

# ART

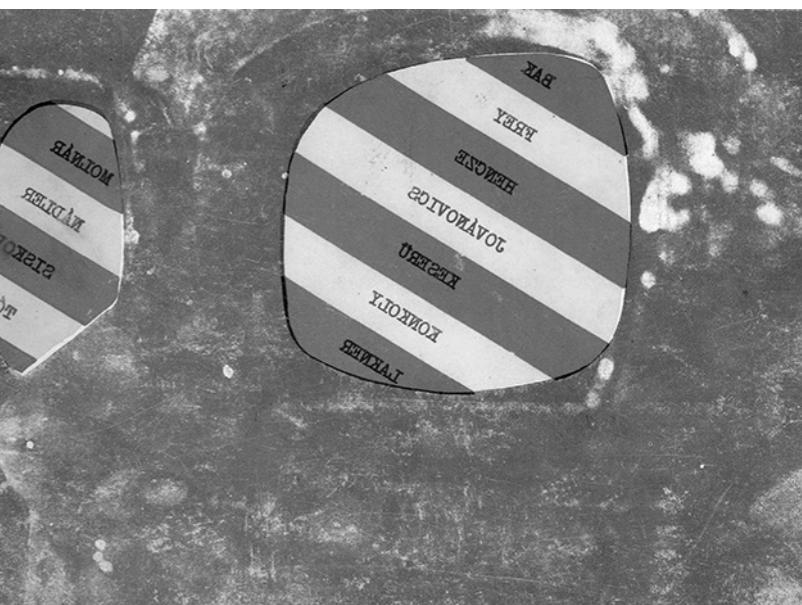
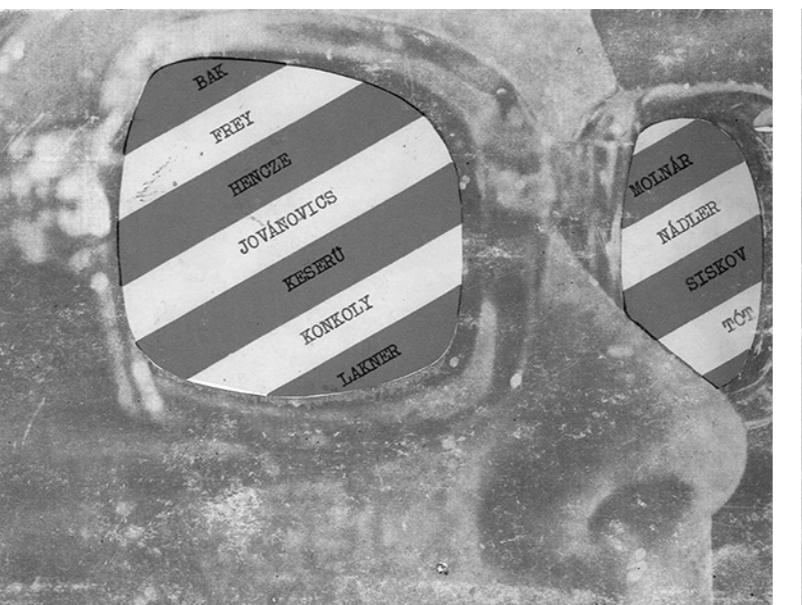
nevidljiva povijest izložbi  
/ invisible history of exhibitions  
novine / galerija nova №19/20 / newspapers



04

Naslovica publikacije  
Dokumentum 69-70,  
realizirana nakon izložbe  
Iparterv I.; sudionici  
izložbe snimljeni su na  
balconu László Laknera  
/ The cover of the  
publication Dokumentum  
69-70, compiled after  
the Iparterv II exhibition  
showing the Iparterv artists  
at László Lakner's balcony.

**Ministar kulture**  
György Aczél  
potaknuo je ideju  
da izložbama koje  
kulturalna politika  
nije željela podupirati  
ipak treba osigurati  
prostor. Taj izložbeni  
prostor bila je  
dvorana Fényes  
Albert, gdje su  
umjetnici nastupali  
pod uvjetom da sami  
financiraju svoju  
izložbu. Izložba  
Lajosa Kassáka  
otvorena u godini  
njegove smrti bila je  
simbolički dogadjaj.  
Bilo je absurdno  
i ponizavajuće  
očekivati da  
umjetnik – koji je bio  
vjesnik ljevičarskih  
umjetničkih pokreta  
prije Drugog  
svjetskog rata – sam  
plati sve troškove  
svoje izložbe



05

Krajem 70-ih  
pojavila se nova  
generacija umjetnika  
i pokrenula nova  
pitanja, poput  
samoupravljanja i  
rodnih odnosa. Nova  
generacija naslijedila  
je jezik konceptualne  
umjetnosti, ali  
i tražila nove  
načine postajanja  
profesionalnim  
umjetnikom. Klub  
mladih umjetnika,  
udomio je izložbu  
Akt/model Orsolye  
Drozdić, članice  
postkonceptualističke  
grupe Ružin  
krug. Njene akcije  
reflektirale su  
muškocentričnu  
perspektivu  
tradicionalnog  
umjetničkog  
obrazovanja. Uz  
svjesno zauzeto  
žensko stajalište,  
kritika povijesti  
umjetnosti naznačuje  
i nov, postmoderni  
pristup.

zabranjeni. Odabirući, razmatrali smo dogadaje koji su na ovaj ili onaj način oblikovali ili obnovili žanr izložbe, reinterpretirali izložbeni prostor u odnosu prema umjetničkom predmetu ili preko događajnog karaktera izložbe. Budući da smo tražili i odgovor na pitanja kako izložba postaje dogadjaj i što se može dogoditi na izložbi, krenuli smo istraživati povezanosti između izložaba koje predstavljaju umjetnička djela statički i razne akcionističke i performativne prakse.

U Mađarskoj između 1950-ih i 1980-ih sve javne izložbe morale su dobiti dozvolu od odgovornih institucija vlasti – na osnovi preciznog popisa umjetničkih djela – i u cijelini su ih financirale državne institucije.

One tendencije koje nisu bile odobrene morale su pronaći alternativna mesta, načine prezentacije i samoupravljanja. Mnogo važnih dogadaja, posebno u prvoj polovici 60-ih, dogodilo se u privatnim stanovima i prostorima. Većina mađarskih i međunarodnih kronologija neovangarde spominju "Ručak, prvi mađarski happening" kao svojevrsno polazište. Taj dogadjaj su 1966. u privatnom podrumu organizirala dvojica pjesnika – Tamás Szentjóby i Gábor Altörjay – koji su tada imali nešto više od dvadeset godina. Bio je profesionalno pripremljen: poslane su pozivnice, pripremljena je fotografksa i filmska dokumentacija, pozvani su novinari, a čak su se naplaćivale i ulaznice; happening je istovremeno bio i vrlo radikalni, šireći granice fizičke i mentalne tolerancije sudionika i publike. Iako je bilo prisutno samo 10-15 gledalaca, taj dogadjaj predefinirao je način na koji se umjetnost stvarala i predstavljala u godinama koje su uslijedile. Pojam "happeninga", kao opasne i "nezdrave" manifestacije pometne koja dolazi iz zapadnog svijeta pojavio se i u nespecijaliziranom tisku, pa čak i u kolumnama humorističkih časopisa. Tajna policija podnijela je izvještaj o njemu, što objašnjava zašto je kritičko vrednovanje žanra u godinama koje su uslijedile bilo gurnuto na periferiju javne svijesti i zašto su sjećanja na taj dogadjaj često medusobno proturječila, bez ikakve objektivne reference. Više o kontekstu toga happeninga u intervjuju s Tamášom St. Aubylem, također objavljenim u ovom broju.

U otvorenijim i liberalnijim 60-ima, usporedno s nastankom akcionističkih praksa, ali neovisno o njima, pojavile su se nove mogućnosti za održavanje izložaba. Pojavila se ideja (potaknuju je ministar kulture György Aczél) da izložbama koje kulturalna politika nije željela podupirati ipak treba osigurati prostor. Taj izložbeni prostor bila je dvorana Fényes Albert, gdje su nastupali umjetnici koji predstavljali različite trendove, pod uvjetom da sami financiraju svoju izložbu. Samofinancirana izložba Lajosa Kassáka (avangardnog pjesnika i vizualnog umjetnika, 1887-1967) koja se u tom prostoru otvorila u godini njegove smrti bila je simbolički dogadjaj. Nigdje drugdje nije mogao izlagati svoja konstruktivistička djela. Istovremeno, bilo je absurdno i ponizavajuće očekivati da umjetnik – koji je bio

vjesnik ljevičarskih umjetničkih pokreta prije Drugog svjetskog rata i obožavale su ga generacije – sam plati sve troškove svoje izložbe.

Prve izložbe koje su, umjesto da prikazuju posebne umjetničke predmete, predstavljale projekte i okoline koje su uključivale cijeli izložbeni prostor također su morale pronaći prostor izvan izložbenih institucija pod državnom kontrolom. Osim u dvorani Fényes Adolf za prikazivanje "tolerirane umjetnosti",<sup>06</sup> takva djela mogla su se izlagati samo u sporednim centrima za kulturu i izložbenim prostorima izvan glavnoga grada.

Rad Györgya Jovánovicsa, gipsani odljev koji je prikazivao tlocrt izložbenog prostora kroz površinski otisak stola prekrivenog tkaninom, prikazan je 1970. u dvorani Fényes Adolf. Njegovo polazište za izvođenje tog rada bilo je da izložbeni prostor nema nijedan pravi kut i stoga nema nikakve veze s izložbenim prostorom kao bijelom kockom. Kao refleksija o ograničenom publicitetu tog prostora, izložbu je otvorila fiktivna, izmišljena radijska emisija koja je izvijestila o tom dogadjaju kao o jednoj od najvažnijih međunarodnih vijesti dana.

Iste godine, *Pseudo izložba* Gyule Pauera, koja je stvarala skulpturalnu prostornu iluziju unutar izložbenog prostora, bila je otvorena dva dana u centru za kulturu. Kako se vidi u dokumentarnom filmu<sup>07</sup> o toj izložbi, posjetiocu su morali reinterpretirati svoja pojmanja, ne samo o skulpturi nego i o izložbama. Povjesničar umjetnosti i kritičar László Beke, također intervjuiran u filmu, nazvao je taj rad prvim uspješnim environmentom u Mađarskoj.

Erzsébet Schaar (1908-1975), predstavnica starije generacije koja je uviđek slijedila svoj individualni put, na svojoj izložbi u Székesfehérvaru izložila je instalaciju od gipsa koja je prikazivala ulicu s ljudskim likovima koji su ispunjavali i rekomponirali cijeli izložbeni prostor. Njen rad, u duhu modernizma, stvorio je nacionalni panteon s ličnostima najvažnijim za kulturu, u pratinji tajanstvenih ženskih likova.

Izložbe u Ipartervu od 1968. do 1980. posebno su važne u povijesti izložaba u Mađarskoj, u smislu da su ponudile zajedničku platformu i profesionalni "menadžment" za novu generaciju umjetnika uključenih u razne progresivne tendencije, od apstraktnog i informelnog slikarstva i kiparstva, preko pop-arta do akcionističkih praksa. Grupne izložbe inicirale su sami umjetnici, tražeći od mladog povjesničara umjetnosti da organizira izložbu, a on se referirao i na Documentu 1968., na kojoj su prikazane nove umjetničke manifestacije u kontekstu međunarodnih trendova. Prva

izložba, koja je trajala samo nekoliko dana, održala se u prosincu 1968. u glavnoj dvorani Državnog arhitektonskog ureda Iparterv. Za taj dogadjaj otisnute su pozivnice, plakat i maleni katalog, a godinu potom, na izložbi 1969. objavili su publikaciju pod naslovom Dokument, koja je otisnuta ilegalno. Ta publikacija služila je kao primjer samizdata ideološki opasnog sadržaja u obrazovanju časnika tajnih službi.<sup>08</sup>

Legenda o Ipartervu nastala je u trenutku samog događanja. Ta grupa umjetnika je 1980. zajedno izlagala u istom prostoru, a zatim je objavljena publikacija na engleskom i mađarskom, s određenim brojem studija. U toj knjizi sami autori pišu o legendi o Ipartervu.

Osim off-site domova kulture i ad-hoc izložbenih prostora, umjetnici su tražili prazne, neupotrebljivane zgrade koje bi preuzeeli. György Galántai, upravo diplomirani vizuelni umjetnik, 1996. godine pronašao je napuštenu kapelicu u Balatonboglár na jezeru Balaton i u toj praznoj zgradi odlučio otvoriti atelje i izložbeni prostor. Nakon dugotrajne i naporne procedure ishodenja dozvole, prva izložba otvorena je 1970. Na početku tradicionalnije izložbe – koje su dopuštale i "tolerirane" trendove – postupno su ustupale mjesto eksperimentalnim, performativnim i time-based događajima, kao i projektima artikuliranja kritike institucija i političkim izjavama. Kad je dobivanje dozvole od vlasti za sve više nekonformističke izložbe postalo beznadno, Galántai je odustao od službene procedure i preimenovao Galeriju "Kapelica" u Atelje "Kapelica" – koji je smio organizirati samo ne-javne događaje.

Svi dogadjaji u načelu su bili označeni kao "privatni", ali često su i dalje uključivali pojam publike. Programski niz iz 1972. pod naslovom *Izravni tjedan*, u skladu s konceptom formuliranim u pozivu na sudjelovanje, imao je za cilj uspostaviti izravan kontakt s publikom umjesto izlaganja umjetničkih predmeta. Tijekom te izložbe Tamás Szentjóby predstavio je svoju akciju pod naslovom *Autoterapija za prevenciju kazne*: s kantom nad glavom "kažnjavao" je sebe tjedan dana, osam sati na dan, pri čemu je pozivao i publiku (povremene mjesne posjetioce i umjetničke profesionalce) da ga ispituju. Godine 2005. umjetnička grupa *Mala Varšava* zamolila je Tamásu Szentjóbyju da ponovi akciju, koja je izvorno bila snimljena na fotografijama i filmskim fragmentima, a ovaj put je dokumentirana u obliku videa.<sup>09</sup>

U Galántajevom Ateljeu "Kapelica" pružala se i prilika progresivnim umjetnicima iz istočnog bloka da se upoznaju i zajedno izlazu radove (naravno, bez dozvole). Iste godine, na ljeto 1972., u događaju koji je organizirao László Beke, češki

06 Prema kulturnoj politici koju je krajem 60-ih u Mađarsku uveo György Aczél, kulturna proizvodnja bila je razvrstana u tri kategorije: podupirana, tolerirana i zabranjena.

07 To je bio diplomski film Jánosa Gulvása na Mađarskoj filmskoj akademiji.

08 Az ellenség tanulmányozása [Proučování nepřítele] Uvodní udělbení za Policiejskou akademii, napsalo policiejský zapovědník Ferenc Gál, 1972.

09 Little Warsaw: Reconstruction – Isolation exercise – Cyril & Method, 2005.

# the invisible history of exhibitions – parallel chronologies

06 Dóra Hegyi & Zsuzsa László

*The Invisible History of Exhibitions – Parallel Chronologies project looks at the history and the current interpretations of the exhibition as the dominant format of contemporary art production and presentation. "History" in this context is interpreted as constructed narratives based on events that signify shifts in the notions of art (art history) and the modes of its presentation (exhibition history)*



Depljan izložbe "Donor" čije je otvorene u organizaciji Tamáša Szentjóbija planirano u Ipartverv Architecture Office. Izložba je otkazana nedugo nakon tiskanja deplijana. / Invitation leaflet for the exhibition Donor planned at the Ipartverv Architecture Office, organized by Tamás Szentjóbi, 1968. The exhibition was cancelled after the leaflet had been printed.

01 Project website: <http://www.artalways.org>

most important political and cultural changes affecting this field. You can learn more about these projects in the interviews made with Prelov and kuda.org members.

The third section of the exhibition presented progressive art events from the 1960s-70s in Hungary. As a starting point the exhibition addressed the genre of chronology, an important channel of mediating art events of an epoch. Chronologies play a defining role in transforming atomic events into histories and canons especially in the case of Eastern-European art events that often happened in the second publicity during the 60s and 70s.

