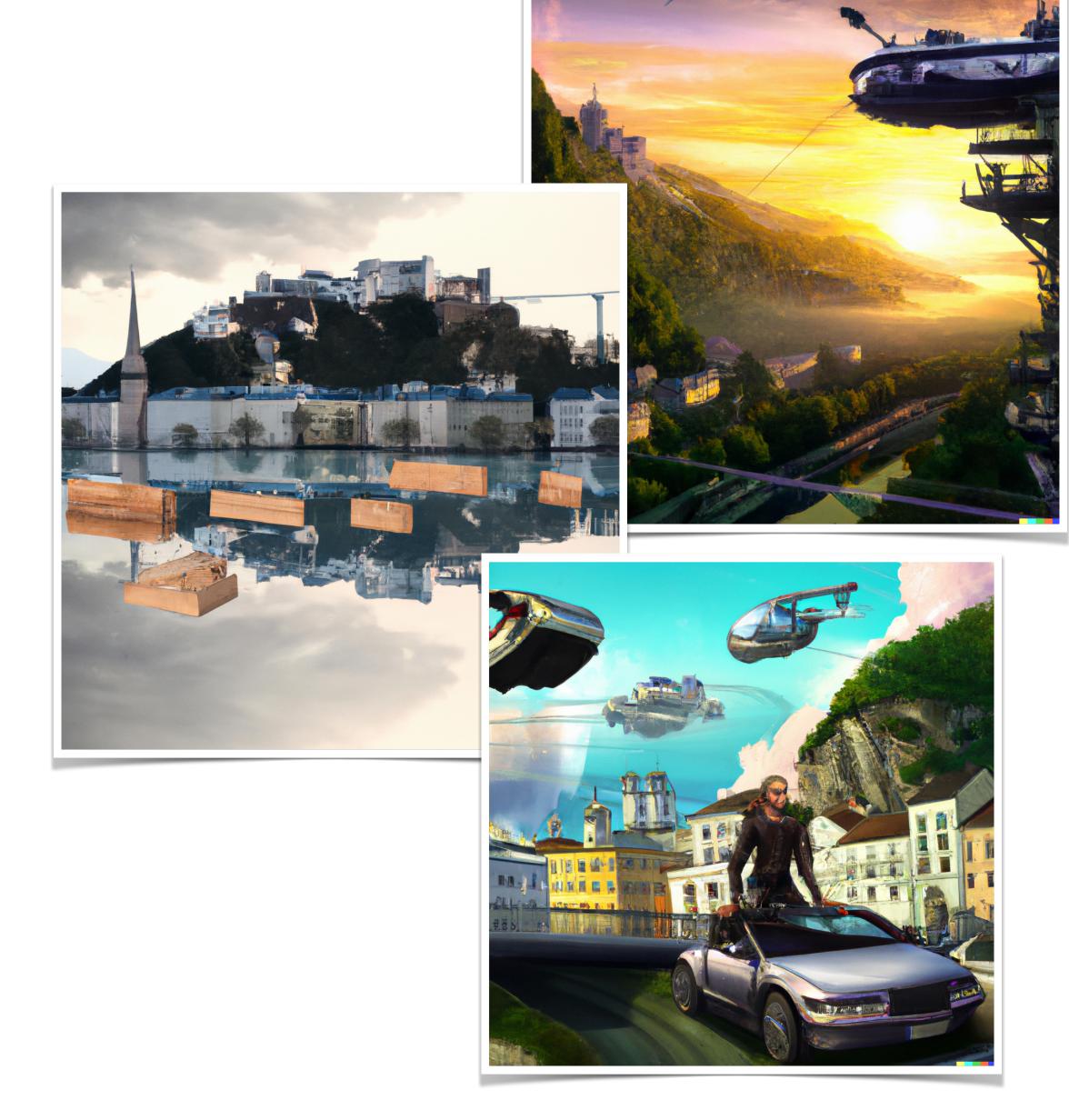


Future Studies

"Why don't you tell us what is best to wish for the future? That's your job as a futurologist, not ours."

(Junkg & Müllert, 1989, p. 26, own translation)

