



Greece, Italy or Poland - wherever I go I always feel at ease. For me Europe means art, culture and moreover the feeling of being home.



When I was a little girl we used to visit our family in Poland every year. The trip across the border was always a significant event to me.

MUZEUM NARODOWE we Wrocławiu



Move the car, halt and wait.



Move, halt and wait again. Move, halt, show passport.



Papers please.
Seconds full of tension passed - no, it felt more like hours - while the border guard was examining my face.



Every time this happened I feared I could not get to the other side and be stuck here, between two countries in No Man's Land.



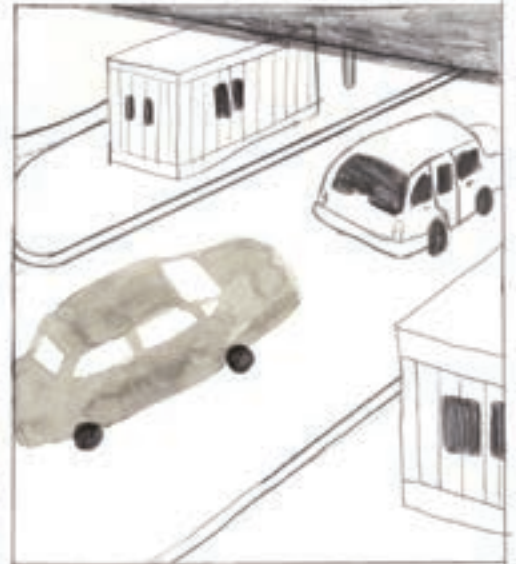
Ok.
What a great relief when we got across!



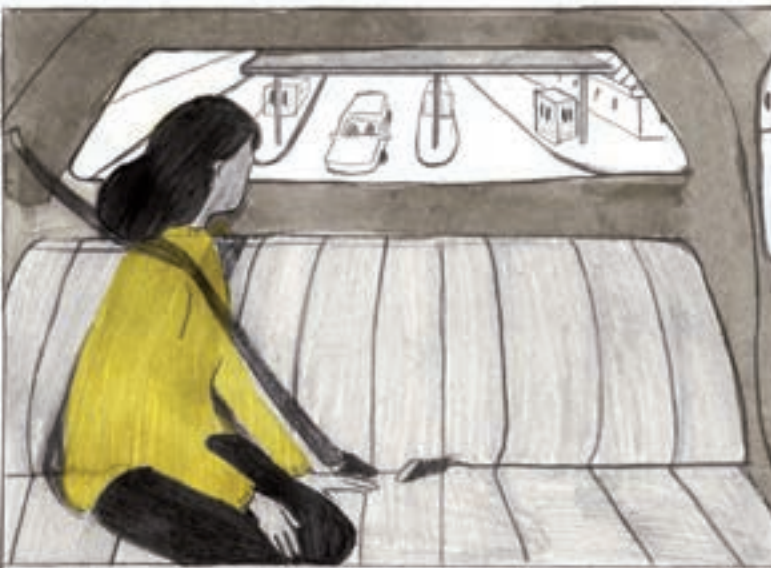
This was my experience every year, on the journey to Poland and back to Germany. Since 2004 Poland is part of the EU and we haven't been in Poland for years.



Now there was a marriage to celebrate.



Just before the border I feel this tension again I knew from my childhood days.



But today we can just drive through, what an awesome feeling. Yet I can't dump this tension every time I see a border.



In my memory this object remains stigmatized.



Do people share the same feeling nowadays?



No something is obviously different.



When I passed the border between Poland and Germany, there was always someone waiting for me on the other side.



There was a home, warm water and good food which was prepared for me.



Today I can see people crossing borders and arriving at places with different circumstances.



There are also other reasons for them to leave, than the reasons that made my parents leave Poland and come to Germany.





Today I'm living in a big city, where I can study and also enjoy the pleasure to draw all day long.



This kind of freedom means a lot to me, I feel privileged.



In other places people don't



have the right to do what they



want and I feel bad about it.