For this reason we collected and compared chronologies of the period composed synchronically that time or subsequently in retrospect. The pages of three important publications were displayed on the wall, thereby making it possible to draw spatial comparisons of the lists of events. The point of departure for most of the later chronologies is Dóra Maurer's<sup>02</sup> splendidly illustrated chronology published in the catalogue of an exhibition presenting Hungarian artists in Germany in 1980.<sup>03</sup> Maurer is a visual artist, who herself travelled a lot and working as a one-person institution, taking up the role of an art historian and curator she started to record events and exhibitions.

Another important chronology of this era in Hungary was written by Márta Koválovszky and Péter Kovács, two art historians of the István Király Museum in Székesfehérvár. They initiated a series of exhibitions in the 1960s with the title *Hungarian Art in the 20th Century*, during which they described and presented different periods according to the international trends that defined them. The exhibitions displayed mostly conventional object of art whereas the catalogues featuring the precise chronology and bibliography of the given period also included underground and actionist events incorporating them in the system of periodisation. After 1989 there were attempts to rehabilitate the neo-avant-garde art which came into life under political repression and to rewrite the history of this period. The ambitiously set up exhibition *The Sixties – New Trends in Hungarian Visual Art* (1991) organized by the Hungarian National Gallery was one of the most influential attempts. We have put on display the chronologically ordered "Documents" chapter of the exhibition catalogue issued in conjunction with the show. In the last two decades several further chronologies were written to explore the "invisible" art events of the 60s and 70s. These chronologies are typically based on archives (like that of the C3 and Artpool)<sup>04</sup> or are connected to art projects.<sup>05</sup>

## CASE-STUDIES

Together with the chronologies the exhibition presented case studies following narratives that can be discerned from the documents of art events that happened in the 60s/70s and their afterlife. Since during our research we encountered several disagreeing, conflicting readings and memories of this period, we decided to launch an e-mail inquiry asking Hungarian art professionals belonging to different generations and subcultures about the art events of this period that they find

02 Dóra Maurer also held slide lectures and created publications through which she informed international publics about the Hungarian neo-avant-garde art scene. Her educational activity was also important, together with Miklós Erdély she founded, taught, and documented independent creativity classes that established avant-garde, i.e. collaborative, process-based exercises using both traditional and new media in art education.

03 Künstler aus Ungarn. [exhibition catalogue] Kunsthalle Wilhelmshaven, 1980.

04 Context Chronology - Politics, science, and art from 1963 to 1989 (only in Hungarian) <http://artpool.hu/kontextus/kronologia/1963.html>; The chronology attempt for the avant-garde art in Hungary between 1966–1980 (only in Hungarian) <http://www.c3.hu/collection/koncept/index2.html>

05 E.g.: Portable Intelligence Increase Museum established by the NETRAF (Neo-Socialist Realist International Parallel Union of Telecommunications' Global Counter-Art History Fakers' Front) agent: Tamás St.Auby.

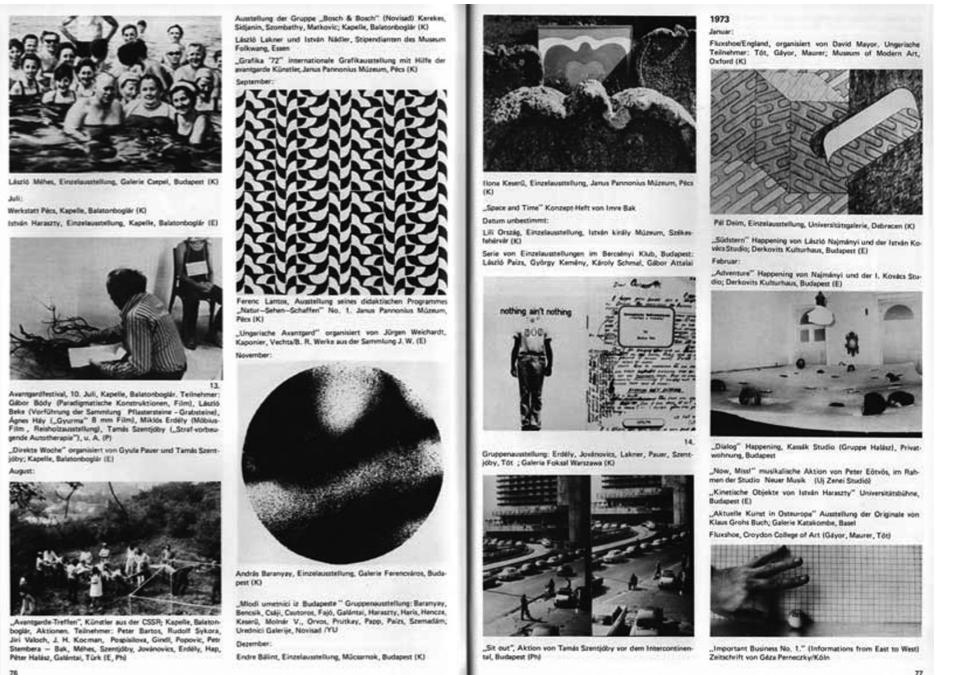
the most significant in relation to their own practice. Instead of aiming at an objective history gained from the synthesis or reconciliation of differing individual points of views we rather intended to trace the idiosyncratic pattern of disagreement and accordance, the map of blind-spots and legends. We learnt from the approx. 40 answers that competence to deal with underground actions and exhibitions is – even today – almost exclusively assigned to the participants and witnesses of the very events, thus making academic and curatorial research, international comparisons hardly realizable. Though the curiosity of younger generations is often held back by the lack of accessible information and the "legendaries" hard to untangle, still a lot of young artists established sensitive relationships to certain phenomena of the period.

Selecting events and related documentation to present we looked at why some events gain significance as soon as they happen, making them the starting points of anecdotes and legends, while others are quickly forgotten or can only become interpretable when seen from a later context.

We were interested to find out what public roles and possibilities for appearance the era's political and social climate provided for progressive art, what connections it had with international trends and how the events defined the relation between art and the public. To this end, we put in parallel the activity of the various generations as well as events that were held at official (public), professional, and ad hoc exhibition venues, such as culture houses or clubs, or ones that never passed the planning stage, or were banned. By the selection we were considering events, which in one way or another shaped or renewed the genre exhibition, reinterpreting the exhibition space in relation to the art object or through the event character of a show. As we have been also looking for an answer to the questions of how an exhibition becomes an event and what can happen at an exhibition, we endeavoured to explore the connections between shows that present works of art in a static manner and various actionist and performative practices.

In Hungary between the 1950s and the 1980s, all public exhibitions had to get permission from the responsible authorities – on the basis of a precise list of artworks – and were fully financed by state institutions.

Those tendencies that were not approved had to find alternative sites, ways of presentation and self management. A lot of important events especially in the first half of the 60s took place in private flats and venues. Most Hungarian and international chronologies that deal with neo-avant-garde art refer to the "Lunch, the First Hungarian Happening" as a kind of point of departure. The event was organized 1966 in a private



Stranice kronologije dogadanja (sastavila: Dóra Mauer) publicirane u katalogu izložbe Künstler aus Ungarn, 1980/ Pages from the chronology published in the exhibition catalogue Künstler aus Ungarn, 1980, Wilhelmshaven, compiled by: Dóra Mauer

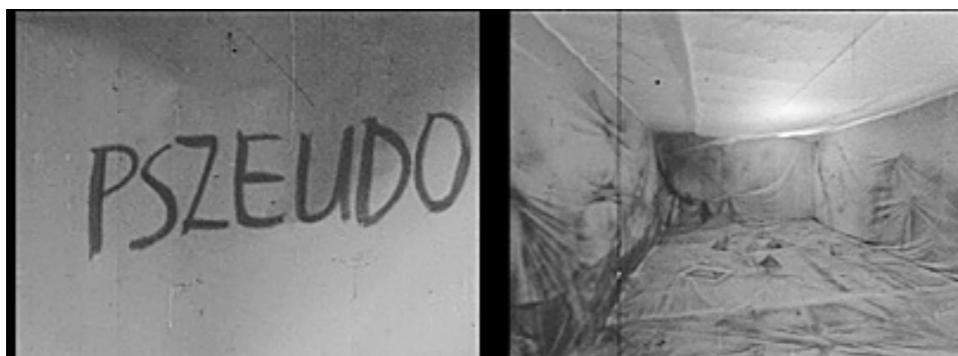
07

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77

# 08



In the more open and liberal 60s, parallel with the emergence of actionist practices, but first, independent from them, new possibilities appeared in exhibition-making.

The idea (initiated by György Aczél, Minister of Culture)

occurred that exhibitions which the cultural policy did not wish to support for ideological reasons should still be provided a venue. This exhibition space was the Fényes Adolf Hall, where artists that represented different trends were featured with the condition that they themselves had to finance their exhibition.

The first shows that instead of displaying separate objects of art presented projects and environments that incorporated the entire exhibition space also had to find their venues outside the state-controlled exhibition institutions. Aside from the Fényes Adolf Hall designated for displaying "tolerated" art,<sup>06</sup> such works could only be exhibited in out-of-the-way cultural centres and exhibition spaces outside the capital.

György Jovánovics' work, a plaster-cast that reproduced the ground plan of the exhibition space through the surface imprint of a table covered by cloth was shown in 1970 in the Fényes Adolf Hall. His starting point to realise this work was that the exhibition space did not contain any right angle, and had nothing to do with a white cube exhibition space. Reflecting on the limited publicity of this venue, that exhibition was opened by a fictive, made-up radio program that reported on this event among the most important international news of the day.

Izložba Iparterv 1, 1968, katalog izložbe Iparterv 1968-80 / The interior of the Iparterv 1 exhibition, 1968, from the Iparterv 1968-80 catalogue.



cellar by two poets - Tamás Szentjóby and Gábor Altörök - who were in their early 20s at that time. It was professionally prepared, invitation cards were sent, photo and film documentation was arranged, and journalists were invited, even entrance fee was charged; and at the same time the happening was very radical, pushing against the limits of the participants' and audience's physical and mental tolerance. Although only 10-15 viewers were present, this event redefined how art was produced and presented in the following years. The concept of the "happening", as a dangerous and "insane" manifestation of disorder coming from the Western world made its appearance also in the non-specialized press, even in the columns of humour magazines. The secret police filed a report on it, which explains why the critical evaluation of the genre was pushed to the periphery of public awareness in the following years and why recollections of the event often contradicted each other without any objective reference point. You can read more about the background of this happening in the interview made with Tamás St. Auby also published in this issue.

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Lajos Kassák's (avant-garde poet and visual artist; 1887–1967) self-financed exhibition that took place in the year of his death at this same venue was an emblematic event. He could not have exhibited his constructivist works anywhere else. At the same time, it was absurd and embarrassing to expect an artist - who was a pioneer of Leftist art movements before the World War II. and was revered by generations - to pay himself all the costs of his exhibition.

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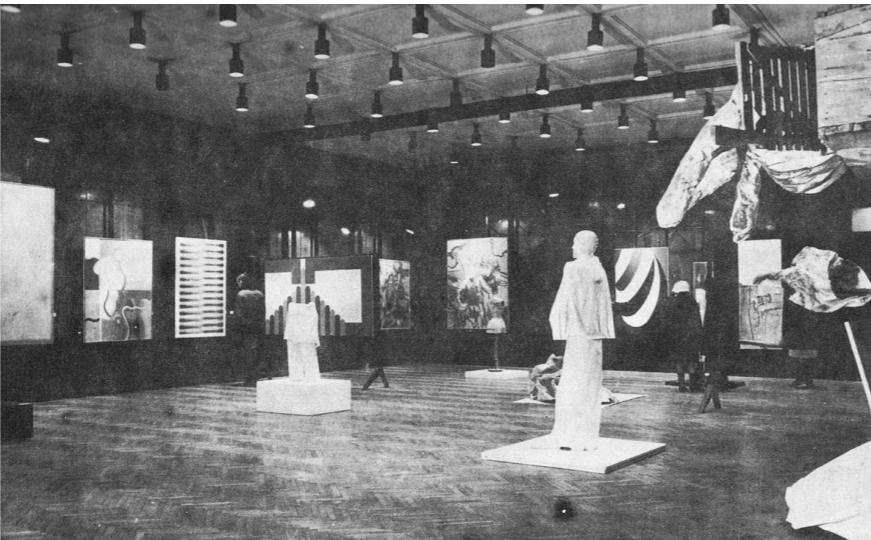
It was a graduation film of János Gulyás at the Hungarian Film Academy

Az ellenég tanulmányozása. [Studying the enemy] Preliminary textbook for the Police Academy written by Ferenc Gál Police commander, 1972.

In the same year the *Pseudo* show, creating a sculptural space-illusion within the exhibition space by Gyula Pauer was exhibited for two days at a cultural centre. As evidenced by a documentary film<sup>07</sup> about the exhibition visitors had to reinterpret their ideas not only about sculpture but about exhibitions too. The art historian and critic, László Beke, also interviewed in the film called the work the first successful environment in Hungary.

Erzsébet Schaar (1908-1975), a representative of the older generation always following her individual pathways, exhibited an installation made of plaster showing a street including human figures that filled and recomposed the entire exhibition space at her 1974 show in Székesfehérvár. Her work, in the spirit of modernism, created a national pantheon featuring the most important cultural personalities escorted by mysterious female figures.

The Iparterv-exhibitions of 1968-80 have a particular significance in the history of exhibitions in Hungary in the sense as they provided a common platform and professional "management" for a new generation of artists engaged in various progressive tendencies from abstract and informel



painting and sculpture through pop art to actionist practices. The group shows were initiated by the artists themselves who asked a young art historian to organize the exhibitions, he also made references to the 1968 *Documenta* presenting the new artistic manifestations in the context of international trends. The first exhibition, which lasted only few days, took place in December 1968 at the main hall of the Iparterv State Architectural Office. For this event invitation, poster, and a small catalogue were printed; then a year after the next, 1969 show they released a publication with the title *Document*, which was published illegally. This publication served as an example for samizdat publications with ideologically dangerous content in the education of secret services officers.<sup>08</sup> The legend of Iparterv came into existence at the moment of its happening. In 1980, this group of artists exhibited together at the same

venue again, then an English-Hungarian publication was issued containing a number of studies. In this book, the authors themselves write about the Iparterv legend.

In addition to off-site cultural houses and ad-hoc venues artists were also looking for empty, unused properties to take over. In 1966 György Galántai, a freshly graduated visual artist, found an abandoned chapel in Balatonboglár at the lake Balaton, and decided to open a studio and exhibition space in the empty building. Following a long and testing procedure of acquiring permission, the first exhibition opened in 1970. The initially more traditional exhibitions – which also allowed room for "tolerated" trends – gradually gave way to experimental, performative and time-based events as well as to projects articulating institutional critique and political statements. When acquiring permissions of authorities for more and more non-conformist exhibitions and events became a hopeless endeavour, Galántai gave up the official procedure and renamed the Chapel Gallery to Chapel Studio – that could only house non-public events.

In principal all events were designated "private", still they often dealt with the concept of audience. The 1972 program series entitled *Direct Week*, according to the concept formulated in the call for participation, wished to establish direct contact with the audience instead of exhibiting art objects. It was during this exhibition that Tamás Szentjóby presented his action entitled *Autotherapy for Punishment Prevention*: with a bucket over his head he "punished" himself for a week, for eight hours a day while also inviting the audience (occasional local visitors and art professionals) to interrogate him. In 2005, the artist group Little Warsaw asked Tamás Szentjóby to repeat the action which originally had been recorded on photographs and film fragments, and which, this time was documented in the form of a video.<sup>09</sup>

In Galántai's Chapel Studio, there was also an opportunity for progressive artists from the Eastern bloc to meet and exhibit their works together (of course without permission). The same summer in 1972, in an event organised by László Beke, Czech and Slovak artists collaborated with their Hungarian colleagues. Drozdik's action reflected on the male-centred perspective of traditional art education. In addition to the consciously assumed female position, the critique on art history also indicates a new, postmodern approach. In 1978, Orsolya Drozdik immigrated to the Netherlands, and then to New York, where her instinctive approach of a woman artist was unfolded in line with feminist theories. You can learn more about the *Nude/Model* exhibition in the photo-essay published in this issue.

In 1973, the instances of objections raised by the authorities against the Chapel Studio were increasing from all directions. Finally, the progressive artists were "evicted". In the so called "Leaving action" György Galántai left the chapel with a prop from an underground theatre action: a sign reading "Friendly treatment".