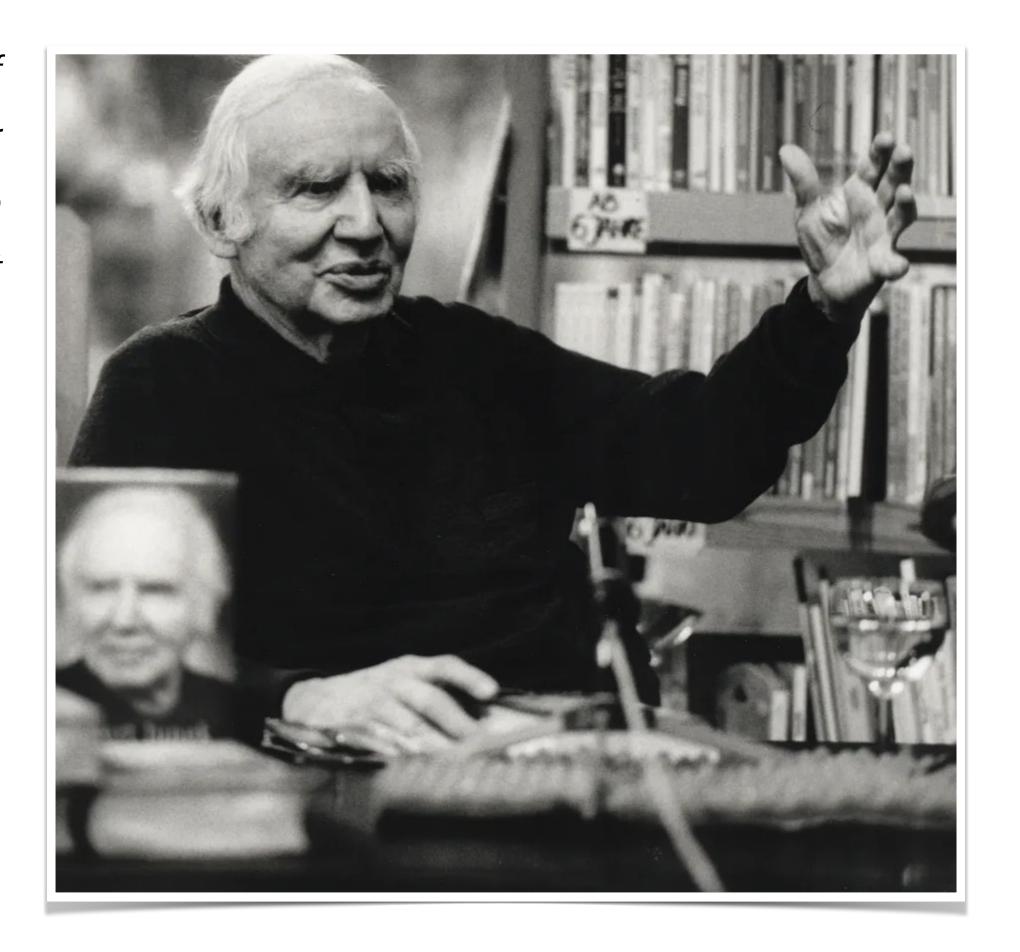
- Exploring visions of the future
 - Not into the future but at futures
 - Where do our ideas come from?
 - What wishes or fears do they express?
 - How can we discuss them?
- In which future do we want to live?



Robert Jungk (1913 Berlin – 1994 Salzburg)

"An explorer of the future, a visionary planner, a proponent of peace, a grassroots activist, a rebel and a motivator for freedom, the figurehead of the anti-nuclear movement, a true cosmopolite, and an extraordinary speaker – that is how Robert Jungk is characterized in contemporary sources."

- Social activist: Pioneer of the international anti-nuclear and environmental movement in the early 1970s
- If he were still alive today, he would take part in the global protests against excesses of the financial sector.
- Co-founder of the participatory approach to future studies in the 1980s.



https://jungk-bibliothek.org/robert-jungk-english/

Develop wishes

Approach:

In the competition we were asked what future we *expect*.

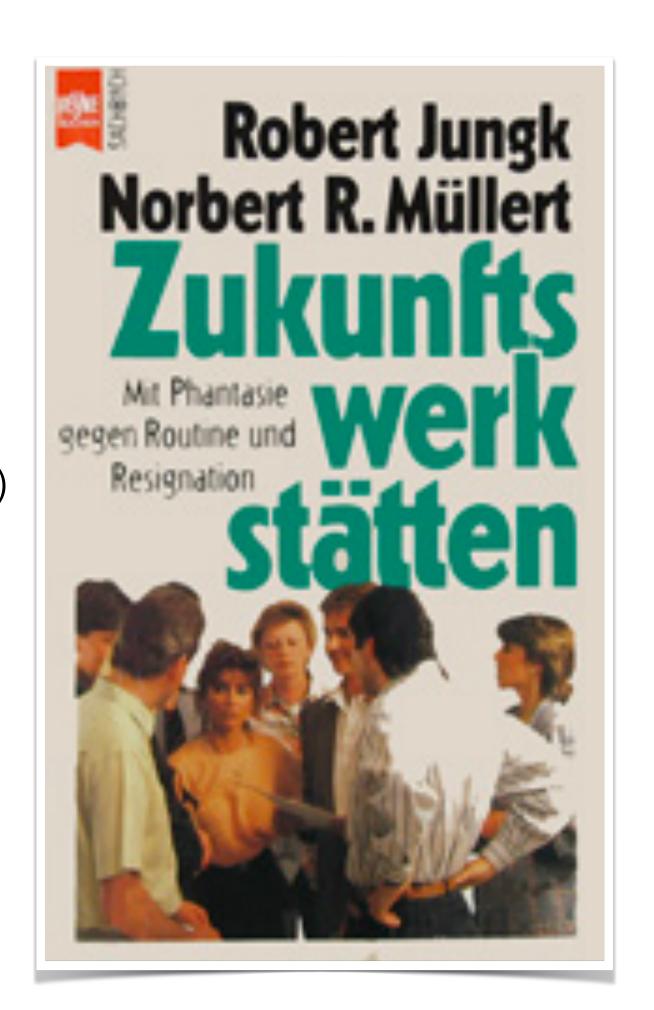
Today we were **asked what future we want**." (p.25, own translation)

Challenge:

