Kristoffer Stefan, 19/10/2026

It will speak for itself.

So what was it, the socalled “Contemporary”, that has now officially come to an end? I do not doubt *that* it has come to an end – not least because there is no essential, no true meaning of the whole, nothing acting as a referential that is to be determined and established by some elusive group of still expertise-holding individuals; a world that nobody can define but which nonetheless seems to remain rather confined.

We are beyond those times now, and therein lies maybe one first answer to the initial question. An upholding of institutional truth, or truth-telling; the masquerading of a mere prolongation of the socalled modern, which in itself just as well never really surpassed the world it claims to have left behind. So we have indeed also never really been contemporary – which shouldn’t come as a surprise.

I’d rather not explain, or define, or assign this shift to some new phase that is taking over from a newly obsolete one, but instead point to the very enactment of a radical cut, which is taking place and now also finding its point in time. And it is, how else should it be, the young generations that are declaring the socalled contemporary epoche to now be a matter of the past; not some old guys according to an ancient model.

It lies in nobody’s power to again undo this declaration. Yet just as all former paradigms remain active long after they have been dethroned collectively, also those more recent understandings will remain; only that from now on they will show themselves more clearly, not least through their misfit in regard to what is actually happening.

It was more than a sign that there was, and that there still is, something like a *school*, and a supposedly given or at least established *Language of the Contemporary*. And it might be only this small difference in appearance that makes it possible to even separate it from its ancestors. At the same time we indeed do not know if we are just about to see the formation of yet another chapter of an again and again frustrated momentum.

But at least for now we do not need to care. We do not need to declare what is to be clarified in the future. Because it is the very now that we are finding ourselves in, it is the very now that lets new ways arise, it is the very now that we are not only in, but that we are also speaking from. That they are speaking from, that I am speaking from. So that one day, as ever it happens, it will speak for itself.