From the early 70s stricter control over progressive practices endangered individual carriers too. At the end of 1975, Tamás Szentjóby was expelled from the country, as his artistic activities had been deemed overly provocative by the cultural authorities. Prior to his departure, he organised an exhibition collecting his works produced between 1966 and 1975 for his own retrospective so to say at the Club of Young Artists. It

According to the cultural policy introduced in Hungary by György Aczél in the late 60s cultural production was classified into three categories: Supported, Tolerated, and Prohibited.

Izložba *Paraleline kronologije* (Labor, Budimpešta)  
pričak kronologija na zidu / Interior of the exhibition  
Parallel Chronologies, 2009  
at Labor with chronologies displayed on the wall.

Orsolya Drozdik, a member of the post-conceptualist artist group Rózsa Circle, represented a new generation who inherited the language of conceptual art but were also looking for new ways to become professional artists. Drozdik's action reflected on the male-centred perspective of traditional art education. In addition to the consciously assumed female position, the critique on art history also indicates a new, postmodern approach. In 1978, Orsolya Drozdik immigrated to the Netherlands, and then to New York, where her instinctive approach of a woman artist was unfolded in line with feminist theories. You can learn more about the *Nude/Model* exhibition in the photo-essay published in this issue.

These events chosen as case studies can give an insight into all those social political and professional conditions that determined how art could be presented in Hungary from the flat exhibitions and events of the 60s till the emergence of postmodern tendencies at the late 70s. We focused on a period that brought radical change in exhibition-making through direct reaction to international trends as well as to the local reality on social, political, and cultural level. At the same time what we could present is a collection of documents that need active and critical readers. ✪

Drozdik's action reflected on the male-centred perspective of traditional art education

# 09



# reconstructing exhibitions

## Reesa Greenberg

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*At this point, rather than reconstruction, I prefer the term 'remembering exhibition' as the generic term. Remembering takes into account both the phenomenon of putting together an entity from different parts and the act of linking the present to the past. By shifting the language, substituting remembering for reconstructing or reconstruction, I am also trying to draw attention to what I believe is a new tendency in current exhibition practice: the increased number of exhibitions that remember past exhibitions in exhibition form. Since January 2009, there have been at least eight remembering exhibitions in locations as diverse as London, Paris, Los Angeles, and Budapest.*

*I believe is a new tendency in current exhibition practice: the increased number of exhibitions that remember past exhibitions in exhibition form. Since January 2009, there have been at least eight remembering exhibitions in locations as diverse as London, Paris, Los Angeles, and Budapest*

**DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ:** What types of exhibition-reconstruction do you distinguish?

**REESA GREENBERG:** In English, to reconstruct is to put something back together from its original components or to create a plausible scenario based on what is known. Although I use the word 'reconstruction' as do many other curators and art historians for attempts to recreate exhibitions, I am increasingly cautious, even skeptical, about its use with regard to exhibitions. Reconstruction is linked to cosmetic surgery and some reconstructions of interventionist exhibitions are just that because they do not include a sense of the socio-political impetus or site specificity that led to the radical exhibition form and/or content. I am thinking here of the reconstruction of Gerhard Richter's 1966 Volker Bradke exhibition at the Gallery Schmela in the 2009 *Art of Two Germanys*, first seen at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The reconstruction, with its foreshortened wall, raised and tilted floor, and impossibility of entry was more of a stage-set and it looked like an art installation rather than an exhibition as it was located next to Sigmar Polke's 1967 similarly scaled, free-standing *Potato House Object* sculpture. While such marked stylization ensures that we do not confuse the reconstruction with an original exhibition, it also tells us as much, if not more, about current exhibition practice as the exhibition being reconstructed.

At this point, rather than reconstruction, I prefer the term 'remembering exhibition' as the generic term. Remembering takes into account both the phenomenon of putting together an entity from different parts and the act of linking the present to the past. By shifting the language, substituting remembering for reconstructing or reconstruction, I am also trying to draw attention to what I believe is a new tendency in current exhibition practice: the increased number of exhibitions that remember past exhibitions in exhibition form. Since January 2009, there have been at least eight remembering exhibitions in locations as diverse as London, Paris, Los Angeles, and Budapest.

Not all these remembering exhibitions are the same. Some are replicas of single exhibitions such as the 1971 Robert Morris *bodyspacemotionthings* recreated at Tate Modern. Some, like *Voids* at the Centre Pompidou, constitute a retrospective of exhibitions by using multiple replicas and are less concerned with visual fidelity than conveying a sense of the practice of utilizing the void as exhibition premise. Others are what I call riffs: exhibitions that build on an earlier exhibition. A good example would be *Retracing Exhibitions* at the Royal College of Art that doubled remembering by including a section from Victoria Walsh's 2001 full reconstruction of the 1953 Independent Group exhibition, *Parallel of Art and Life*, included in the Nigel Henderson retrospective she curated in London.

In addition to the replica and riff remembering exhibitions there is the archival remembering exhibition, either in single or combined form. The simultaneous showing in May in Budapest of three independent archival exhibitions by three sets of curators remembering events (including exhibitions) in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Hungary in the 70s augmented an understanding of local and regional exhibition practice through juxtaposition. As with all remembering exhibitions, memory was materialized and spatialized but here it was also layered and complex because of the different form and content of each exhibition. I would argue that riffs and archival remembering exhibitions are as important as replica reconstructions.

**DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ:** What is the difference between monographic and topographic models?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Monographic models are part of a typographic mentality, an approach that results in the singular be it an exhibition or a book or a catalogue. A topographic model is open-ended, rhizomic, juxtapositional. Typographic models tend to be nodal: Topographic models are networked. Rather than stabilizing knowledge, topographic approaches destabilize what we know, add perspectives, complicate our sense of what has happened. The multiple, simultaneous exhibitions in Budapest are good examples of a topographic model, not just because the combined event expands topographical knowledge literally but because the very concept of the exhibition is based on expanding the fields of exhibition history through links.

The internet is where such meta approaches to exhibition history occur naturally. The medium is ideally suited for bringing disparate elements into a single space. One example of a revolutionary practice is the kaprow.org website that provided information and documentation on all four venues of the European tour of Allan Kaprow: *Art as Life* through a single entry point. Similarly, when the exhibition travelled to Los Angeles, MOCA's website was the only place where all the recreated Happenings taking place either simultaneously or singly could be assembled. The web also allows effortless and inexpensive combinations of varied source material – photographs, videos, interviews, documents, commentary – that print media exclude. The web also fosters different types of knowledge – the sounds and movement of artworks and visitors to exhibitions, for example. The greater inclusiveness of the web constructs a more variegated history, one that extends the temporal and spatial information about exhibitions and makes that information available to more people in more places for longer periods of time.

**DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ:** How could exhibition history as an approach "escape the traps of art history"?

**REESA GREENBERG:** In the typographic era art history emerged as a discipline or field of inquiry. Marshall McLuhan's famous dictum that the medium is the message applies here. The economics of the typographic – and I include analog photography – were the economics of scarcity. Scarcity is conducive to rarity and the masterpiece model.

The history of exhibitions is a much newer area of study and is influenced by the medium of its era. Digital technologies are less expensive and less restrictive than analog ones and lend themselves to infinite combinations and manipulations. With infinite material and infinite combinations, different kinds of histories can be constructed.

I am probably overly utopian in my belief that the web can transform how we think about history and how we construct it but already the availability of installation photographs on the web is the increasing consciousness of exhibitions as a phenomenon. In the typographic era, exhibitions were represented visually by an image of an artwork. Today, an exhibition review in a newspaper often has an installation shot and a slideshow with more exhibition views. Museums are beginning to adjust to the idea that shared commons will not detract from professionalism. They now post exhibition installation photographs that in the past were archived and generally inaccessible. Take, for example, the website of *Art*



Voids. A Retrospective,  
Centre Pompidou, Paris,  
2009. © CENTRE POMPIDOU /  
GEORGES MEGUERDITCHIAN

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We will never really know whether the walls we assume were white because that is the way they appear in black and white photographs actually were white. I think we have to assume that the way we remember exhibitions will always be partial – partial in the sense that we will only know parts of the past and partial in the sense that what we remember is influenced by our perspective

*of Two Germanys*. The full set of installation images makes it possible to study the exhibition in advance of seeing it or, if the exhibition can't be seen, as part of a public record. Even if museums don't post installation photographs on their own website, they do make them available for others to include in their digital commentary. Or people simply take their own photographs and post them.

Digital exhibition reprises coupled with aggregate digitized archival exhibition history sites have the potential of decentering traditional art history through a shift of focus, not just away from the individual artwork in a time when the market is so determinate but away from art history's usual geographic trajectories. Lorna Roth, a Cultural Studies specialist, has written a number of articles about how the standard colour palette for children's dolls reinforces racial stereotypes. She argues that shifting the technology removes encoding at the outset thereby preventing embedded stereotypes. I am arguing something similar. If we adopt new technologies for constructing exhibition histories, there is every likelihood that stereotypes can be altered.

**DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ:** What special significance could exhibition-reconstructions have in the history of East European Art and its international canonization?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Writing about exhibitions is a form of reconstruction but materializing exhibitions in public space promotes discussion, debate and display. The exhibition becomes a discursive event, both in the exhibition space and outside it. Given the repression of progressive art exhibitions in East Europe before 1989, physical reconstruction helps concretize what until recently was an invisible history. Knowledge of alternatives to Statist culture is important as a corrective to history, provides a context and lineage for similar or related contemporary activity, and acts as a model for those still living in societies where culture is tightly policed. Reconstructions or remembering exhibitions help keep the past present because exhibitions, more than books, have become such key elements in today's cultural politics.

Language is another reason to materialize the memory of exhibitions. All the examples of remembering exhibitions I discuss translate textual material, in print or online, into English at the moment of publication. Book translations in art and exhibition history rarely occur. The non-German speaking world is still waiting for a translation of the most important early book on the history of twentieth century exhibitions, Bernd Klüser and Katherina Hegewisch's *Die Kunst der Ausstellung or the Art of Exhibition*, published in 1991.

The history of exhibitions in East Europe is just beginning to be known, both internally and externally. Publications like *East Art Map*, written in English, are extraordinarily useful because the reproductions and discussion include some exhibition events. Here, though, exhibitions are not the primary focus.

More than monographic print approaches are needed if the exhibitions of East Europe are to enter an internationalized canon. A multi-modal form of presentation that includes remembering exhibitions, catalogues, and online presence will help. Ultimately what is needed are presentational forms that break the geographically segregated patterns of presentation. Ideally, digital reprises of exhibitions could include links to similar types of exhibitions elsewhere and timelines that allow consideration of exhibitions outside East Europe during the same period as the exhibition being reconstructed. It is too early to hope that those writing exhibition histories of the West online would include similar cross-references.

**DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ:** Have you encountered cases when the reliability of information on the original event was an issue and questionable, missing or contradicting documents affected the methodologies of reconstruction?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Your question makes me think of Walter Grasskamp's essay on the history of the white wall in exhibition spaces. Grasskamp points out that we will never really know whether the walls we assume were white because that is the way they appear in black and white photographs actually were white. I think we have to assume that the way we remember exhibitions will always be partial – partial in the sense that we will only know parts of the past and partial in the sense that what we remember is influenced by our perspective.

What we must remember is that reconstructions or uses of the past are integral to ideology in the present. When looking at remembering exhibitions, I like to ask why certain exhibitions are being remembered now. Some remembering exhibitions, like *Archive in Motion* celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of documents, are commemorative. Some, like the exhibitions in Budapest by Prelom, kuda.org and the Budapest tranzit group, are recuperative and compensatory, designed to redress past invisibility and suppression. Some, like *Voids*, are intentionally provocative and omit details of context. Most of the reviews of *Voids* as an exhibition are, in fact, very critical of omissions of data in the exhibition space while simultaneously acknowledging that the catalogue contains a wealth of detailed information and interpretation. For me, the question here is why the curators thought it so important to leave the exhibition space devoid of data.

Another way to answer your question is to assume that every reconstruction is flawed or, put in a more positive light, a work in progress. The history of exhibitions is so new that we have to expect mistakes. As long as these mistakes are honest, what counts is the construction of a scaffold on which to build – and, if necessary, rebuild a history of exhibitions. \*

# rekonstruiranje izložaba Reesa Greenberg

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DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Koje vrste izložbe-rekonstrukcije razlikujete?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Rekonstruirati na engleskom znači sastaviti nešto od izvornih komponenti ili stvoriti uvjerljiv scenarij utemeljen na onome što je poznato. Iako se služim riječju "rekonstrukcija", kao i mnogi drugi kustosi i povjesničari umjetnosti, kako bih opisala pokušaje re-kreiranja izložaba, sve sam opreznija, pa čak i skeptična u vezi s njenom upotreborom kad je riječ o izložbama. Rekonstrukcija je povezana s kozmetičkom kirurgijom i neke rekonstrukcije intervencionističkih izložaba jesu upravo to, jer ne uključuju dojam sociopolitičkog utjecaja ili *site-specificnosti* koji je potaknuo neku radikalnu izložbu i/ili sadržaj. Pritom mislim na rekonstrukciju izložbe Gerharda Richtera iz 1966. o Volkeru Bradkeu u galeriji Schmela u okviru *Art of Two Germanys* 2009, prvi put videnu u Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Ta rekonstrukcija, sa svojim perspektivno skraćenim zidom i kosim podom, te uz nemogućnost ulaska, više je nalikovala na pozornicu i izgledala je kao instalacija, a ne kao izložba, a usto je bila locirana uz samostojecu skulpturu Sigmara Polke-a sličnih razmijera, *Potato House Object* iz 1967. Premda tako istaknuta stilizacija osigurava da ne pobrkamo rekonstrukciju s izvornom izložbom, ona nam o današnjoj izložbenoj praksi vjerojatno kazuje jednako mnogo, ako ne i više nego kad bi izložba bila rekonstruirana.

U ovom trenutku, umjesto rekonstrukcije radije biram izraz "izložba sjećanja" kao generički izraz. Sjećanje uzima u obzir i fenomen sastavljanja entiteta od različitih dijelova i čin povezivanja sadašnjosti s prošlošću. Načinivši pomak u jeziku, rekonstruiranje ili rekonstrukciju zamjenivši sjećanjem, pokušavam i skrenuti pažnju na ono što smatram

novom tendencijom u današnjoj izložbenoj praksi: sve veći broj izložaba koje se sjećaju prošlih izložaba u izložbenoj formi. Od siječnja 2009. održano je barem osam izložaba sjećanja, na vrlo različitim mjestima: u Londonu, Parizu, Los Angelesu i Budimpešti.

Nisu sve te izložbe sjećanja iste. Neke od njih su replika jedne izložbe, na primjer *bodyspacemotionthings* Roberta Morrisa iz 1971., koja je re-kreirana u galeriji Tate Modern. Druge, kao što je *Voids* u Centru Pompidou, zapravo su retrospektiva izložaba jer se sastoje od više replika i manje se bave vizualnom vjernošću nego što prenose smisao prakse tako što prazninu uzimaju kao premislu izložbe. Treće nazivam *riffs* [improvizacije]: izložbe koje nadogradjuju ranije izložbe. Dobar primjer toga bila bi *Retracing Exhibitions* na Royal College of Art, koja je udvostručila sjećanje tako što je uključila dio potpune rekonstrukcije izložbe *Parallel of Art and Life* skupine Independent Group iz 1953., Victorije Walsh iz 2001., uključene u retrospektivu Nigela Hendersona, čiji je kustos ona bila u Londonu.

Uz izložbe sjećanja tipa "riff" i "replika", tu je i arhivska izložba sjećanja, bilo samostalna ili skupna. Istodobno predstavljanje tri nezavisne arhivske izložbe, triju kustoskih skupina koje su se prisjećale dogadaja (uključujući i izložbe) u Beogradu, Novom Sadu i Mađarskoj 70-ih jukstapozicijom su povećale razumijevanje lokalne i regionalne izložbene prakse. Kao i u svim izložbama sjećanja, memorija se materijalizirala i oprostorila, ali tu je bila usto i slojevita i zamršena zbog različite forme i sadržaja svake izložbe. Ustvrdila bih da su *riffs* i arhivska sjećanje ne manje važni nego rekonstrukcije kao replike.