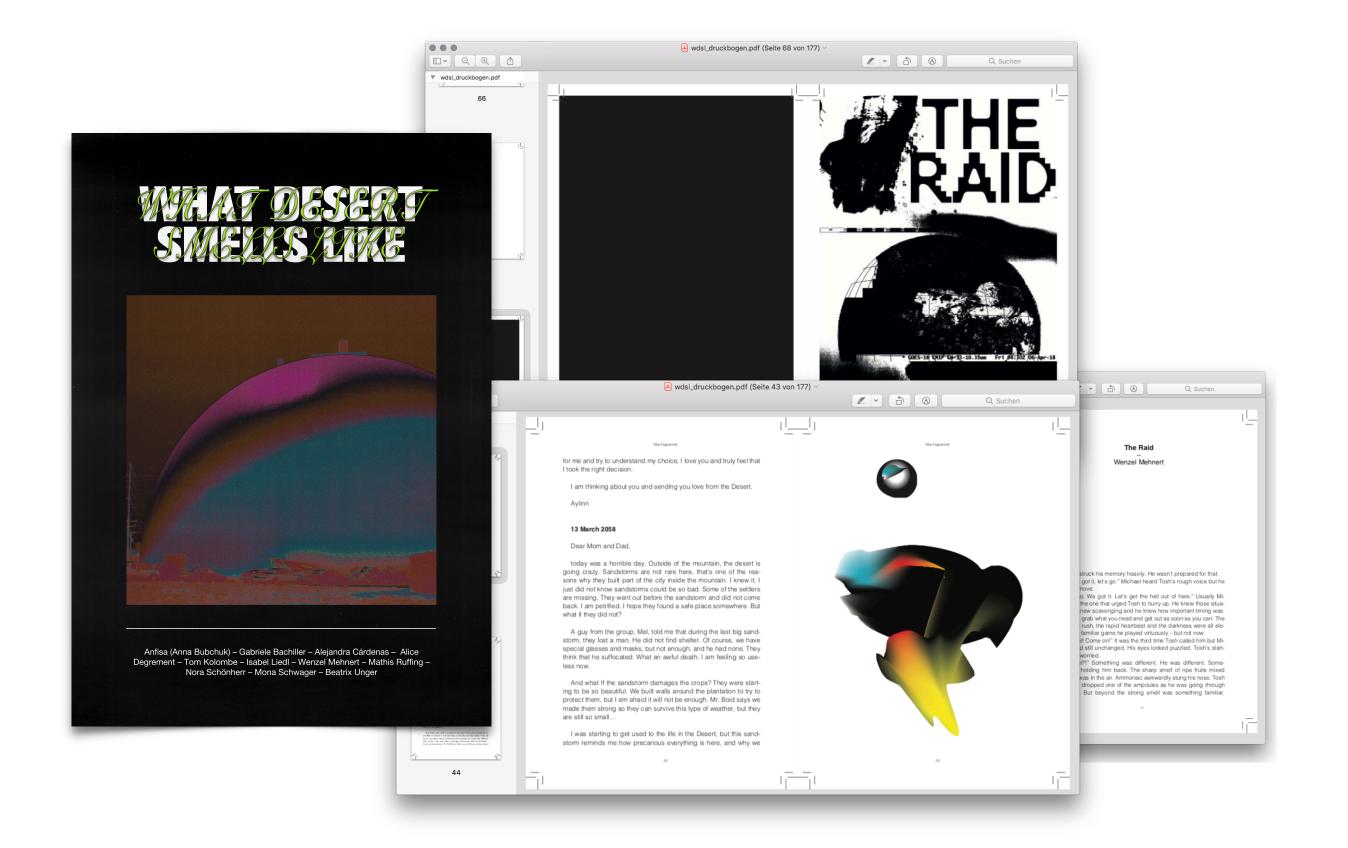
- The "imaginative hostility of the social environment". (p. 27, own translation)
- "Imaginary crisis" (Mulgan, 2020)

