

RECOLLECTION OF A CITY: MICRO UTOPIAS AND REALITIES

Regional Conference

Club GEM, Skopje

November 22-23, 2013

Concept: **Filip Jovanovski, Ivana Vaseva**

Guests – Lecturers: **Nikola Naumoski** (Macedonia), **Teodor Celakoski** (Croatia), **Tadej Kurepa** (Serbia), **Maxim Naumovski** and **Oliver Ilievski** (Macedonia), **Vasko Lazarevski** (Macedonia), **Ivana Dragsik** (Macedonia), **Iniciative Cooperation (Kooperacija)** (Macedonia), **Boris Bakal** (Croatia), **Nemanja Cvijanovic** (Croatia), **Elena Veljanovska** (Macedonia), **Nikola Gelevski** (Macedonia), **Katerina Kolozova** (Macedonia), **Goran Janev** (Macedonia), **Artan Sadiku** (Macedonia), **Zoran Petrovski** (Macedonia), **Slaven Tolj** (Croatia), **Iskra Geshoska** (Macedonia), **Nikola Pisarev** (Macedonia), **Dina Jokanovic** (Croatia), **Irena Cvetkovic** (Macedonia), **Velimir Zernovski** (Macedonia), **Kocho Andonovski** (Macedonia).

AUTOMAKEDONIJA – a safe place?

Workshop

Leader: **Boris Bakal** (Shadow Casters, Croatia)

November 20-22, 2013



The project “Memory of a City : Micro utopias and realities” involves regional conference and a workshop “AutoMacedonia – a safe place?” with Boris Bakal (Shadow casters, Zagreb) in order to encourage dialogue among experts but also in the public regarding the questions related to public space, the individual, his place and his responsibility in times of redefining, commodifying and control.

The public space has been usurped by the neoliberal forces, privatized, commercialized, but also by the government control and the ideology which confines the idea of common, opened discursive space which leads to serious disturbance of the civil identity with extremely serious political implications in democracy.

By examining different types of activist and civil projects which reconsider the model of public space as an open platform for citizen activity, within the frames of various presentations, discussions, workshops this project strives to impose and review the questions: what is public space and who does it belong to, how do we imagine or wish that a public space should look like?

The conference includes short presentations of initiatives and projects produced in the country and the region in order to raise issues related to public space in correlation with:

1. Citizen activism FAILED city – Which places are public and what do they offer to activists? Public space as a place for social justice movements;
2. Contemporary art practices in public space IS THE ORNAMENT A CRIME? – (un)involvement of the cultural workers and artists in changing the public space;
3. Contemporary theory of criticism and perception of public space THE CITY, CENTRAL MARGINE;
4. Institutions of art and culture as active participants in the public sphere I OWN AN INSTITUTION- THEREFORE I EXIST? – place for inclusion, participation and open debate.
5. The rights of marginalized communities- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transexual Community THE CITY LOVES EVERYONE- public space as a place of antagonist activity, a source of different ideas, points of view and legitimacy of different social groups;

In times when the idea of a right to a city became a strong imperative caused by the outrageous desire for construction of a new urban identity and many perils to the urban living, the urge of construction new mechanisms as a way of expressing resistance to this situation is necessary. In the last few years we have witnessed an usurpation of public life through different (in the first place physical) forms of erasing history and the memory of an already defined city core, which influences and expands metastatically in other areas (not only physical) of the city which defines his cultural identity.

There are common problems in the region where the machinery of the state capitalism ruthlessly undermines the rights of the citizens whose resistance mechanisms remain stuck by the dominant ruling forces and the power of the market.

In this context, the project has the goal to open a new space for discussion, exchange of experiences so that new ideas would develop and new ideas for solutions and transparency of issues would be found.

At the very end we will remind you of a lecture from Zhivko Popovski, the architect where he said “Skopje had lost its walker profession, walker profession in a city is a very important thing”. This is the feeling we have, the walkers are gone, the city is empty, full of itself.

Filip Jovanovski, Ivana Vaseva

WORKSHOP

AUTOMACEDONIA – a safe place?

Boris Bakal (Shadow casters, Zagreb)

Nowadays, the term security and a safe place is being questioned, also in a figurative sense, but in everyday practices, the investigation and examination of the meaning of the term-security is an imperative, a challenge.

Some of the questions addressed in this workshop are: What is security? How are we sure that we are safe? What is a safe place? Why the city is not safe? Why aren't we (self)confident? Who is keeping us safe and why? Why do(not) we like (un)security? How do we look like/react when we are safe?

These and similar questions will be discussed and question (checking all the words and terms written above/syntagmes) through an urban/anthropological workshop about the real, virtual, magical/poetical aspects of security (space/city).

The workshop starts and moves toward a real place in the city of Skopje, is defining itself as a location/site and as space. This location is barely visible modernist creation from the 50's in the last century known as Automakedonija.

During the workshop, its urban, seismical, statical and esthetical qualities and flaws will be discovered, but also its symbolical meaning for the city. The real and imaginative naratives will be in the focus along with the history and its acupunctural importance for Skopje, Macedonian culture, but also the possible meaning to the region in the context of analysing the city, the security/solidarity/coexistence.

Boris Bakal (Zagreb) is a theater/film director and actor, intermedia artist and activist. In his 30-year long carrier he has been an author of theater and film projects, performances, installations and multimedia artworks presented at festivals and exhibitions in more than 20 countries worldwide (including Bologna Cultural Capital of Europe 2000, Steirischer Herbst, Bollwerk Beluard International, Eurokaz, Urbanfestival, Thealter, Bitef, Interferences, MESS and many other)

His work among other things is marked by the research of the specificity of certain time/space and interactive elements of art.

* This project is in the same line/aligns with the event "Memories of a city" composed of two public discussions and a workshop that took place in the Center of Culture -Bitola in January, this year.

The organization **Faculty for things that cannot be learned (FTL)** was established in 2001 as an art project which started officially in the Gallery "Mesto" on "359 - web of local and sub-alternative hermeneutics" in Skopje.

Today the faculty for things that cannot be learned functions as a platform for project developing in the field of contemporary art and culture. In 2006 (FTL) organized AKTO festival for contemporary art in Bitola.

AKTO festival for Contemporary Art is a regional event which includes visual, performing arts, music and theory of culture. The main goal is to open the cultural frames of a contemporary society through recomposing/restructuring and redefining in an actual social and cultural context.

Web address : www.aktofestival.com

Shadow Casters represents an art and production platform, founded in Zagreb in 2002. It is dedicated to inter-disciplinary cooperation, creation and reflection searching for new creative languages in the field of performance, urban and public art, new media and hybrids. Shadow Casters examine the existing concepts of individual and collective identities working on social political and cultural intolerance and segregation, encouraging debates about nature and contradictions of the actual globalization processes.

They have received many international prizes and awards and their projects have been presented and produced in over 30 countries on three continents (Asia, Europe, North America).

The project is organized and supported by partnership organizations :
Faculty for things that can't be learned (ФРУ) in cooperation with *Shadow Casters -Zagreb*

FACULTY
ФАКУЛТЕТ
ЗА
РАБОТИ THINGS
ШТО
НЕ СЕ
КАН'Т БИ
УЧАТ
LEARNED



FOUNDATION ФОНДАЦИЈА
OPEN OTBORENO
SOCIETY OPICTECTBO
MACEDONIA MAKEДOHIJA

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