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: U čemu je razlika između monografskih i topografskih modela?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Monografski modeli dio su tipografskog mentaliteta, pristup koji rezultira jedinom, bilo na izložbi ili u knjizi ili katalogu. Topografski model je otvoren, rizomski, jukstapozicijski. Tipografski modeli teže tome da budu nodalni. Topografski modeli su umreženi. Umjesto da stabiliziraju znanje, topografski pristupi destabiliziraju ono što znamo, dodaju perspektive, komplikiraju naš dojam o onome što se dogodilo. Višestruke istodobne izložbe u Budimpešti dobri su primjeri topografskog modela, ne samo zato što kombinirani dogadjaj doslovno širi topografsko znanje nego zato što se sam pojmom izložbe temelji na širenju područja povijesti izložbe putem poveznica.

Takvi metapristupi izložbi prirodno nastaju na internetu. Taj medij idealan je za dovođenje disparatnih elemenata u jedan prostor. Primjer revolucionarne prakse je website kaprow.org, koji je pružao informacije i dokumentaciju o svim četiri poprišta evropske turneve Allana Kaprowa: *Art as Life* na

jedinstvenoj ulaznoj točki. Slično tome, kad se izložba preselila u Los Angeles, MOCA-in website bio je jedino mjesto koje je okupilo sve re-kreirane happeninge, bilo da su se dogadali istodobno ili pojedinačno. Web omogućuje i lako ostvarivanje jeftinjih kombinacija raznolikog izvornog materijala – fotografija, videa, intervju, dokumenata, komentara – koji su isključeni u tiskanim medijima. Web njeguje i različite vrste znanja – na primjer, zvukove i pokrete umjetničkih djela i posjetilaca izložba. Veća uključivost weba stvara raznolikiju povijest koja obuhvaća vremenske i prostorne informacije o izložbama te čini te informacije dostupnima većem broju ljudi na više mesta, u duljem vremenu.

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Kako bi povijest izložaba kao pristup mogla "izbjegići zamke povijesti umjetnosti"?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Kao struka ili područje istraživanja, povijest umjetnosti pojavila se u tipografskoj eri. Tu vrijedi slavna izreka Marshalla McLuhana da je medij poruka. Ekonomija tipografije – tu uključujem i analognu fotografiju – bila je ekonomija oskudice. Oskudica vodi do modela rijetkosti i remekdjela.

Povijest izložaba mnogo je novije područje proučavanja i na njega utječe medij njegove ere. Digitalne tehnologije su manje skupe i manje restrikтивne od analognih i podatne su za beskrajne kombinacije i manipulacije. S beskrajnim materijalom i beskonačnim kombinacijama moguće je konstruirati razne vrste povijesti.

Vjerojatno sam previše utopijski nadahnuta u svom uvjerenju da web može preobraziti način na koji promišljamo povijest i kako je konstruiramo, ali dostupnost fotografija instalacija na webu već povisuje svijest o izložbama kao fenomenu. U tipografskoj eri, izložbe je vizualno predstavljala slika umjetničkog djela. Danas, prikaz izložbe u novinama često sadrži snimku instalacije i niz fotografija s dodatnim pogledima na izložbu. Muzeji se počinju prilagodavati ideji da podjela dobara neće umanjiti profesionalizam. Sada izlažu fotografije instalacija s izložbe koje su prije arhivirali i općenito su bile nedostupne. Kao primjer uzmiimo website *Art of Two Germanys*. Potpun sklop slika instalacija omogućuje nam da izložbu proučimo i prije nego što je uopće vidimo ili, ako se izložba ne može vidjeti, kao dio javnog arhiva. Čak i ako muzej ne postavi fotografije instalacije na svoj website, omogućuje drugima da ih uključe u svoj digitalni komentar. Ili pak ljudi snime svoje vlastite fotografije i postave ih na web.

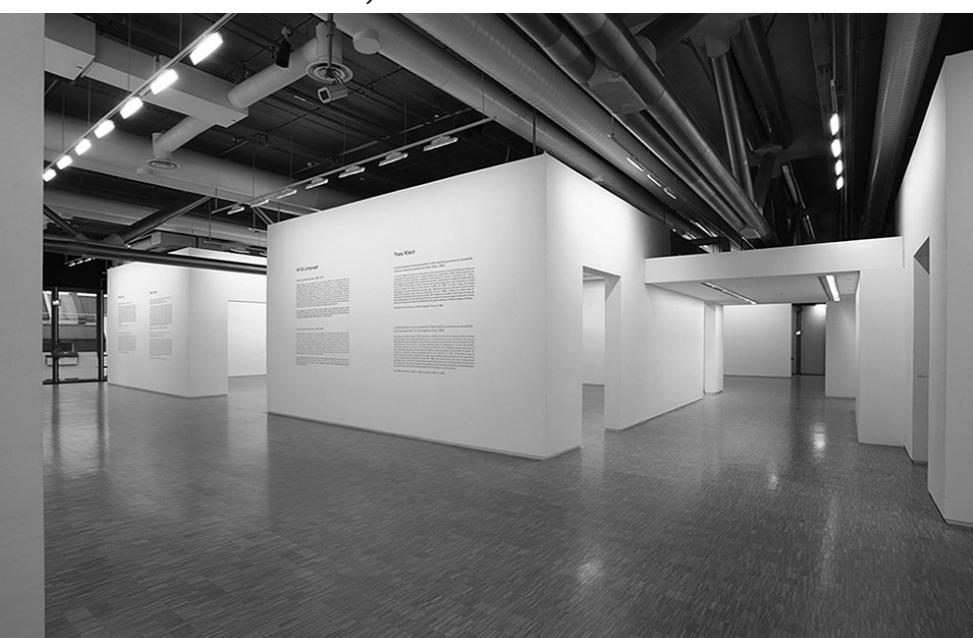
Digitalne repreze izložaba, uz sve siteove s digitaliziranim arhivskom povješću izložaba, imaju potencijal da pomakom žarišta decentriraju tradicionalnu povijest umjetnosti – da je udalje ne samo od pojedinačnog umjetničkog djela u dobu kad je tržište tako odredbeno, nego i od uobičajenih geografskih putanja povijesti umjetnosti. Loma Roth, stručnjakinja za kulturne studije, napisala je velik broj članaka o tome kako standardna paleta boja dječjih lutaka pospješuje rasne stereotipe. Ona tvrdi da pomak u tehnologiji uklanja kodiranje na samom početku – te tako sprečava nastanak ugradenih stereotipa. Ja tvrdim nešto slično. Ako prihvativimo nove tehnologije za konstruiranje povijesti izložaba, vrlo je vjerojatno da se stereotipove može mijenjati.

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Kakvu posebnu važnost bi rekonstrukcije izložaba moglo imati za povijest istočnoevropske umjetnosti i njenu međunarodnu kanonizaciju?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Pisanje o izložbama oblik je rekonstrukcije, ali materijaliziranje izložaba u javnom prostoru potiče raspravu, debatu i prikazivanje. Izložba postaje diskurzivan dogadjaj, i u izložbenom prostoru i izvan njega. S obzirom na potiskivanje progresivnih umjetničkih izložaba u Istočnoj Evropi prije 1989., fizička rekonstrukcija pomaže u konkretizaciji onoga što je donedavno bila nevidljiva povijest. Znanje o alternativama etatističkoj kulturi važno je kao korektiv povijesti, ono nudi kontekst i korijene za sličnu ili srodnu suvremenu aktivnost te djeluje kao uzor onima koji još žive u društвima s kulturom pod strogim nadzorom. Rekonstrukcije ili izložbe sjećanja pomažu da se prošlost održi u sadašnjosti, jer su izložbe, više nego knjige,

postale ključni elementi današnje kulturne politike.

Jezik je još jedan razlog da se materijalizira sjećanje na izložbe. Sve primjere izložaba sjećanja raspravljaju na prevedenom tekstualnom materijalu, na engleskom, u trenutku objavlјivanja. Rijetko se pojavljuju prijevodi knjiga o povijesti umjetnosti i izložaba. Izvan njemačkog jezičnog područja još se čeka na prijevod najvažnije rane knjige o povijesti izložaba u dvadesetom stoljeću, *Die Kunst der Ausstellung* ili *Umjetnost izložbe* Bernda Klüsera i Katherine Hegewisch iz 1991. Tek počinjemo upoznavati povijest izložaba u Istočnoj Evropi, i iznutra i izvana. Publikacije poput *East Art Map*, napisane na engleskom, izuzetno su korisne jer reprodukcije i rasprave uključuju i neke izložbene događaje. No, tu izložbe nisu u središtu zanimanja.



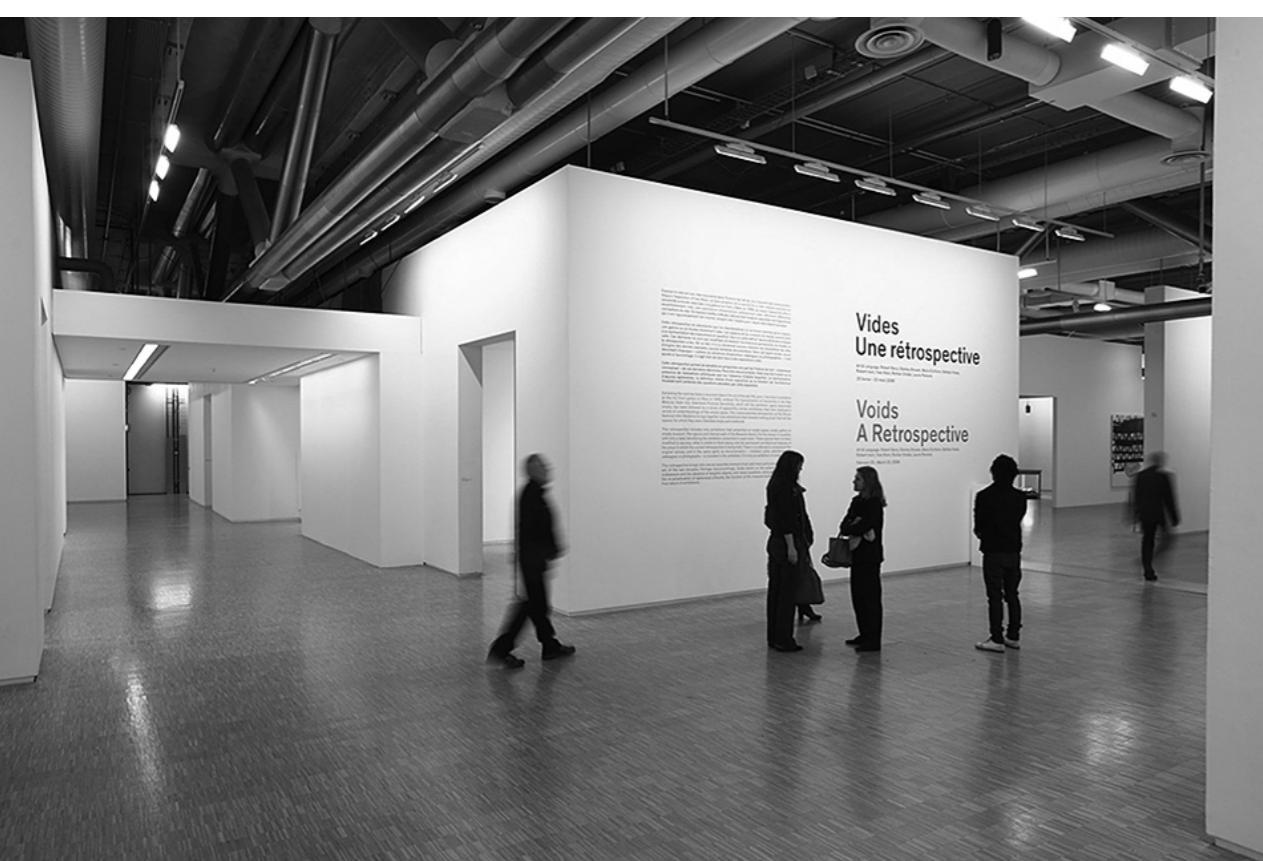
Ako želimo da izložbe u Istočnoj Evropi uđu u internacionalizirani kanon, potrebno je nešto više od monografskog, tipografskog pristupa. Pomogao bi multimodalni oblik prezentacije koji uključuje izložbe sjećanja, kataloge i prisutnost na mreži. Na kraju, potrebni su prezentacijski oblici koji ruše geografski segregirane modele prezentacije. U idealnom slučaju, digitalne repreze izložaba moguće bi uključiti poveznice sa sličnim vrstama izložaba drugdje, i vremenske slijedove koji omogućuju razmatranje izložba izvan Istočne Europe u razdoblju kad je održana izložba koja se rekonstruira. Prerano je nadati se da će oni koji na mreži pišu povijesti izložaba na Zapadu uključiti slične reference.

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Jeste li našli na slučajevu kad je pouzdano informacija o izvornom događaju bila problematična i upitna, kad su nedostajući ili proturječni dokumenti utjecali na metodologiju rekonstrukcije?

**REESA GREENBERG:** Vaše pitanje podsjetilo me na esej Waltera Grasskampa o povijesti bijelog zida u izložbenim prostorima. Grasskamp ističe da nikad nećemo doista znati jesu li zidovi o kojima prepostavljamo da su bili bijeli zato što se takvima doimaju na crno-bijelim fotografijama – doista bili bijeli. Mislim da moramo prepostaviti da će način na koji se sjećamo izložba uvijek biti djelomičan – djelomičan u smislu da ćemo znati samo dijelove prošlosti i djelomičan u smislu da je ono čega se sjećamo uvijek pod utjecajem naše perspektive.

Moramo imati na umu da su rekonstrukcije ili upotrebe prošlosti integralni dijelovi ideologije sadašnjosti. Kad gledam izložbe sjećanja, volim se pitati zašto se sada sjećamo određenih izložaba. Neke izložbe sjećanja, poput *Archive in Motion*, koja slavi pedesetu godišnjicu Documente, komemorativne su. Druge, poput budimpeštanske izložbe *Prełom* kolektiva, kuda.org i grupe tranzit. hu iz Budimpešte, iscijeliteljske su i kompenzacijске, namjerno su provokativne i izostavljaju neke detalje iz konteksta. Recenzije *Voids* kao izložbe većinom su vrlo kritične prema izostavljanju podataka iz izložbenog prostora iako istodobno priznaju da katalog sadrži obilje detaljnijih informacija i interpretacija. Za mene, pitanje je zašto su kustosi mislili da je tako važno da izložbeni prostor bude lišen podataka.

Drugi način da odgovorim na vaše pitanje je prepostaviti da je svaka rekonstrukcija pogrešna ili, rečeno u pozitivnijem svjetlu, *work in progress*. Povijest izložaba tako je nova da moramo očekivati pogreške. Ako su te pogreške iskrene, računa se konstrukcija skele na kojoj se gradi – i, ako je nužno, iznova gradi povijest izložaba. \*



# intervju s članovima kuda.org

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O izložbi i istraživačkom projektu "Trajni čas umetnosti, novosadska avangarda 1960-ih i 1970-ih" Centra za nove medije kuda.org, Novi Sad

Klasični  
kunsthistoričarski  
pristupi tumače  
neoavangardne  
prakse gotovo  
isključivo u  
odnosu prema  
međunarodnim  
pokretima  
konceptualne  
umjetnosti i  
izbjegavaju  
kontekstualizirati  
u šиру društveno-  
političku okolinu  
socijalizma u bivšoj  
Jugoslaviji

Drugo, gotovo svi protagonisti novosadske neoavangardne scene najčešće nisu bili umjetnici nego studenti prava, sociologije, filozofije i književnosti. Njihove prakse (akcije, intervencije, izložbe, manifesti i performance) katkad su bliže praksama Fluxusa nego konceptualnoj umjetnosti kao takvoj. No zanimljivije je, a i relevantnije, to što njihove prakse treba protumačiti i u odnosu prema tekućim raspravama o autonomiji umjetnosti, progresivnim političkim i estetičkim teorijama, alternativnim oblicima organiziranja društvenog i političkog života, uključujući i potragu za odlučno nedogmatskom lijevom pozicijom u društvu bivše Jugoslavije. Uobičajeno romantično shvaćanje o njihovoj "pobuni" i "ekscesima", o cenzuriranju i zabranjivanju kritičke

Citati iz  
dokumentarnog filma  
"Tribina mladih"

AUTOR:  
Nenad Milošević

PRODUKCIJA:  
Kino klub Novi Sad,  
kuda.org

GODINA: 2009

"... To su bile, dakle, godine kada se jugoslovenska kulturna scena jako otvarala i kada su, u krajnjoj liniji, na mnogim pozicijama u državi, u kulturnim politikama bili ljudi iz Titove garniture, ali intelektualci. Veliki deo njih su bili pripadnici nekadašnjeg nadrealističkog pokreta kao što su Dušan Matić, Marko Ristić, Mima Dedinac i Oskar Davić, dakle ljudi sa velikim iskustvom. Oni su pomogli da ta jugoslovenska kulturna scena, posle obraćuna sa Informbiroom, posle 1948., posle '50, da se ona naglo okrene jednoj praksi koja je sasvim različita od prakse drugih socijalističkih zemalja i od njihovog modela socijalističkog realizma..." ●

ŽELIMIR ŽILNIK, FILMSKI REDITELJ IZ NOVOG SADA

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Zašto ste počeli istraživati to razdoblje?