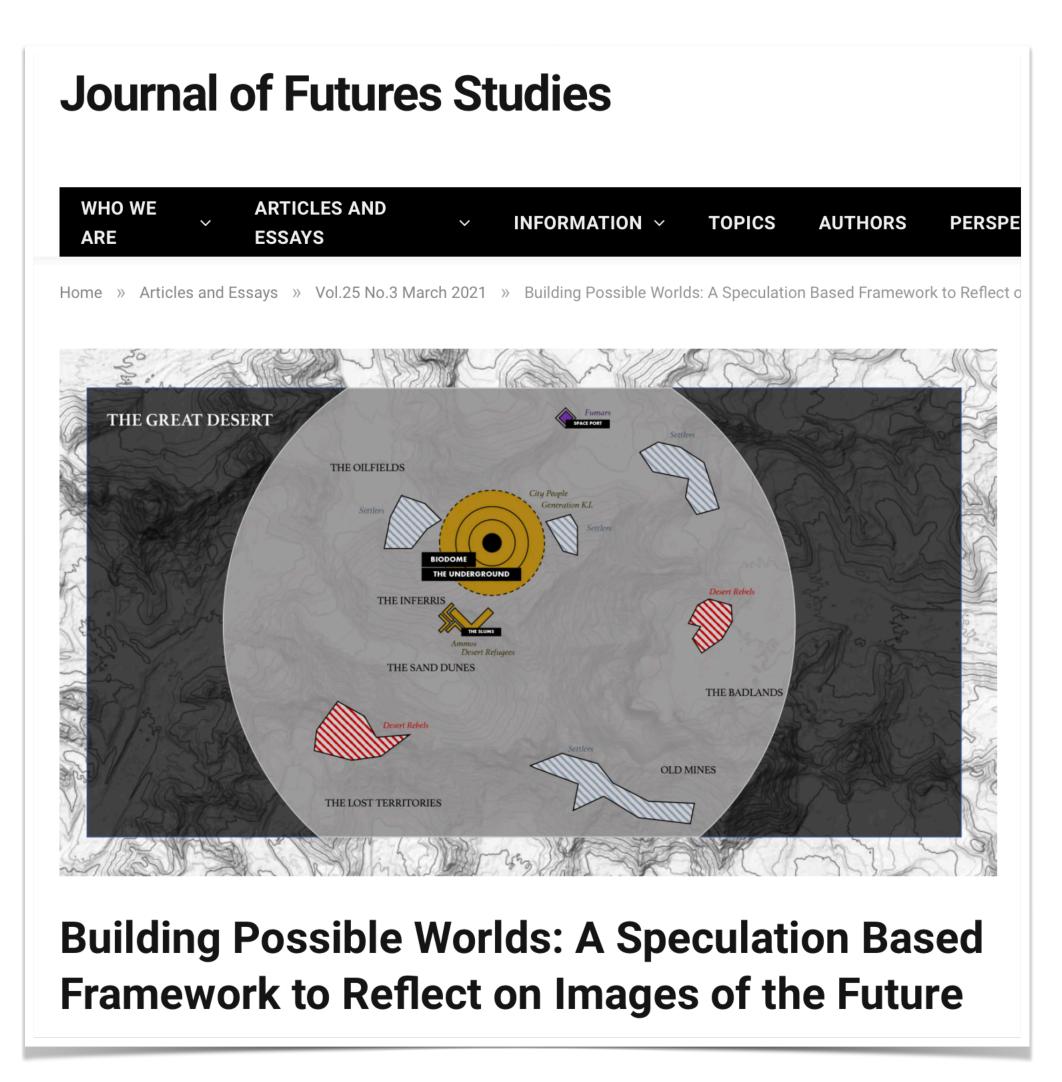
Zukunftswerkstatt

- Phase 1 Complaint & Criticism
- Phase 2 Fantasy & Utopia
- Phase 3 Realisation & Practice



Participatory Worldbuilding





Zukunfts-**Schreib**-Werkstatt

- Scholarship Nov & Dec 2022 of the City of Salzburg at the Robert-Jungk-Library
- Aim:
 - Co-Envisioning / Participatory Futures
 - Discussing visions of Salzburgers
 - Translating visions of the future into narratives

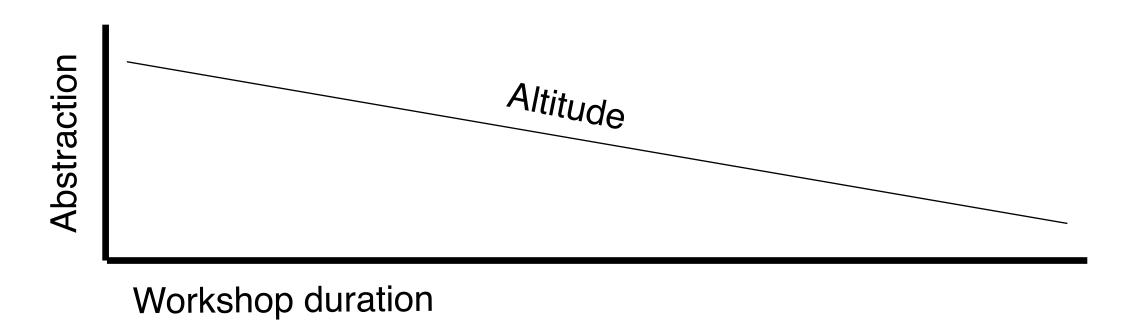


Doing the Zukunfts-Schreib-Werkstatt

- 4 workshops over a period of two weeks (06.12.2022 14.12.2022)
 - Three hours each with 3-4 participants each
 - A total of 12 participants
- NOT representative
 - Increasingly left-wing, socially committed, active or interested in the cultural scene or in the social sector
 - From the environment of the JBZ
- BUT mixed
 - 20y 70y
 - From students to pensioners

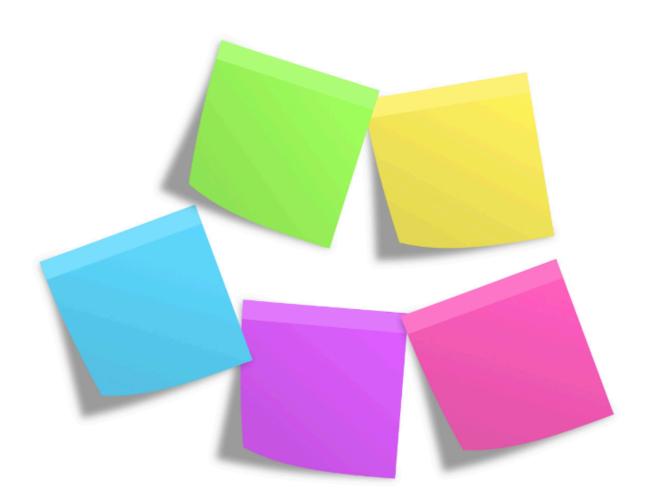
Reduce flight altitude

- From abstract visions...
 - ... to everyday situations...
 - ... in three steps:
 - (1) Visions
 - (2) Exploration
 - (3) Narration





