

In *Irena Lagator Pejovic: The Society of Unlimited Responsibility. Art as Social Strategy*. 2001-2011. Edited by Christa Steinle, Karin Buol-Wischenau, Neue Galerie Graz am Universalmuseum Joanneum. Published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Köln.

Astrid Wege

Limited Responsibility Society¹

As the fulcrum of international goods and cash flow, supermarkets and shopping malls are typical non-places according to Marc Augé's definition. This is precisely where Irena Lagator finds the source material for her group of works, *Limited Responsibility Society*, whose title refers to the business legal term, "Limited Liability Company, LLC." Lagator completed three variations of her ongoing project in Strobl. In *Limited Responsibility Society* she twisted receipts from local supermarkets and stores into towers of different heights, which can either be read as a forest of stone or a city skyline. In *Limited Responsibility Society by Night* she adds to the arrangement with effectual artificial lighting. In *Limited Responsibility Society Experiment* she has the installation tantalisingly slowly go up in flames in a performance in the garden of the Deutschvilla and later in Salzburger Kunstverein and documents it in a photo series. Both an accumulation and de(con)struction of values and time, while also containing evidence of real consumer behavior of people who determine the numbers on cash register rolls with their daily purchases, Lagator's installations raise the question of social responsibility and its limits through the titles and, not least of all, through the final act of destruction – whether it be responsibility as a consumer, company, or an artist. Is he/she liable – similar to an LLC – only for his/her own investment or also for the "liabilities" resulting beyond them, to stay in the language of business? And what does that mean in the context of a residency program in which every year seven artists conduct their research locally, where this place becomes their artistic material to a certain degree, they enter into a dialogue with this place and its residents, and change its perception?

¹ France: Société à Responsabilité Limitée (SARL)
Italy: Società a Responsabilità Limitata (SRL)
Great Britain: Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)
United States: Limited Liability Company (LLC)
Germany: Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH)
Ex Yugoslavia: Društvo s Ograničenom Odgovornošću (DOO)
Russia: Общество с ограниченной ответственностью (ООО)