KUDA.ORG: To razdoblje povijesti kulture Novog Sada počeli smo istraživati prije svega zbog općeg lokalnog i šireg neznanja o postignućima neoavangardnih praksa i njihovoj važnosti za suvremen lokalni kulturni krajolik. Te prakse u znatnoj su mjeri marginalizirane u povijesti umjetnosti i mislimo da je važno prevrednovati ih i ponuditi novo čitanje njihove važnosti. Manje kao novu historizaciju, a više kao analizu specifičnosti društvenog angažmana te procesnog i lokalnog karaktera tih praksa; prema genealogiji suvremenih umjetničkih praksa, kako sažeto objašnjava jedna od naših partnerskih organizacija, kolektiv Prelom iz Beograda, govoreći o toj vrsti "arheologije". Ta izjava o marginalizaciji možda je kontroverzna i poziva na suprotstavljanje, jer nekoliko uglednih povjesničara u povijesti i kultura posvetili su neke svoje izložbe i publikacije tim praksama i/ili pojedinim osobama. Naravno, to smatramo legitimnim kunsthistoričarskim pristupom temi, ali zapravo se ne bismo željeli time baviti na taj način. Naime, svi ti klasični kunsthistoričarski pristupi obično tumače neoavangardne prakse gotovo isključivo u odnosu prema međunarodnim pokretima konceptualne umjetnosti iz tog vremena. Mogli bi pružiti važne uvide u te prakse, ali ih u isti mah izbjegavaju kontekstualizirati u široj društveno-političkoj okolini socijalizma u bivšoj Jugoslaviji: 1948. godina, uvođenje radničkog samoupravljanja početkom 1950-ih, položaj socijalističkog realizma u umjetnosti, ekonomske i kulturne reforme od 1965., omladinski i studentski pokreti 1968., okupacija Čehoslovačke i nejzine posljedice za prestrukturevanje društvenog i političkog života u Jugoslaviji početkom 1970-ih, jugoslavenska omladinska kultura, jugoslavenske službene institucije za kulturu, alternativna kultura itd. (da navedemo samo neke aspekte), što sve u svemu pruža drukčiji pogled i razumijevanje tog važnog razdoblja naše zajedničke povijesti kroz neoavangardne prakse, i na njih same kao takve.

umjetničke prakse kao dijelu socijalističkog

društva postaje nepotkrijepljeno, te se stoga raskida sa suvremenim poimanjem socijalizma kao posve negativnoga. To romantično stajalište želimo kritizirati; baveći se tim kulturnim i intelektualnim naslijedjem postavljamo

se daleko od etnonacionalista,

koji negirajući vrijednosti jugoslovenskog socijalizma uspješno utira put takozvanom "neideološkom" prodoru liberalne demokracije i slobodnog

tržišta. Umjesto toga, njihov umjetnički aktivizam treba promatrati kao "kritičko obogaćivanje socijalističkog diskursa" i svojevrorno "antidisidentsko disidentstvo", kako je napisao Branislav Dimitrijević analizirajući lik i djelo filmskog režisera Želimira Žilnika, jednoga od protagonistova te scene. Ta izjava, naravno, nije rezultat nepomičljene generalizacije nego se oslanja upravo na prakse novosadske neoavangardne scene i njena postignuća.

A sada, malo faktografije uz završne riječi o tome zašto se bavimo tim praksama. Ta konkretna umjetnička praksa cvjetjala je unutar službene kulturne institucije nazvane *Tribina mladih* krajem 1960-ih i početkom 1970-ih. No u razdoblju od 1972. do 1974. došlo je do pomaka prema zatvaranju dotad relativno otvorenog područja kulture, što se poklapalo s jačanjem partijskih tvrdolinija u jugoslavenskim političkim strukturama. U Novom Sadu to se snažno odrazilo na dotad funkcionalnu kulturnu politiku, što je rezultiralo slabljenjem uredništava službenih institucija i časopisa. To je značilo i ukidanje (i birokratiziranje) progresivne umjetnosti i intelektualnih protagonistova i praksa s *Tribine mladih* i časopisa oko nje. Nakon tog ukidanja više nije bilo relevantnog okvira u kulturnim institucijama Novog Sada koje bi mogle pratiti promjene društvene i političke klime i adekvatno ih analizirati. To je jedan od razloga tih transformacije real-socijalističke državne doktrine u nacional-socijalističku krajem 1980-ih, koja se dogodila preko noći. Na području umjetnosti i kulture, vakuum koji je postojao nakon tog izumiranja kritičkog diskursa povezanog s *Tribinom mladih* doveo je do trajnog nedostatka javne kritičke refleksije o fašizmu 1990-ih, do današnjeg desničarskog ekstremizma i neoliberalizma.

umjetnički i suradnje integrirana su u taj

projekt jer se on zasad ostvaruje u kombinaciji:

sudjelovanja samih protagonistova te neoavangardne

scene, njihovih sjećanja, arhiva, misli, s našom

pozicijom u odnosu na to bogato i važno naslijede.

Ovdje ću iskoristiti priliku da citiram jednu od najvažnijih osoba sa šire scene toga vremena (a i današnjeg), (bivšeg) prevodioca, (bivšeg) filmskog kritičara, (bivšeg) urednika, (bivšeg) grafičkog dizajnera i (bivšeg) asistenta režije Branka Vučićevića iz Beograda – prema njemu, povijest umjetnosti 20. stoljeća nije povijest slikarstva i

kiparstva, kako se obično ističe, nego povijest filma, fotografije i grafičkog dizajna. U potpunosti se slažem s time! Očito, to je gledište osobe koja nije povjesničar umjetnosti. Naravno, jedan od važnih razloga za kronološku rekonstrukciju te lokalne povijesti je nevidljivost tog naslijeda u lokalnoj okolini, njegova marginalizacija, kao što je već spomenuto ranije.

Drugi važan razlog za primjenu kronologije događaja je to

što je ta kronologija vrlo osobita po tome što prati nekoliko presudnih trenutaka u razvoju kulture u bivšoj Jugoslaviji.

Prvo, postoji neoavangarda povezana s *Tribinom mladih*, što je trajalo od 1969. do 1972. i

bilo pod jakim utjecajem beogradskog i međunarodnih omladinskih pokreta 1968., kad

je *Tribina mladih* predstavljala radikalne zahtjeve za demokratizacijom kulture koji su

dolazili od umjetničkih i kulturnih krugova u Novom Sadu. Nakon što im je onemogućeno

sudjelovanje u službenoj kulturnoj instituciji (*Tribini mladih*), protagonisti novosadske

neoavangardne scene pojačali su svoj rad i postojanje u nezavisnom, intimnom prostoru

jednog umjetničkog ateljea (*Studio DT 20*), u razdoblju od 1972. do 1975. (približno),

što je predstavljalo međustupanj, prijelazno razdoblje koje je dovelo do odluke većine

neoavangardnih protagonistova da se prestanu baviti umjetnošću. Na kraju, nekoliko godina

nakon povlačenja iz službene institucije kulture, većina neoavangardnih umjetnika

donijeli je odluku da se više ne bavi umjetnošću, nego su umjesto toga organizirali

privremene gradske komune i zajedno igrali nogomet. Jedan od umjetnika s te scene,

Slobodan Tišma, prekinuo je svoju javnu umjetničku praksu i zajedno s Čedomirom

Đrčom izveo nekoliko radova i performancea koji su se duboko usredotočili na smrt

utopiskih projekata i na kraj modernizma. Stvorili su radove kao što su *Invisible art*,

*Invisible band* i *Invisible artist*, koji su bili dio vremenski zasnovanog performance

nazvanoga *THE END* koji se odvijao između 1972. i 1977. U tom razdoblju su Slobodan Tišma i Čedomir Đrča svakoga dana pred mjesnom trgovinom pili američku Coca Colu i i ruski

Kvas. Za njih, to je bio posljednji performance i kraj njihove umjetnosti. Dakle, to su tri

glavna trenutka koje smo htjeli naglasiti u našoj, specifičnoj kronologiji događaja unutar te

izložbe – linija koja vodi kroz političke i kulturne procese i previranja u bivšoj Jugoslaviji,

prema konačnom razrješenju neoavangardnih praksa... \*

LINK: [http://www.kuda.org/en/continuous\\_art](http://www.kuda.org/en/continuous_art)



DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Vaše izložbe prikazuju dokumente duž vremenskog pravca. Zašto ste smatrali da je važno načiniti kronologiju ili povijest lokalnih neoavangardnih događaja?

KUDA.ORG: Mogućnost stvaranja vlastite povijesti – autopovijesti umjetničke prakse važna je pozicija. To je već postojeća ideja, koju su razvili razni umjetnici, na primjer Goran Đorđević. To je istraživanje blisko onome što pokušava postići *East Art Map*, putem izjave da povijest nije dana i treba je konstruirati – u ovom slučaju, također daleko od zapadnoevropskog elitističkog kunsthistoričarskog diskursa. Načela kolektivizma i suradnje integrirana su u taj projekt jer se on zasad ostvaruje u kombinaciji: sudjelovanja samih protagonistova te neoavangardne scene, njihovih sjećanja, arhiva, misli, s našom pozicijom u odnosu na to bogato i važno naslijede. Ovdje ću iskoristiti priliku da citiram jednu od najvažnijih osoba sa šire scene toga vremena (a i današnjeg), (bivšeg) prevodioca, (bivšeg) filmskog kritičara, (bivšeg) urednika, (bivšeg) grafičkog dizajnera i (bivšeg) asistenta režije Branka Vučićevića iz Beograda – prema njemu, povijest umjetnosti 20. stoljeća nije povijest slikarstva i

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Drugi važan razlog za primjenu kronologije događaja je to što je ta kronologija vrlo osobita po tome što prati nekoliko presudnih trenutaka u razvoju kulture u bivšoj Jugoslaviji. Prvo, postoji neoavangarda povezana s *Tribinom mladih*, što je trajalo od 1969. do 1972. i bilo pod jakim utjecajem beogradskog i međunarodnih omladinskih pokreta 1968., kad je *Tribina mladih* predstavljala radikalne zahtjeve za demokratizacijom kulture koji su dolazili od umjetničkih i kulturnih krugova u Novom Sadu. Nakon što im je onemogućeno sudjelovanje u službenoj kulturnoj instituciji (*Tribini mladih*), protagonisti novosadske neoavangardne scene pojačali su svoj rad i postojanje u nezavisnom, intimnom prostoru jednog umjetničkog ateljea (*Studio DT 20*), u razdoblju od 1972. do 1975. (približno), što je predstavljalo međustupanj, prijelazno razdoblje koje je dovelo do odluke većine neoavangardnih protagonistova da se prestanu baviti umjetnošću. Na kraju, nekoliko godina nakon povlačenja iz službene institucije kulture, većina neoavangardnih umjetnika donijeli je odluku da se više ne bavi umjetnošću, nego su umjesto toga organizirali privremene gradske komune i zajedno igrali nogomet. Jedan od umjetnika s te scene, Slobodan Tišma, prekinuo je svoju javnu umjetničku praksu i zajedno s Čedomirom Đrčom izveo nekoliko radova i performancea koji su se duboko usredotočili na smrt utopiskih projekata i na kraj modernizma. Stvorili su radove kao što su *Invisible art*, *Invisible band* i *Invisible artist*, koji su bili dio vremenski zasnovanog performance nazvanoga *THE END* koji se odvijao između 1972. i 1977. U tom razdoblju su Slobodan Tišma i Čedomir Đrča svakoga dana pred mjesnom trgovinom pili američku Coca Colu i i ruski Kvas. Za njih, to je bio posljednji performance i kraj njihove umjetnosti. Dakle, to su tri glavna trenutka koje smo htjeli naglasiti u našoj, specifičnoj kronologiji događaja unutar te izložbe – linija koja vodi kroz političke i kulturne procese i previranja u bivšoj Jugoslaviji, prema konačnom razrješenju neoavangardnih praksa... \*

"... [Govori o *Tribini mladih*] Kroz ovu zgradu, kroz ova vrata, u vreme o kome sada govorimo, kada sam došao iz Zrenjanina u Novi Sad i postao urednik časopisa Polja, ulazili su ti mlađi ljudi kao u svoju kuću. Ja sam kao urednik Polja pokušao da otvorim vrata njima, da budu prisutni, a umetnost koju su oni donosili bila je zasnovana na nečemu što do tada nije bilo poznato. To su bili umetnici koji su hteli ne da imitiraju svet, nego da bace senku sveta unutar jezika, to jest da pronađu tu techné, tu pozadinu, tu materiju od koje je ovaj svet sastavljen pa i mi sami..." ●

VUJICA REŠIN-TUČIĆ, UMETNIK, PESNIK, UREDNIK ČASOPISA POLJA U PERIODU 1967-71.GODINA

ŽELIMIR ŽILNIK, FILMSKI REDITELJ IZ NOVOG SADA

Trajni čas umetnosti / The Continuous Art Class, The Novi Sad Neo-Avantgarde of the 1960's and 1970's, Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina, Novi Sad, 2005

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Povijest umjetnosti  
20. stoljeća nije  
povijest slikarstva  
i kiparstva, kako  
se obično ističe,  
nego povijest filma,  
fotografije i grafičkog  
dizajna

# interview with members of kuda.org

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About the exhibition and research project "The Continuous Art Class: the Novi Sad Neo-Avant-garde of the 1960s and 1970s" by New Media Center\_kuda.org, Novi Sad

Dealing with this cultural and intellectual heritage we position ourselves away from the ethno-nationalists, who negating the values of Yugoslav socialism are successfully paving the way to the so-called "non-ideological" breakthrough of liberal democracy and the free market. Rather, their artistic activism should be observed as "a critical enrichment of socialist discourse"

Secondly, almost all of the protagonists from the Novi Sad neo-avant-garde scene were not artists, but rather students of law, sociology, philosophy, and literature. Their practices (actions, interventions, exhibitions, manifestos, and performances) were sometimes closer to the Fluxus practices than to conceptual art as such. But what is more interesting and relevant is that their practices should also be interpreted in relation to ongoing discussions about the autonomy of art, progressive political and art theories, alternative forms of organizing social and political life, including the quest for determining

Excerpts from the documentary movie "The Youth Tribune",

AUTHOR:  
Nenad Milošević

PRODUCTION:  
Kino klub Novi Sad,  
kuda.org

YEAR: 2009

"... Those were the years when the Yugoslav cultural scene started opening up and many positions in the government regarding culture issues were occupied by people from Tito's government, but intellectuals as well, and a great number of them were members of the past surrealist movement such as Dušan Matić, Marko Ristić, Mima Dedinac and Oskar Đavić, in other words people with great experience. They helped the Yugoslav culture scene, after the divide with the Informbiro in 1948 and after 1950, to take a decisive turn toward completely different artistic practices than those in other socialist countries and their model of socialist realism...." ●  
ŽELIMIR ŽILNIK, MOVIE DIRECTOR FROM NOVI SAD

the non-dogmatic left position in former Yugoslav society. The usual romanticism in looking at their "rebellion" and "excessive", censored and imprisoned critical art practice as a part of socialist societies is becoming non-substantial, therefore they are breaking up with the contemporary notion towards socialism as being exclusively negative. This is exactly the position that we wish to criticize, dealing with this cultural and intellectual heritage we position ourselves away from the ethno-nationalists, who negating the values of Yugoslav socialism are successfully paving the way to the so-called "non-ideological" breakthrough of liberal democracy and the free market. Rather, their artistic activism should be observed as "a critical enrichment of socialist discourse" and a sort of "anti-dissident dissidentism", as Branislav Dimitrijević wrote while analyzing the work and figure of movie director Želimir Žilnik, one of the protagonists of that scene. This statement, of course, is not the result of an unthoughtful generalization, but it relies on the very practices of Novi Sad's neo-avant-garde scene and its achievements.