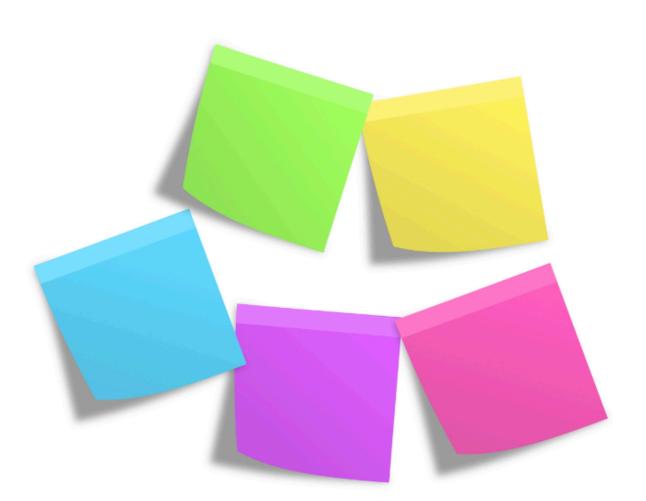
- Guided discussion, structured according to Jungk & Müllert
 - "Who are you?", "What do you do?" and "What do you like about Salzburg?"
 - "What are your associations with the terms 'future' and 'Salzburg'?"
 - Silent brainstorming session; record results individually on Post-Its



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Write down three things that bother you about the city at the moment.



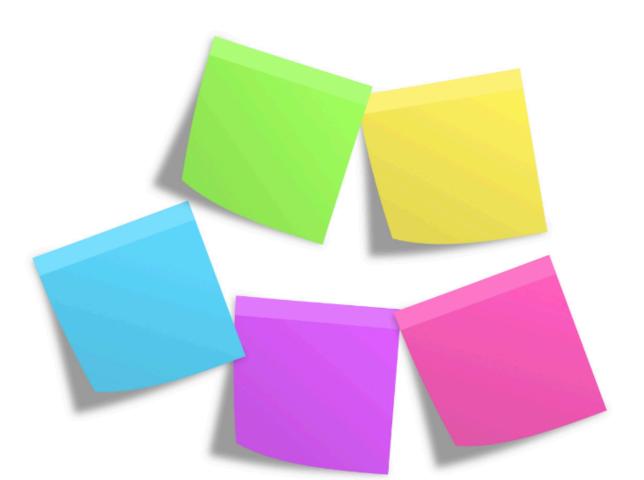
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- "What do you wish for?"
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"What bothers you at the moment?"

- Write down three things that bother you about the city at the moment.
- "What do you wish for?"
 - Based on the three things, formulate one wish and write it down.
- When your wish comes true: "What will remain?", "What will change?" and "What will disappear?"
 - First approach from the abstract to the concrete

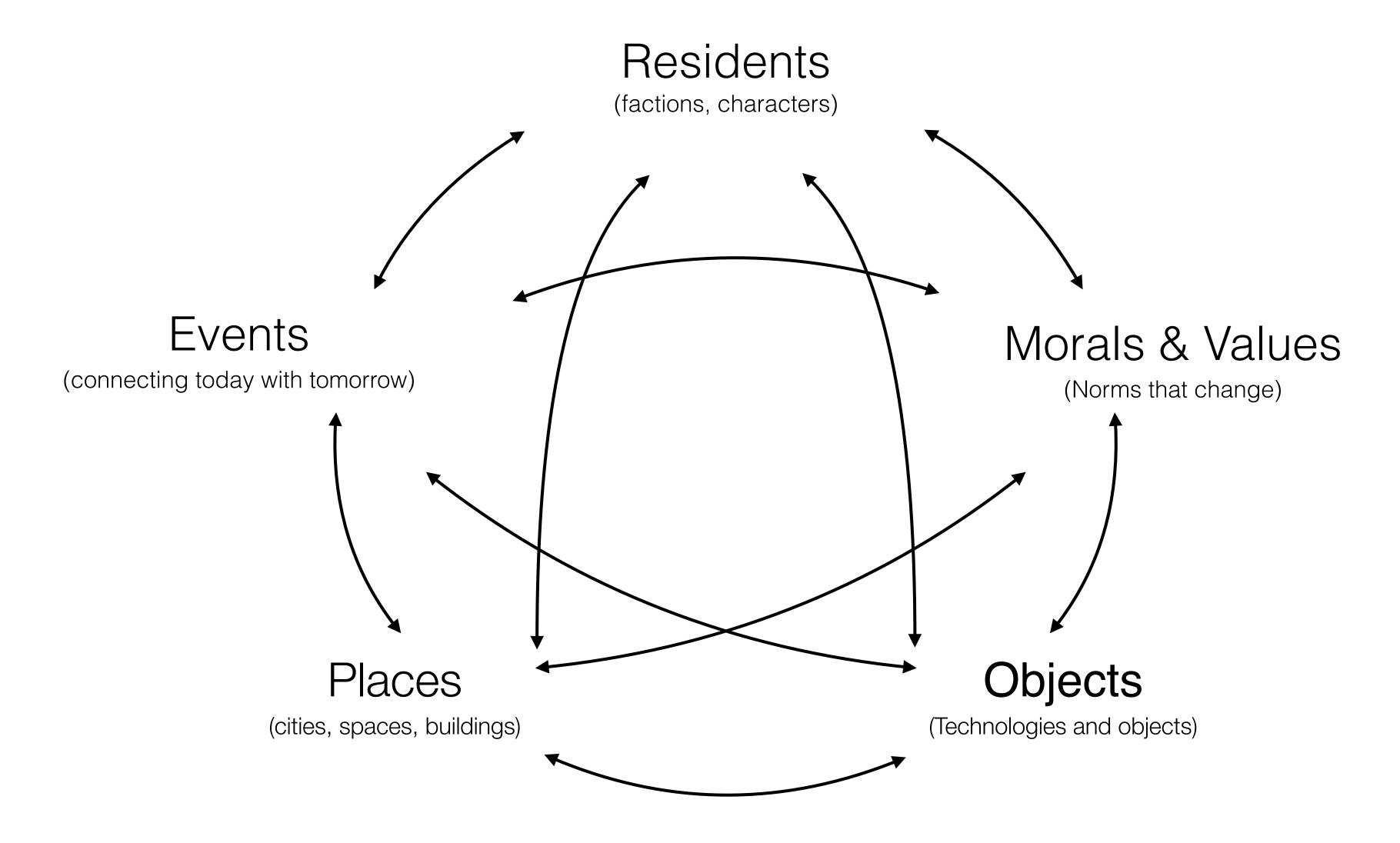
Results: "What bothers you?"

