Current developments in the field of information and communication technology lead to enormous changes regarding not only the economy but everyday living and working conditions. The use of modern telecommunication renders the geographical location of our working place less and less important. The technical developments and their applications often trigger processes with far reaching effects: on one hand they impact production and working conditions, on the other hand they affect the gender ratios and dwelling and living situations of the people concerned. The miniaturization of technologies, the increase of mobility and tendencies towards a greater flexibility lead up to a fresh assessment of the public as well as the private spaces.

Teleworking is usually seen as having optimal compatibility of family and occupational needs. Here the old classical division of labour defining the female space as the private one and that of the man as the public one comes to the foreground again. It remains unquestioned, however, that this development asserts the traditional female role rather than aiming for an equality of the sexes. Teleworking in fact tends toward the less qualified areas of occupation and is mostly done by women.

The spatial and temporal “management” of teleworking from home – the most rigid form of teleworking – puts the modernist-functional organization of the private household in a situation with no clearly identifiable standards. For me it is all the more interesting how the female protagonists circumvent this development with the given structures and the new challenges. On the occasion of the exhibition “Trautes Heim” (Cosy Home) in the Gallery for Contemporary Art in Leipzig, I visited female teleworkers in Saxony. I made video portraits of women who work from home as a private employment agent, office manager of a paint shop and airline psychologist. The setting in a museum for a change allows the presentation of self reflections of the women’s private working and living conditions in a public space rather than containing them in their usual four walls.
An Enterprise in her own Four Walls. Teleworking from Home in Saxony/Germany
in: Trautes Heim (Cosy Home), Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig/Germany 2003
An Enterprise in her own Four Walls. Teleworking from Home in Saxony/Germany and Skåne/Sweden