Now, a little bit of factography with an epilogue as to the reasons why we are dealing with those practices... This specific art practice flourished at and within the official cultural institution called *The Youth Tribune* at the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s. However, in the period between 1972 and 1974, there was a shift towards closing in the so far relatively open cultural field, which corresponded with the overbalancing of party hardliners in Yugoslav political structures. In Novi Sad, it strongly reflected thereupon on functional cultural policy, which resulted in depriving the editorial boards of official institutions and magazines. That also meant banning (and bureaucratising) progressive art and intellectual protagonists and practices from *The Youth Tribune* and the magazines around it. With this dismissal, a relevant framework no longer existed in Novi Sad's cultural institutions that could accompany the changes in the social and political climate and analyse them in an adequate way. This is one of the reasons for the silent transformation from real-socialists to national-socialists state doctrine at the end of the 1980s, which took place overnight. In the field of art and culture, the vacuum which has existed since this particular extinction of critical discourse related to *The Youth Tribune* has resulted in the continuous lack of public critical reflection on the fascism of the 1990s, right-wing extremism and the neoliberalism of today. Contemporary instrumentalization of art and culture under the framework of so-called "creative industries" is expanding in a non-critical and unreflected way. With this project, we

are wondering: How can this usual practice of the protection and conservation of our cultural heritage be transcended and how can it become a political agent of today? Could a specific way of dealing with this heritage become a tool for analysing contemporary cultural creation?

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Why did you decide to present documents instead of artworks?

KUDA.ORG: First, there is a quite simple and almost self-explanatory reason. During 1969–70, most of the protagonists of the Novi Sad neo-avant-garde scene collaborated in the student magazine *Index*, the official magazine of the Association of Students of Vojvodina, just before their involvement with *The Youth Tribune* where they were employed as editors of the music, film and public discussions program. In this student magazine, they published some of their most important works (such as manifestos, visual poetry, documentation of actions and interventions, etc. in combination with translations of important theoretical work and critical writings of their own) and most of the works at the exhibition *The Continuous Art Class* are exactly taken over from that magazine. This is the reason why we wanted to combine this original medium of a magazine and an exhibition and to create a sort of "wallpaper", "a wall-magazine". This enabled us to easily work with, re-print and re-distribute the content, which also refers to the non-importance of uniqueness and originality, therefore to the reproducibility of their work. The other thing was that we didn't want to exhibit art pieces (even if they were made in a cheap and reproducible format and material), but rather "to produce documents", i.e., to contextualize their art work so it becomes "a document" witnessing a wider context of that period of time. We also placed two books produced within this project as they are exhibits, again, they are another more explicative format of "documents".

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Your exhibitions display documents along a timeline. Why did you find it important to construct a chronology or history of local neo-avant-garde art events?

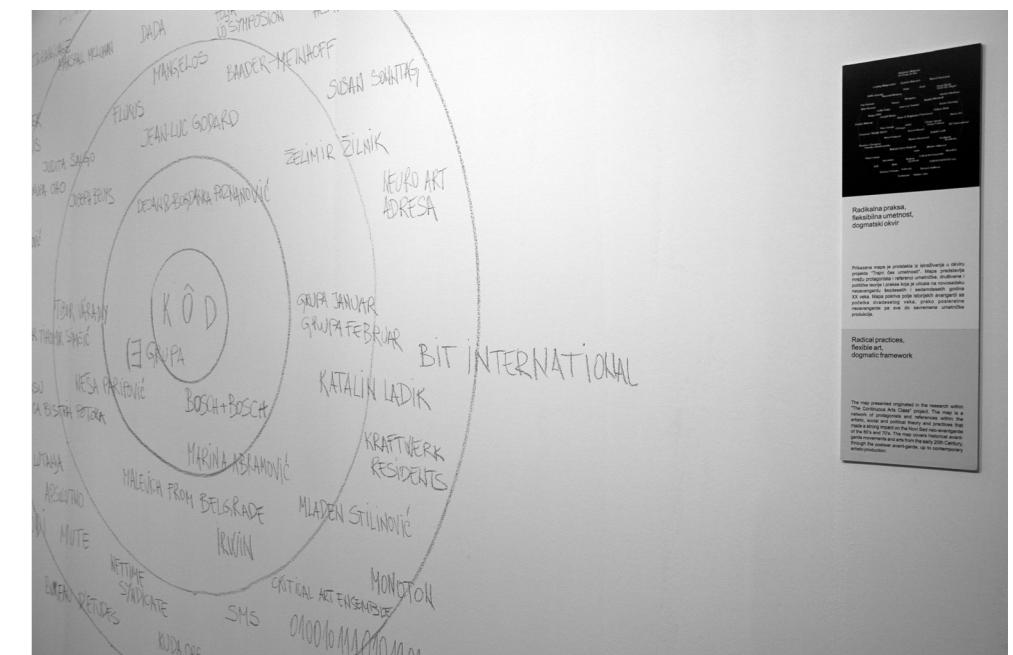
KUDA.ORG: The possibility of creating one's own history – auto-history – of art practices is an important position. This is an already existing idea which has been developed by several artists, for example in Goran Đorđević's work. I would say that this research is close to what *East Art Map* tries to achieve, in a manner of the statement that history is not given and that in needs to be constructed – in this case, also away from elitist Western art history discourse. The principles of collectivism and collaboration are integrated in this project since it has so far been realized in combination with the participation of the very protagonists of this neo-avant-garde scene, their memories, archives, thoughts, and our position towards this rich and important heritage. Here, I will use the opportunity to quote one of the most important personae of the wider scene of that time (and today still), (ex-) translator, (ex-) film critic, (ex-) editor, (ex-) graphic designer and (ex-) assistant director, Branko Vučićević from Belgrade – according to him, the history of art of the 20th century is not a history of painting and sculpture as it is usually pointed out, but a history of film, photography and graphic design. I couldn't agree more! This is

clearly the view-point of a person who is not an art historian. Of course, one important reason to reconstruct this local history chronologically is because of the invisibility of this heritage in the local environment, its marginalization, as I explained earlier.

The other important reason for applying a chronology of events is that this chronology is very specific in the terms that it follows several crucial points in the development of culture in former Yugoslavia. First, there is the neo-avant-garde in relation to and involvement with *The Youth Tribune* which lasted from 1969–1972, and which was heavily influenced by the Belgrade and international youth movements of 1968, where *The Youth Tribune* stood for the radical demands for the democratization of culture which came from the artistic and cultural circles in Novi Sad. After being withheld from participation in the official cultural institution (*The Youth Tribune*), the protagonists of Novi Sad's neo-avant-garde scene intensified their work and dwelling in the independent, intimate space of one artist's studio (Studio DT 20), in the period between 1972–1975 (approximately), it presented a mid-stage, traversable period that led to the decision of the most of neo-avant-garde protagonists to abandon the practising of art. Finally, some years after the withdrawal from the official cultural institution, most of the

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Trajni čas umetnosti / The Continuous Art Class, The Novi Sad Neo-Avantgarde of the 1960's and 1970's, Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina, Novi Sad, 2005



neo-avant-garde artists made the decision not to practice art anymore, but instead they organised temporary city communes and played football together. One of the artists from the scene, Slobodan Tišma, cancelled his public art practice and, together with Čedomir Drča, created several works and performances that focused deeply on the death of utopian projects and the end of modernism. They created works such as *Invisible art*, *Invisible band* or *Invisible artist* that were part of a time-based performance called *THE END* that happened between 1972 and 1977. During that period, Slobodan Tišma and Čedomir Drča drank American Coca Cola and Russian Kvas every day with friends in front of a local store. For them, this was the last performance and the end of their art. So, these are three crucial points that we wanted to stress in our specific chronology of events within this exhibition – a line that leads through political and cultural developments and turmoil in the former Yugoslavia and towards a final resolution of the neo-avant-garde practices... \*

LINK: [http://www.kuda.org/en/continuous\\_art](http://www.kuda.org/en/continuous_art)

"... [Speaking about *The Youth Tribune*] Through this building, through this door, in the time that we are talking about now, when I came to Novi Sad from Zrenjanin and became the editor of the magazine *Polja*, young people entered here like in their own house. As the editor of *Polja* I tried to open the door for them, to be present, and the art that they brought was based on something that wasn't known back then. They were artists who didn't want to imitate the world, but to cast a shadow of the world inside the language, i.e., to find the background, techné, the matter that makes the world and ourselves..." ●  
VUJICA REŠIN-TUČIĆ, ARIST, POET, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE LITERARY MAGAZINE *POLJA* IN THE PERIOD OF 1967-71

"... So it is understandable that we in cinematography started working on subjects that were critically questioning all the issues that we were confronted with. Meaning, starting from the central question, does this system that we live in have any future, can it overcome that conflict situation? On the one hand, revolution speaks about it that it will benefit all, and on the other, we see that society is class society and socially divided. And when we talk about artistic practice that it was along the lines of what was happening in the world of that time, that it was the time of explosion of new artistic forms and different movements..." ●  
ŽELIMIR ŽILNIK, MOVIE DIRECTOR FROM NOVI SAD

# razgovor Prelov kolektiv Dóra Hegyi & Zsuzsa László

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DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Vaše izložbe prikazuju publikaciju u izložbenom prostoru. Zašto smatrate važnim da izložite te dokumente uz to što ih objavljujete u štampanom obliku, kao publikaciju?

JELENA VESIĆ: Forma do koje smo došli razmišljajući o Slučaju SKC-a sedamdesetih godina je istraživačka sveska, koju smo kasnije izložili kao svesku razvijenu u prostoru i objavili kao publikaciju. Kada smo radili na toj istraživačkoj svesci mislili smo je pre svega prostorno, odnosno kroz format izložbe. Interesovalo nas je da mislimo izložbu kao nekonformističku i didaktičku formu koja je istovremeno i istorijska i savremena. Međutim, na kraju smo odlučili da izložbeni materijal uvežemo kao fotokopiranu skriptu koja može da se slobodno distribuiru i da onda Slučaj SKC-a postane izložba koja može da se ponese u džepu.

U prvoj ediciji izložbe prikazanoj u Ljubljani pod nazivom SKC u ŠKUC-u, uz printana dokumenta dodali smo i jedan CD sa audio sadržajima. Možda je interesantno da kažem i kako su nastali ti audio sadržaji. Naravno, u procesu institucionalizacije konceptualnih umetničkih praksi, mnogi artefakti koji su imali status dokumenta dobili su status umetničkog dela, pa samim tim i tržišnu vrednost. Među njima su bili i brojni tekstovi koji su postali deo kolekcija različitih muzeja. Mi smo želeli da izložimo isključivo dokumente i samim tim smo bili u situaciji da neke tekstove, koji su umeduvremenu dobili status umetničkih dela prevedemo nazad u dokument. Za tu priliku smo se koristili audio-formatom i čitanjem teksta – nekom vrstom kontra-prevodjenja.

Danas je potrebno podsetiti se na to da su Nove umetničke prakse izrasle iz šezdesetosmaškog sloganova "Dole crvena buržoazija", kao i da je njihovo delovanje

bilo zasnovano na permanentnom revolucionisanju praksi.

U društvenom smislu to je podrazumevalo potragu za više socijalizma, a u kulturnom smislu – borbu protiv birokratizovanog sistema kulture i

vladajuće umetnosti "visokog evropskog esteticizma"



DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Kako ste započeli da istražujete to razdoblje?

JELENA VESIĆ: Sedamdesete u Jugoslaviji ili, da budem specifičnija, istraživanje konceptualne umetničke scene, lokalno obuhvaćene pojmom Nove umetničke prakse, svakako je značajno za ispitivanje genealogije savremene umetnosti, za njeno današnje shvatanje i praktikovanje. Sedamdesete nas se naročito tiču ukoliko želimo da diskutujemo tzv. kritičke umetničke prakse, sa današnjih pozicija ili, pak, delovanje u polju alternativne kulture. Interesovanje za institucionalne i ideoološke modele koji oblikuju dominantne prakse savremene umetnosti i specifično prakse vezane za ovaj region, bile su osnovno polazišta naše analize. Pokušali smo da deo odgovora pronađemo u sedamdesetima i konkretno na primeru Beogradske konceptualne i slučaju Studentskog kulturnog centra.

Naše interesovanje za sedamdesete i, uopšte, promenu kulturne paradigme nakon 1968. nije samo nostalgična potraga za izgubljenim alternativama ili revalorizacija manje poznate istorije u vidu nekakvog profesionalističkog kurioziteta, već pokušaj frontalnog sučeljavanja sa mitovima i realnim učincima kolektivnog delovanja jedne generacije umetnika, kritičara i kustosa koji su kreirali određeni kulturni prostor, a koji je aktivan i danas u izmenjenim geo-političkim uslovima. Taj prostor danas naseljavaju brojne nezavisne organizacije, kolektivi i pojedinci koji su nastavili da deluju u smeru eksperimentalnog pristupa kreiranju i predstavljanju umetnosti, kao i nepomirljivosti sa hegemonim kulturnim praksama. U

prostoru bivše Jugoslavije, danas poznate i kao Zapadni Balkan, te hegemonic prakse bi se zasnivale na dve snažne tendencije: jedno je tržišna logika umetnosti, koja prati ponovnu instalaciju kapitalističkog poretku u malim nacionalnim državama, a drugo je post-socijalističko stanje, odnosno anti-komunistički konzensus kao master narativ. Usled promene tendencije dolazi i do revizije istorijskih umetničkih praksi, pa i statusa savremene umetnosti, i to na više nivoa. Jedan očigledan primer bilo bi mišljenje kritičkih umetničkih praksi, formiranih unutar socijalističke države kroz figuru disidenta, odnosno kroz figuru pobunjene individue u

Političke prakse (post)jugoslovenske umetnosti: RETROSPEKTIVA 01, javno vođenje kroz postavku izložbe (KUSTOSKINJA: Jelena Vesić)  
Political Practices of (Post)-Yugoslav Art: RETROSPECTIVE 01 (a guided tour through the exhibition). CURATOR: Jelena Vesić  
SNIMIO / PHOTO: VLADIMIR JERIĆ

totalitarnom kolektivističkom sistemu. U tom kontekstu je svakako interesantno izneti neke podatke iz konstitutivnih dokumenata SKC-a, kao i konkretnih praksi koje su se tu razvijale i na tom primeru prikazati pozicije oficijelne sfere i tzv. alternative unutar Socijalističke Jugoslavije sedamdesetih godina.

Ma koliko to zvučalo parodikalno, danas je potrebno podsetiti se na to da su Nove umetničke prakse izrasle iz šezdesetosmaškog sloganova "Dole crvena buržoazija", kao i da je njihovo delovanje bilo zasnovano na permanentnom revolucionisanju praksi. U društvenom smislu to je podrazumevalo potragu za više socijalizma, a u kulturnom smislu – borbu protiv birokratizovanog sistema kulture i vladajuće umetnosti "visokog evropskog esteticizma" koja je funkcionalisala kao neka vrsta spoja modernističke estetike i buržoaskе kulturne logike. Takođe, jedan od materijalističkih učinaka ove revizije i promene paradigmne "savremena umetnost" učinila je da nekadašnje kolektivne prakse, danas zameni tržišni individualizam i uopšteno, institucionalni diskurs "velikih autora". To se može posmatrati i kroz prizmu odnosa prvakitne redakcije kulturnog programa SKC-a i današnjeg pozicioniranja umetnika, kustosa i kritičara koji su je činili.

Ono što je interesovalo Prelov kolektiv u smislu – zašto sedamdesete, zašto Jugoslavija, zašto Nove umetničke prakse, zašto SKC – počivalo je na želji i potrebi da se prikažu neke bitne promene u umetnosti koje su se desile na institucionalnom planu, ali i da ukaže na relevantnost mišljenja, kao i kritičkog i transformativnog potencijala Novih umetničkih praksi kroz konkretnе primere koji se i danas mogu smatrati relevantnim.