- What were the participants concerned about?
 - Housing shortage
 - Social gap
 - Loneliness & lack of intergenerational exchange
 - Traffic situation
 - Too many tourists
 - Cultural monotony

"What do you wish for?"

- "I wish ...
 - ... that urban policy becomes greener and more social."
 - ... that more space for encounters is created."
 - ... that Salzburg gets a fun, joyful, innovative community design."
 - ... that Mozart is abolished."
 - ... that health-promoting places of encounter are created."
 - ... a right to housing and communal open spaces."
 - ... citizens present their needs."
 - ... that Salzburg becomes more suitable for young people."
 - ... that Salzburg becomes a place of interdisciplinary culture."
 - ... that Salzburg would be more authentic and wear less of a tourist facade."
 - ... that citizens exchange more and that the city becomes a pioneer in economy, culture & innovation."
 - ... that new apartment buildings are created, social mixed forms that reflect the city."
 - ... there would be a garden for everyone."
 - ... a colourful, cross-generational and cross-cultural community housing project in every district."

(2) Exploration ... Building a storyworld

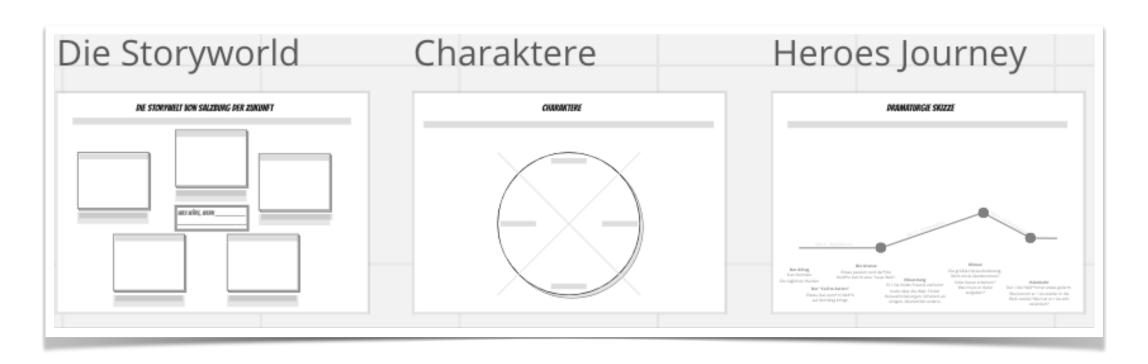


(2) Exploration ... Exercises

- Exploring the vision
- Develop material for writing
- Reduce altitude







Charactersheet

Situation

Gruppen

(2) Exploration ... Exercises

Example: Events & Places

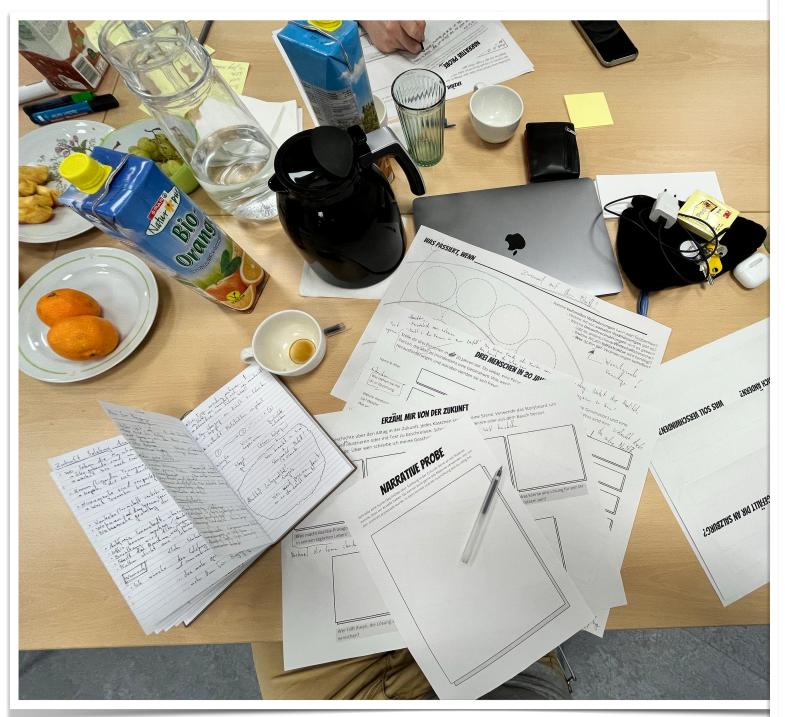


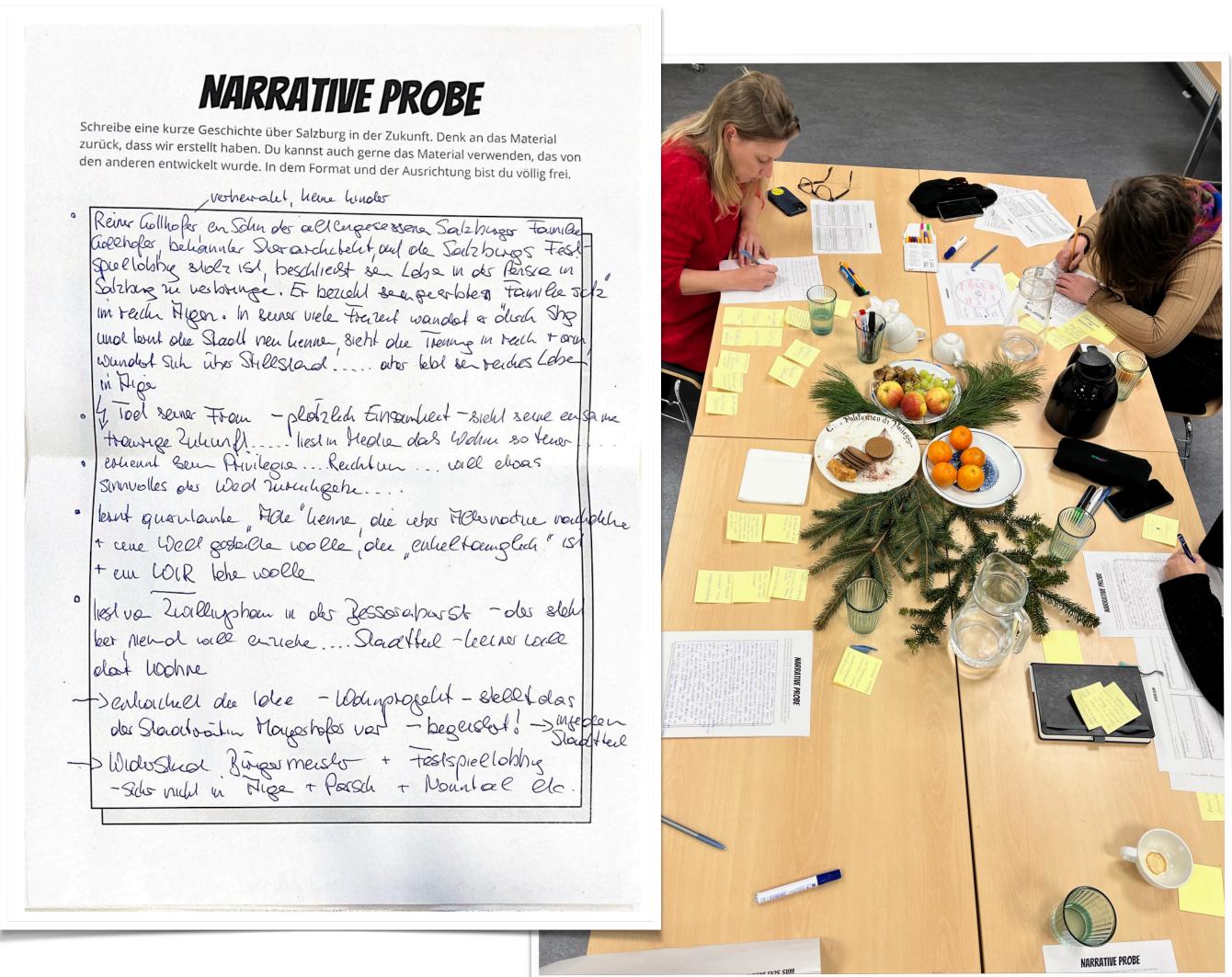
(2) Exploration ... Exercises

Example: Characters & Situations



(3) Narration ... Writing futures