When I'm listening to the radio, walking down the streets or just catching peoples conversations, I recognize that Europe is confronted with problems. Within the borders and beyond.



Now there is a big question in all the media: How can Europe be saved?



In fact, how can I save Europe? As a citizen it also lies in my hands.



Can I reanimate this old, dignified lady, as I picture Europe? Fill her up again with life? She gives no answer. I'm no doctor, politician nor philosopher. Literally I can only offer my artistic talent.



I mean sure I can do something like signing petitions, donate, share videos or plea also demonstrate.



Some of these things I can manage really comfortable at home.



And again I feel bad, here at my desk. I want more.

I mean comfortably trying to save Europe from my living room seems like a lazy effort to me. So what do I want? I want to ask some questions.

How can I promise the people peace so they don't have reason to fear or even flee their country?

How can I affect an agreement which is important for Europe as well as for the whole world?

What can I do to make my neighbour indignant about the institutional church in other countries, which are damaging the rights of woman?

What can I do to make the people of Europe remember that we are stronger and can achieve much more when we work together?

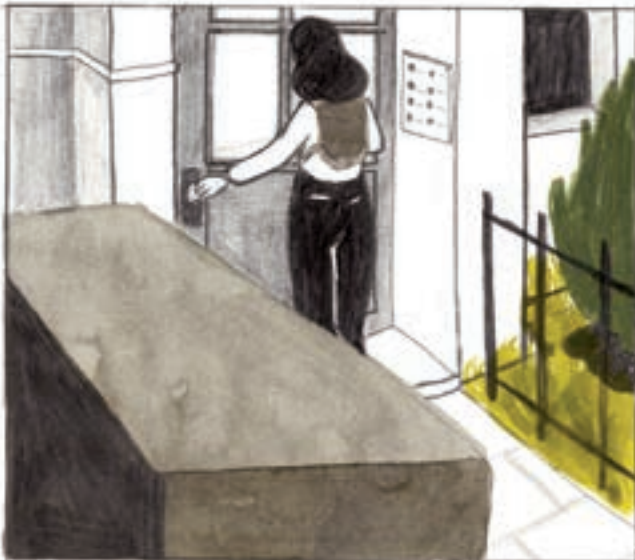
Sadly I don't know how to solve every problem.



Although I recognize a strong desire behind those questions, a desire to take action.



Related to this there's the wish to have influence on events all over the planet.



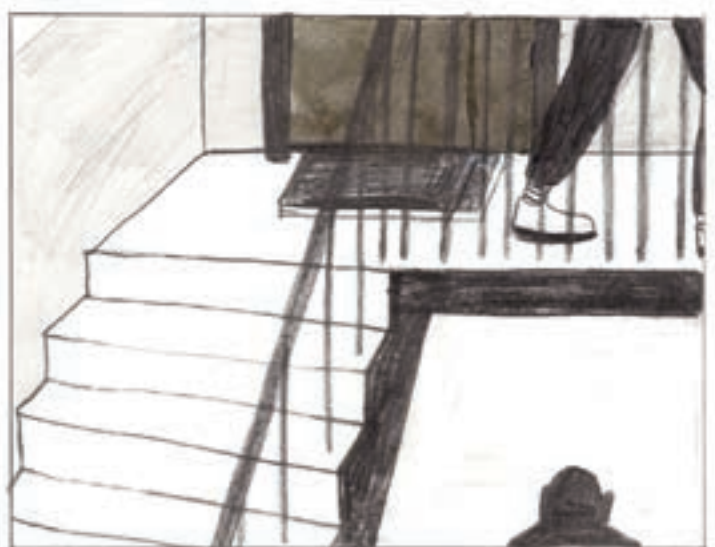
Unfortunately I can't make the world a better place for everyone, but maybe I just take it step by step. I can start with my neighbour.



This is no answer to the question of how to save Europe, but I doubt I'm alone with those questions and wishes.



I will take a step forward by imagining a politician, a doctor, a philosopher, my neighbour and me helping this old lady Europe back on her feet.



I believe it's quite possible with a bit patience, solidarity and young energy.