Naše istraživanje Slučaj SKC-a sedamdesetih godina polazi od čuvene fotografije zida galerije SKC-a, ispred koga, u frontalnom nizu, stoje centralni protagonisti Nove umetničke prakse sedamdesetih godina ... dakle neke vrste "idealne slike" koja je reprezentativna za institucionalne prakse SKC-a i koja uvezuje spontanost jednog radnog kolektiva koji deli odredene ideje i uverenja, sa onim što nazivamo "progresivna institucija kulture". To je slika koja je i danas aktuelna i koja ne predstavlja samo estetizovani objekt prošlih vremena – ona u sebi nosi i dalje važna pitanja, a jedno od njih je svakako i pitanje alternativnog delovanja u polju kulture.

Drugačije rečeno, sam istorijski period koji uzimamo za objekat svoje analize i konačno izložbe Slučaj SKC-a nije nam bitan po sebi. Ono što nam je zapravo bilo bitno jeste način na koji se sam taj objekat može iskoristiti kako bi se postavila aktuelna pitanja.

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Zašto ste odlučili da predstavite dokumente umesto umetničkih radova?

JELENA VESIĆ: Dokumentarna forma izložbe ponekad omogućava da se odredena kustosko-istraživačka teza iznese na neposredniji način. Razliku između izložbe umetničkih radova i izložbe dokumenata možemo pronaći i u produkcionoj osnovi: na primer izložba umetničkih radova zahteva dugotrajanu administraciju, solidne budžete i institucionalnu infrastrukturu, dok dokumentarna izložba može biti i neka vrsta taktičke forme, nešto do čega se može lakše doći ili što je u producijskom smislu svima dostupno. Dokumentarna forma je istovremeno didaktička, jer se zapravo artefakti ne izlažu kao estetski objekti, već kao pokazni materijal. U tom smislu, dokumentarna forma nas uvek uvlači u područje eksperimenta, kada je reč o kustoskom radu. Za izložbu Slučaj SKC-a sedamdesetih godina Prelov kolektiv se odlučio za gradijanje narativa kroz sučeljavanje teksta i slike, što je zapravo metod koji je nastao kroz formiranje časopisa Prelov, kao časopisa za sliku i politiku.

Jedan interesantan istorijski primer dokumentarne izlagачke forme, nedavno su rekonstruisale kustoskinje kolektiva WHW kroz analizu Didaktičke izložbe grupe Exat 51. Izložba se desila 1957. godine u Gradskoj galeriji suvremene umetnosti u Zagrebu. Unutrašnji narativ te izložbe je bila moderna umetnost, dok je unutrašnji narativ izložbe Slučaj SKC-a savremena umetnost kao kritička i kolektivistička praksa. \*

# interview Prelov kolektiv Dóra Hegyi & Zsuzsa László

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DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Your exhibitions display publications in the exhibition space, why do you find it important to exhibit these documents in addition to publishing them?

JELENA VESIĆ: The form that we adopted while reflecting on SKC – a Case Study on the 1970s – is that of a research notebook, which we later exhibited as a notebook evolved in space and was also published in printed form. While working on that research notebook, we thought of it primarily in terms of space, that is, through the exhibition as a non-conformist and didactic form, which is historical and contemporary at the same time. However, we eventually decided to bind the exhibition material into a xeroxed booklet that can be distributed freely, in order to turn SKC – a Case Study on the 1970s into an exhibition that can be taken home in a pocket.

In the first edition of the exhibition, which took place in Ljubljana under the title "SKC in ŠKUC", the printed documents were accompanied by a CD with audio materials. It may be of some interest to say a few words on how those audio materials were produced. Naturally, in the process of institutionalizing conceptual artistic practices, many artifacts that had the status of a document acquired the additional status of an artwork, which gave them market value. Among them, there were many texts that became a part of the collection of various museums. We, of course, wanted to exhibit exclusively documents and this very fact brought us into a situation where we had to translate certain texts, which had meanwhile acquired the status of artworks, back into the documentary form. To that purpose, we used the audio-format and read out the texts – as a sort of counter-translation.

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Why did you start to research this period?

JELENA VESIĆ: The 1970s in Yugoslavia – or, to be more specific, doing research on the conceptual art scene that was locally defined as the New Artistic Practice – were by all means significant in exploring the genealogy of contemporary art, as well as its understanding and practice today. The 70s are especially relevant when discussing the so-called critical artistic practices from current positions, or the activities in the field of alternative culture. Interest in the institutional and ideological models that informed the dominant practices of contemporary art, specifically those associated with this region, were the starting point for our analysis. We tried to find some of the answers in the 70s, more precisely in the case of Belgrade's conceptual scene and the Student Cultural Centre (SKC).

Our interest in the 70s and, more generally, in the change of cultural paradigms after 1968, is not merely a nostalgic quest for lost alternatives or a reevaluation of the less known part of history as a sort of professional curiosity, but an attempt at confronting the myths and the real effects of the collective activity of a generation of artists, art critics, and curators who created a particular cultural space, which is active even today, albeit in altered geo-political circumstances. Today, that space is inhabited by numerous autonomous organizations, collectives, and individuals whose activities follow an experimental approach to creating and presenting art, and who have adopted a relentless attitude to hegemonic cultural practices. On the territory of former Yugoslavia, which is today also known as

# om kolektiv Zsuzsa László

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Političke prakse (post)  
jugoslovenske umetnosti:  
RETROSPEKTIWA 01,  
Konferencija, 30. novembar  
2009. godine, Muzej 25. maj.  
Predstavljanje projekta Dva  
vremena jednog zida: Slučaj  
SKC-a 1970ih godina, Prelom  
kolektiv.  
Political Practices of  
(Post)-Yugoslav Art:  
RETROSPECTIVE 01 (a  
conference), 30 November  
2009, Museum of 25 May.  
Presenting the project  
*Two Ages of a Wall: SKC - a  
Case Study from the 1970s,*  
Prelom collective.

SNIMILA / PHOTO: MILICA  
VUKELIĆ

One of the materialist  
effects of this revision  
and the change of the  
“contemporary art”  
paradigm was that  
the former collective  
practices were  
substituted by market  
individualism and,  
generally speaking,  
by the institutional  
discourse of “great  
authors”



the Western Balkans, these hegemonic practices have based themselves on two powerful tendencies: one being the market logic of art, which accompanies the re-installation of capitalism in small national states, and the other is the post-socialist condition, that is, the anti-communist consensus as the master narrative of the cultural and social life. This change of trend has resulted in a revision of historical artistic practices, including the status of contemporary art, on a number of different levels. An obvious example is the conceptualization of critical artistic practices in the socialist states, through the figure of the dissident as brave individual who rebelled against the totalitarian and collectivist system. In that context, one should certainly mention some facts from the constitutive documents of SKC, as well as some concrete practices that evolved there, which may serve as the basis for describing the positions of the official sphere and the so-called alternative in the Socialist Yugoslavia of the 1970s.

However paradoxical this may sound, today it needs to be emphasized that the New Artistic Practices evolved from the 1968 slogan “Down with the Red Bourgeoisie”, and that their activity was based on a permanent revolutionizing of practices. In terms of society, this entailed a quest for more socialism, while in terms of culture – fighting against the bureaucratic cultural system and the dominant art of “high European aestheticism”, which functioned as a sort of fusion between modernist aestheticism and bourgeois cultural logic. Moreover, one of the materialist effects of this revision and the change of the “contemporary art” paradigm was that the former collective practices were substituted by market individualism and, generally speaking, by the institutional discourse of “great authors”. It can likewise be observed through the prism of the relationship between the original editorial board of SKC’s cultural programme and today’s position of those artists, curators, and art critics who constituted it.

What interested the Prelom collective in terms of “why the 1970s, why Yugoslavia, why the New Artistic Practices, why SKC” was based on the desire and need to disclose some of the crucial changes in art that occurred on the institutional level, but also to indicate the relevancy of the ideas of the New Artistic Practices, as well as their critical and transformational potential, through concrete examples that can still be considered relevant today.

Our research on SKC – a Case Study on the 1970s started from a famous photograph, which shows the crucial protagonists

of the New Artistic Practices from the 70s standing along the wall of SKC... in other words, a sort of “ideal image” that is representative of SKC’s institutional practice, linking the spontaneity of a working collective that shares certain ideas and beliefs with what we today call the “progressive institution of culture”. This image is still relevant and is far more than a mere aestheticized object from the past – it still incorporates important questions, among which there is certainly the question of alternative action in the field of culture.

In other words, the very historical period that we have made the object of our analysis and of the exhibition on The Case Study of SKC is not crucial in itself. What we actually cared about is the way in which this object could be used in order to raise topical issues.

DÓRA HEGYI & ZSUZSA LÁSZLÓ: Why did you decide to present documents instead of artworks?

JELENA VESIĆ: The documentary form of exhibition sometimes makes it possible to present a particular curatorial/research hypothesis in a more direct way. The difference between exhibiting artworks and exhibiting documents can also be seen in their production base: thus, an exhibition of artworks demands long-term administration, solid budgets, and an institutional infrastructure, whereas a documentary exhibition can also be a sort of strategic form, something that is easier to achieve and accessible to everyone in terms of production. The documentary form is didactic at the same time, since the artifacts are actually exhibited as demonstrative materials rather than as aesthetic objects. In that sense, the documentary form, in terms of curatorial work, always leads us into the field of experimentation. For the exhibition on SKC – a Case Study on the 1970s, Prelom collective opted for constructing the narrative by juxtaposing the text and the images, a method that actually evolved while creating Prelom – journal for images and politics.

An interesting historical example of the documentary form of exhibition has recently been reconstructed by the curators of the WHW collective, who have analyzed the *Didactic Exhibition* of the Exat 51 group. The exhibition took place in 1957, at the Municipal Gallery of Contemporary Art in Zagreb. The inner narrative of that exhibition was modern art, while the inner narrative of SKC – a Case Study on the 1970s is contemporary art as a critical and collectivist practice. \*

# istraživačka beleška: Jelena Vesić

“Nova umetnička praksa” u bivšoj Jugoslaviji: Od levičarske kritike birokratije do postkomunističkog artefakta u neoliberalnoj instituciji umetnosti

Kako teorizovati političke prakse umetnosti? Kako premostiti jaz između umetničkih i političkih teorija, i tekućih umetničkih i aktivističkih praksi? Ova pitanja neposredno upućuju na prostor konfrontacije između teorijskih apstrakcija (koje analiziraju odnose umetnosti i politike, obično sa velike distancije od stvarnih praksi) i nedovoljno elaboriranih koncepcija nastalih u praksi (bilo da su one umetničke, kustoske, kritičarske ili neke druge). Ukoliko se prenebregne sagledavanje ovog prostora kao celine svakom pokušaju analize će uvek nedostajati realni uvid u trenutno stanje stvari. Dosadašnji primeri pokazuju da će ta nedovoljnost najčešće biti ispoljena ili kroz disciplinarno zatvaranje u jezik i odgovarajuću epistemologiju (kako teorije tako i prakse umetnosti) ili kroz reducionistički pogled na moguću efektivnost umetnosti u savremenoj teoriji i filozofiji (što se može naći, na primer, kod Ransijera, Badjua, itd.). Odgovor se, dakle, mora tražiti u uzajamnom i aktivnom testiranju pojmove i konteksta, kako teorijske tako i umetničke produkcije, radi iznalaženja zajedničkog jezika koji bi omogućio stvarni dijalog politike i umetnosti.

Danas se često koristi generički termin “kritička umetnost” kako bi se definisala odredena vrsta kulturne proizvodnje. Međutim, šta ovaj termin zapravo znači? Koristeći se jezikom savremene umetničke kritike lako možemo zaključiti da je *svaka umetnost kritička ili, pak, da je svaka umetnost politička*. Ipak, osnovno pitanje ostaje otvoreno: o kakvoj se kritici, odnosno, o kakvoj se politici tudi? Svest o stvarnom problemu zapravo leži u pitanju: *kako (re)definisati umetnost kritike i kako je učiniti efektivnom u današnjoj situaciji?*

Savremena kulturna proizvodnja prihvata kritiku kao jednu od poželjnih vrednosti savremene umetnosti. U pitanju je tendencija koja se javlja paralelno s promenama institucionalnog polja u današnjem post-welfare state kapitalizmu. Neoliberalna institucija kulture zagovara politiku transformacije *iznutra* (bilo da je reč o društvu, državnim institucijama kulture ili nezavisnim institucijama), što počiva na uključivanju kritike u sistem od samog početka (i, sledstveno tome, njenu apropijaciju). Takva dinamička konstellacija proizvodi tzv. institucionalizaciju kritike, što je tema koja je tokom proteklih nekoliko godina ponovo došla u središte diskusije i to na različitim institucionalnim ili nezavisnim (samoorganizovanim) nivoima. Ta nova institucionalizacija često je praćena procesom “kulturalizacije” (političkih odnosa), tj. strategijom “izvoza” političkih problema u polje kulture. Reč je o procesima koji su posebno vidljivi na evropskim marginama i u tzv. tranzicionim društвima. Zahtevi za “kritičkom intelektualnom proizvodnjom” i “društvenom angažovanosti umetnosti”, već su upisani u programe vodećih evropskih fondacija za savremenu umetnost i kulturu.

“Nove umetničke prakse” 1960-ih i 1970-ih godina, koje predstavljaju predmet ovog istraživanja, bile su, uopšteno govoreći, razvijane kroz kritiku sitnoubužaškog konformizma, tržišta umetnosti, institucija *welfare state* sistema i institucionalne birokratije i hijerarhije. Istovremeno, one su usmerene protiv buržoaskih vrednosti umetnosti u smislu “lepe slike u bogatom enterijeru”, ali, takođe, i u smislu modernističkog formalizma, samokontemplacije i koncepta autonomije umetnosti, osmišljene kroz pojmove kao što su samodovoljnost, disciplinarno zatvaranje, profesionalna podela rada i slično. Te prakse su, shodno tome, dovodele u pitanje

ne samo status umetničkog predmeta (njegovu materijalnu formu, status robe i oblike distribucije) već takođe i same (umetničke) institucije zajedno sa njihovom ideološko-reprezentacijskom funkcijom. Konceptualna umetnost je, kako je to formulao Benjamin Buhloh, uvela jedan “nov legalistički jezik i administrativni stil materijalnog prezentovanja” kao suprotnost tradicionalnim oblicima pojavljivanja i (društvenoj) funkciji umetnosti.

Projekt konceptualne umetnosti je, šire gledajući, bio formulisan kao taktička zamena umetničkog proizvoda (namenjenog prodaji na tržištu) kritičkim umetničkim stavom (kojim se ne može lako manipulisati na tržištu objekata). Ta zamena “predmeta” “idejom” ponekad je otvoreno (i naivno) shvatana kao odlučujući taktički potez koji se opire logici tržišne ekonomije u umetnosti, pa je čak na neki način i prevazišlazi. Međutim, iz perspektive savremenih ekonomskih i kulturnih pozicija jasno se vidi da je ovaj emancipatorski pokušaj pre doprineo formalnoj radikalizaciji umetnosti nego stvarnoj promeni njene društvene funkcije. On je zapravo rezultirao praktikovanjem “metoda” samorefleksivnosti i samoreferencijsnosti unutar izolovanog disciplinarnog polja umetnosti. Drugim rečima, zamena “predmeta” “idejom” je ostala inherentna diskursu “institucije umetnosti” i otvorila je mogućnost jedne udobne pozicije umetničke kritike, primerene logici post-fordističke (re)produkciјe i onoga što se naziva “kognitivnim kapitalizmom”.

Kulturna klima mreže studentskih centara osnovanih širom Jugoslavije (delimično i kao posledica protesta ’68) može se opisati kao levičarska kritika zvanične kulture jugoslovenske socijalističke države. Zvanična kulturna politika sledila je ideju samoupravljanja kao jedinstvenog modela jugoslovenskog socijalizma što je rezultiralo u nečemu što bi se moglo okarakterisati kao konцепција “relativne autonomije umetnosti” ili, uopšteno, kao modernističko-progresivistička tendencija koja je u diskusijama često nazivana i “socijalističkim modernizmom”. Dok su Jugoslaviju tokom sedamdesetih godina karakterisale promene u pravcu liberalizacije društva, “nove umetničke prakse”, razvijane u okružju novih liberalnih institucija, kao što je na primer Studentski kulturni centar u Beogradu, bile su pod uticajem zapadne, neo-marksističke, post-šezdesetsmaške kritike. Ta kritika je najčešće bila usmerena ka politički pasiviziranju (u smislu održavanja *status quo-a*) birokratiji jugoslovenske države i javljanju nove klase “crvene buržoazije”.

