

personal spaces

Lara Almarcegui (E/NL) / Filip Đorđević (SCG) / Laura Horelli (SF) / Robert Jankuloski (MK) / Danijela Mladenović and Gordana Ilić (SCG) / Dejan Spasović (MK) / Igor Toševski (MK) / Jun Yang (A)

Curator: Oliver Musović (MK)

Opening Saturday, 02.7.2005, 18:39h
Exhibition 5.7.-24.9.2005
Open from Tuesday to Saturday, 14:00-18:30

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There are two slightly different understandings of the notion "personal space". One, more dominant refers to the spatial concepts like "home", implying certain ownership, exclusivity and closeness of the architectural space, in opposition to the notion of "public space" which is open and accessible.

The other concept of "personal space" comes from Psychology, and implies that the individual react to physical closeness/remoteness of others in certain determined way. People surround themselves with a "bubble" of personal space that they claim as their own, and they tend to become stressed when other people invade their "bubble." Our personal space protects us from too much arousal and helps us feel comfortable when we communicate with other people. What distance is appropriate for a particular situation, although it is somewhat a matter of personal preference, depends largely on the culturally established norms, which vary considerably from culture to culture, and in Western culture it tends to be larger. Generally, people feel uncomfortably when the distance is too large (cold) or too small (intrusive).

The works presented at this exhibition investigate both concepts and various uses of the personal space.

Lara Almarcegui has documented the developments in her own allotment garden. In a situation of heavily planned urban living, the allotment gardens are almost the last spots of architecturally unplanned space in the city which the citizens can develop freely.

Filip Đorđević approaches people on the street pretending to be a beggar and asks them for some money. People react to him differently; some give him money, some engage in conversation, some ignore him and avoid any contact.

Laura Horelli illustrates the various social distances specific to the Western culture, as elaborated by the psychologist Edward T. Hall, and identifies the adequate behaviors in everyday life.

Rober Jankuloski explores the intimacy of the photographic studio by reframing old studio photography from the 1930s, concentrating on the repeating object in all of them – the chair and the details of the staged photography.

Danijela Mladenovic and **Gordana Ilic** proclaim their friendship and readiness to help each other by reenacting a situation from an old photography. Their closeness is in direct opposition to the cold, sterile hospital atmosphere.

Dejan Spasovi? provokes different reactions from the audience simply by approaching and offering hugs to strangers during the exhibition opening, thus making them re-questioning their own norms.

Igor Toševski declares free territories in space for spontaneous performative expression inside which any act, gesture, action or non-action becomes a pure conceptual artistic action.

Jun Yang breaks up such a simple action as a greeting into series of pictograms in format similar to the airplane instruction safety cards and ironically stresses the cultural differences.

For further information please contact Michael Petrowitsch, manager of Pavelhaus at pavel@mur.at or the exhibition curator Oliver Musovik at musovik@mt.net.mk