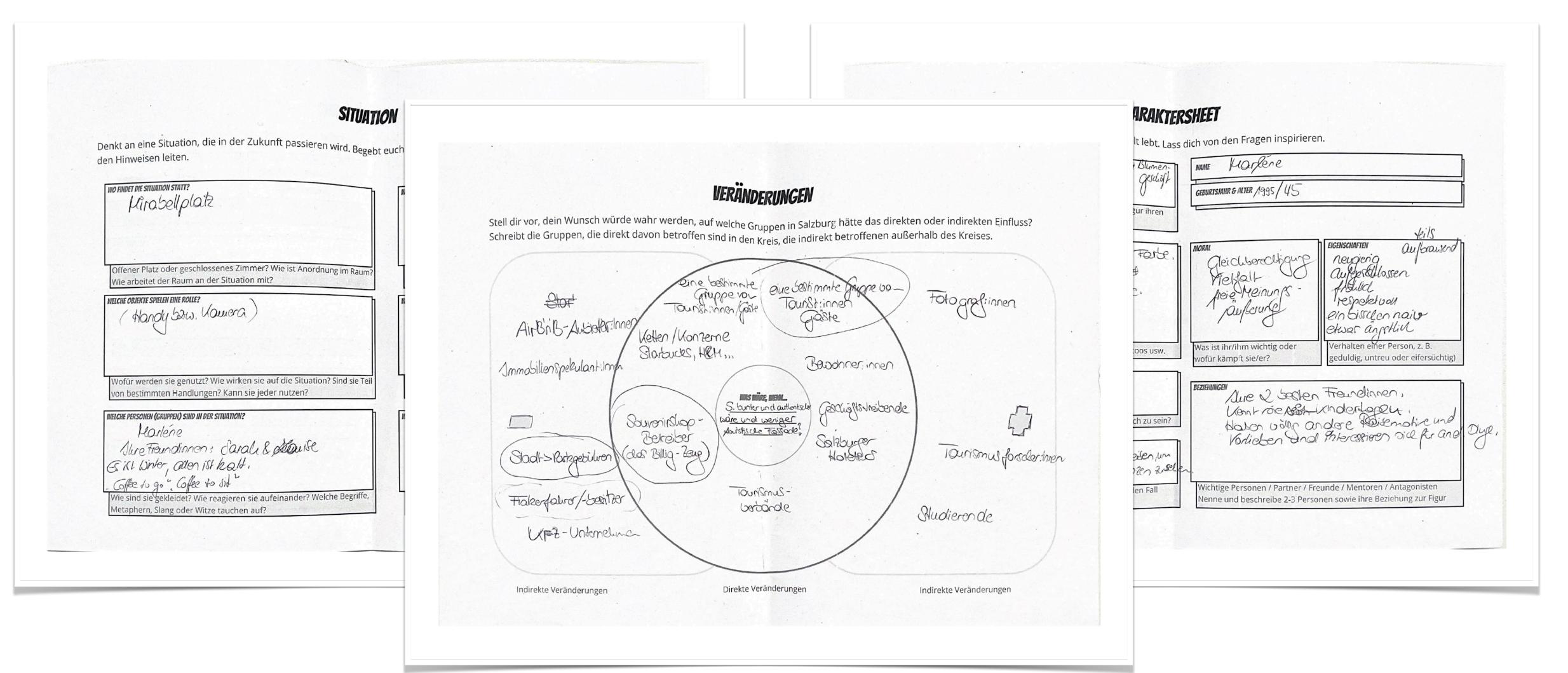


More cooperation and responsible action

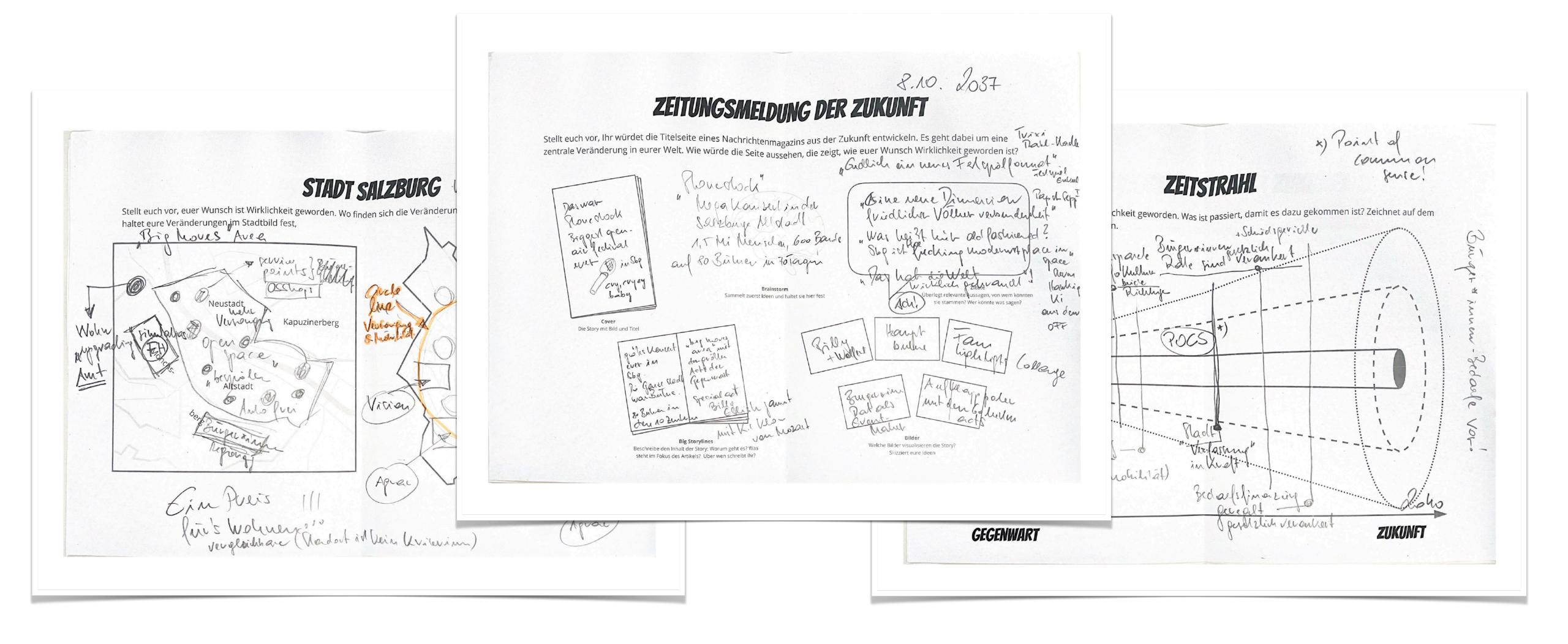
"Deist was tlans, ich hab mir das anders überlegt.

10 hab beine Zeit. Ich denk die Subvention die lassen wir. Ich sek mich jelet da dazu und mach mach mal was für Andere & geh peneinsa linen wenen Wep."

What would happen if Salzburg remained authentic?



Mozart in duet with Billie Eilish



What to learn from these stories?

- A way to discuss about the futures we want to live in
- To develop wishes and enrich abstract future imaginaries
- To find narratives to express and communicate those wishes
- Upcoming activity in October:
 - Workshop on envisioning the Social mission statement of the city of Salzburg together with policy makers

Thank you!

Wenzel Mehnert mail@wenzelmehnert.de