Izbor artefakata i dokumenata u delu izložbe “Slučaj SKC-a 1970-ih godina” upućuje na ideološku putanju i političko pozicioniranje tzv. novih umetničkih praksi u bivšoj Jugoslaviji. Ta putanja otkriva simptomatične razlike između originalnog konteksta produkcije i savremenog trenutka u kojem ove prakse često figurišu kao artefakti “estetizovane politike” post-komunizma u zapadnim umetničkim institucijama. Unutar preovladajuće post-socijalističke konstelacije, kritika može biti shvaćena samo kao disidentstvo, kao što i, shodno tome, “kritička umetnost” kreirana u okružju socijalističke države može

01 Pritom, treba imati u vidu da je zvanična ideologija SFRJ, još od 1950-ih godina, kao jednu od svojih osnovnih crta razvila kritiku birokratizacije i stvaranja nove rukovodeće “tehno-menadžerske klase”, a i da je samo samoupravljanje legitimisano kao način da se prekinu takve tendencije i da fabrike stvarno pripadnu radnicima.

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Iz perspektive savremenih ekonomskih i kulturnih pozicija jasno se vidi da je ovaj emancipatorski pokušaj pre doprineo formalnoj radikalizaciji umetnosti nego stvarnoj promeni njene društvene funkcije. On je zapravo rezultirao praktikovanjem “metoda” samorefleksivnosti i samoreferencijsnosti unutar izolovanog disciplinarnog polja umetnosti. Drugim rečima, zamena “predmeta” “idejom” je ostala inherentna diskursu “institucije umetnosti” i otvorila je mogućnost jedne udobne pozicije umetničke kritike, primerene logici post-fordističke (re)produkciјe i onoga što se naziva “kognitivnim kapitalizmom”.

biti samo reprezentacija individualne pobune u totalitarnom društvu (što je često predstavljeno stereotipiziranim mršavim telom performera u mračnom andergraund umetničkom prostoru). Ideološka revizija kritike šezdesetosmaške generacije umetnika iz bivše Jugoslavije razvijala se paralelno s usponom paradigme o tzv. "istočnoevropskoj" umetnosti. Ta paradigma je postepeno gradena kroz kulturne politike Soros centara za savremenu umetnost 1990-ih godina, preko velikih izložbi istočnoevropske umetnosti počekom ovog veka (kao što su *Body and East, After the Wall, Aspects/Positions*, itd.) do stvaranja novih kolekcija "kritičke umetnosti", čiji je najupečatljiviji primer Erste Bank Collection. Ta paradigma, u kranjoj liniji, ukazuje na ultimativnu pobedu postmodernističkih kulturnih studija u interpretaciji politike umetnosti, suvereno zamenjujući političko pozicioniranje umetnosti kulturnim identitetom umetnika. \*

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Prelom kolektiv, Dva vremena jednog zida:  
Slučaj SKC-a 1970ih godina, Muzej 25. maj /  
Prelom collective, Two Ages of a Wall: SKC -  
a Case Study from the 1970s, Museum of 25  
May, SNIMILA / PHOTO: MILICA VUKELIĆ



**H**ow to theorize political practices in art? How to bridge the gap between art or political theory and ongoing art and activist practices? These questions stem from the confrontation of theoretical abstractions, explaining the relation of art and politics, which are usually completely detached from the actual practices and insufficiently elaborated concepts produced in the terrain of the very practice [of art, curating, art criticism, etc.]. This confrontation is either leading towards disciplinary enclosure in language and related epistemology [of both the theory and artistic practice] or to the reduction and utilization of the efficiency of art in political theory and philosophy [i.e. Rancière, Badiou...]. The answer, then, must be found in the mutual and active testing of concepts and contexts of theoretical and art production in order to find a common language for the actual discussion of politics of art.

# researchers' note:

## Jelena Vesić

'New Artistic Practices' in the Former Yugoslavia:

From the Leftist Critique of Socialist Bureaucracy to Post-Communist Artifacts in the Neo-Liberal Institution of Art

The generic term 'critical art' is often used nowadays in order to define a certain kind of cultural production. What does it really mean? By using the language of contemporary art criticism, one is tempted to claim both that *every art is critical* and *every art is political*; but the basic questions still remain open: *what kind of critique* and *what kind of politics*? Therefore, the real problem is about how to (re-)define the art of critique, and how to make it effective today.

Contemporary cultural production embraces critique as the vaunted value of contemporary art and this new tendency emerges parallel with the changes of the institutional field in contemporary post-welfare state capitalism. The neo-liberal institution of culture advocates a policy of transformation from the inside [of society, cultural, alternative or state institutions, etc.], which relies on the inclusion of the critique from the very beginning [and, consequently, its appropriation]. Such dynamic constellation produces the so-called 'institutionalization of critique' – a topic that has been re-discussed in the past few years on various 'institutional' and 'independent/self-organized' levels.

This new institutionalization is followed by the processes of 'culturalization' (of political relations), that is, the strategy of outsourcing political issues to the field of culture, a process especially visible on the European margins, in so-called *transitional societies*. The requests for a 'critical intellectual production' and 'social engagement of art' are already inscribed in the guidelines of the leading European art foundations.

The 'New artistic practices' of the 1960s and 70s at stake here, were, generally speaking, developed through the critique of capitalist conformism, the art market, welfare-state institutions, institutional bureaucracy and hierarchy. At the same time, they are directed against the bourgeois values of art in the sense of 'a beautiful image in a rich interior', but are also, in the sense of modernist formalism, self-contemplation and concept of autonomy of art, conceived through self-sufficiency, disciplinary enclosure, professional division of labor, etc. Those practices were consequently challenging not only the status of the art object [its material form, commodity status and forms of distribution], but also the [art] institutions themselves, together with their ideological-representative social function. As Benjamin Buchloh noted,

conceptual art has introduced a "new legalistic language and administrative style of material presentation" as a contrast to the traditional forms of appearance and [social] function of art.

The project of Conceptual art on a wider level has been formulated as a tactical replacement of the marketable art product by a critical art attitude. This replacement of the "object" with an "idea" is sometimes openly [and naively] perceived as a tactical operation, which confronts and even overcomes the logic of the market economy in art. Observed from the contemporary cultural and economic perspective, this emancipatory attempt contributed to the formal radicalization of art rather than to the real change of its social function. It resulted in practicing the "methods" of self-reflexivity and self-referentiality within the enclosed disciplinary field of art. In other words, the replacement of the "object" by the "idea" at the same time remained internal to the discourse of the "institution of art" and created a well-situated self-position in the logic of the post-Fordist (re)production and what is referred to as "cognitive capitalism".

The cultural climate around the network of Student Cultural Centers established all over Yugoslavia [as a consequence of the protests of '68] could be described as the leftist critique of the official culture of the Yugoslav Socialist state. The official cultural policy-making was following the idea of self-management as a unique principle of Yugoslav socialism, resulting in the concept of 'relative autonomy of culture' and, in general, a modernist-progressivist tendency, often discussed under the term of 'socialist modernism'. While the 1970s in Yugoslavia are characterized by the sweeping changes in the direction of the liberalization of society, the 'New artistic practices' developed around new liberal institutions of the Student Centers were influenced by Western, neo-Marxist, post '68 political criticism. Their critique was mostly directed towards the politically passivized bureaucracy of the Yugoslav State and the emergence of a new class of 'red bourgeoisie'.

The selection of artifacts and documents presented in this room points to the ideological trajectory and political positioning of 'New artistic practices' in the former Yugoslavia from their original context up to the present day, when they are generously marketed in Western art institutions as artifacts of 'aesthetized politics' of post-communism. Within the prevailing post-Socialist condition, this critique can be only dissidence, and, consequently, 'critical art' created inside the Socialist state can only be the representation of an individual rebel in totalitarian society [stereotypically represented through the skinny body of the performer in the gloomy alternative (art) space]. The ideological re-framing of the critique of the post '68 generation of artists from former Yugoslavia develops parallel with the paradigm of "Eastern European" art. That paradigm, meticulously built through the cultural politics of the SCCA network during the 90s via blockbuster exhibitions of EE art at the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century [such as *Body and East, After the Wall, Aspects/Positions*, etc] and leading all the way to the formation of examples like the Erste Bank collection, points to the ultimate victory of the postmodernist-cultural studies approach in the interpretation of the politics of art, sovereignly replacing the political position of art with the cultural identity of the artist. \*

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The generic term 'critical art' is often used nowadays in order to define a certain kind of cultural production. What does it really mean? By using the language of contemporary art criticism, one is tempted to claim both that *every art is critical*, and *every art is political*; but, the basic questions still remains open: *what kind of critique* and *what kind of politics*? Therefore, the real problem is about how to (re-)define the art of critique, and how to make it effective today

# innovative forms – exhibitions, events, books &

## Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez

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Increasing interest in organising, structuring and documenting the art history of former Eastern Europe is in large part a domain of the artists who participate actively in the re-distribution of the visible, sayable and thinkable, as Jacques Rancière would put his definition of political art.<sup>01</sup> Although heterogeneous in formal proposals, what the below mentioned cases have in common is the visual structuring into forms of "innovative archives". They not only represent a strategy of self-historicisation within what could be called

01 Jacques Rancière. *The Politics of Aesthetics. The Distribution of the Sensible*. London and New York: Continuum, 2004, p.63. The term "authorless projects" for this very specific assembly of projects and exhibitions is used by Inke Arns, who curated the exhibition *What is Modern Art? (A Group Show)* at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in 2006 and together with Walter Benjamin edited the catalogue *What is Modern Art? Introductory Series to the Modern Art 2*, Frankfurt am Main, Revolver, 2006.



Logo MoAA / The logo of MoAA.

Researches take form of an artwork, an exhibition format or a critically acclaimed and relevant art theoretical and art historical opus. In their presentations, they are becoming museum-like structures as well as self-institutionalised agencies, with all the accompanying knowledge produced, assembled and transmitted. What these artists have in common is thus an adaptation of the profession of an archivist, art historian or (museum) curator

an institutional critique of former Eastern Europe, but also contribute to the methods of artistic research and to the theoretical endeavours of imagining what, if at all, a new canon of European contemporary art might be.

The reasons for the forms of archives to occur from the late 1980s onward in the cases of Lia Perjovschi's Contemporary Art Archive / Center for Art Analysis, Irwin's *East Art Map*, Tamás St.Auby's *Portable Intelligence Increase Museum*, and authorless projects originating from South-Eastern Europe, most specifically the project *Museum of American Art* in Berlin, are diverse. Their practices have not only to do with the material found while researching through various personal and official archives. They create a visual typology, offer material for further and necessary art historic research and at the same time experiment with the registers of presenting the documentation, found and archival material. They are co-producers of the discourse which is very present in contemporary art today.<sup>02</sup> Their research takes the form of an artwork, an exhibition format or a critically acclaimed and relevant art theoretical and art historical opus. In their presentations, they are becoming museum-like structures as well as self-institutionalised agencies, with all the accompanying knowledge produced, assembled and transmitted. What these artists have in common is thus an adaptation of the profession of an archivist, art historian or (museum) curator.

The interest and tolerance of the official art apparatchik in socialist and communist regimes for experimental art production varied from country to country, thus affecting the respective scenes to develop in different directions. The information, documentation and other printed matter circulated among the groups of like-minded critics, writers and artists, and was rarely accessed by official art institutions. The artists and directors of experimental art venues kept collecting and piling the documentation within their personal and spatial capabilities. By the end of the 70s and throughout the 80s, the increasingly liberating atmosphere of what could be called "the attempts of early civil society in a socialist state" emerged hand in hand with underground creativity and thus also more insight into this documentation was enabled, and effective intra-generational links were formed.

Boris Groys in his numerous writings describes the mechanisms of collections of art, museums or archives in former Eastern Europe. The art in former Eastern Europe was created in an ideological context and not within the logic of collection, as was and still is the case in the former West.<sup>03</sup> Instead of getting incorporated into the Western collections, the artists of former Eastern Europe, Groys concludes, created imaginary or alternative "collections-installations", histories and narrations that fill the entirety of museum spaces. In 2006 Zdenka Badovinac curated an exhibition at the Moderna Galerija in Ljubljana that dealt with the artistic-archiving strategies in former Eastern Europe called *Interrupted Histories*. In the catalogue text she wrote that "because the local institutions that should have been systematizing neo-avant-garde

02 See Dieter Roelstraete, "The Way of the Shovel: On the Archaeological Imaginary in Art", in: e-flux journal #4, 03/2009, <http://e-flux.com/journal/view/51>

03 Cf. Boris Groys, *Logik der Sammlung. Das Ende des musealen Zeitalters*, München: Carl Hanser, 1997.

# of archives museums

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art and its tradition either did not exist or were disdainful of such art, the artists themselves were forced to be their own art historians and archivists, a situation that still exists in some places today. Such self-historicisation includes the collecting and archiving of documents, whether of one's own art actions, or, in certain spaces, of broader movements, ones that were usually marginalized by local politics and invisible in the international art context".<sup>04</sup> In a more recent text, Ilya Kabakov explains this artistic strategy of self-historicisation with the term self-description: "...the author would imitate, re-create that very same 'outside' perspective of which he was deprived in actual reality. He became simultaneously an author and an observer. Deprived of a genuine viewer, critic, or historian, the author unwittingly became them himself, trying

04 Zdenka Badovinac, "Interrupted Histories", in: Badovinac et al. (eds.), *Prekinjene zgodovine / Interrupted Histories*. Ljubljana: Museum of Modern Art, 2006, not paginated.

to guess what his works meant 'objectively'. He attempted to 'imagine' that very 'History' in which he was functioning and which was 'looking' at him. Obviously, this 'History' existed only in his imagination and had its own image for each artist..."<sup>05</sup> Similarly, Victor Tupitsyn in his most recent book *The Museological Unconscious. Communal (Post)Modernism in Russia*<sup>06</sup> observes how art historians, along with critics and artists, compensated the neglecting of the neo-avant-garde production with a certain "museification" of their inner worlds and collective subjectivity.

In the case of the Slovenian group Irwin, the strategy was

05 Ilya Kabakov, "Foreword", in: Laura Hoptman and Tomáš Pospisyl (eds.), *Primary Documents. A Sourcebook for Eastern and Central European Art since the 1950s*, New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2002, p. 8.

06 Victor Tupitsyn, *The Museological Unconscious. Communal (Post)Modernism in Russia*, Cambridge (MA), The MIT Press, 2009.

Zbirka: Novo američko slikarstvo / Collection: The New American Painting.



NETRAF (Neo-Socialist. Realist. International Parallel Union of Telecommunication's Global Counter-Artist-ory Falsifiers Front): Portable Intelligence Increase Museum (Pi'M) – Pop Art, Conceptual Art and Actionism in Hungary during the 60s (1956-1976); Izložba / Exhibition Eintritt Frei, BAWAG Foundation, Vienna, 2004. SNIMIO / PHOTO: REINHARD MAYR



not explicitly critical, but existed in the form of a constructive approach or a corrective. As Miran Mohar of the Irwin group says when referring to the institutional critique in the West, "how can you criticize something which you actually don't have?"<sup>07</sup> The main motto of Irwin in the 90s was "construction of one's own context", where the group functioned both as the observer and the object of observation. This is the basis from which we can think about the strategy of self-historicisation, the artistic strategy which can furthermore be seen as one of the characteristics for an Eastern European institutional critique.<sup>08</sup>

The *East Art Map*, an ongoing project that was started in 2002, gave form to a book published in 2006 and several exhibitions. In 2002 Irwin invited 23 curators, critics, and art historians from Central and Eastern Europe to select 10 artists from their respective local context that they considered to be the most crucial for the development of contemporary art in Eastern Europe. "The history of art is a history of friendship," Irwin claims and continues, "(in) Eastern Europe there exists as a rule no transparent structures in which those events, artifacts, and artists that are significant to the history of art have been organized into a referential system accepted and respected outside the borders of a particular country. Instead, we encounter systems that are closed within national borders, whole series of stories and legends

<sup>07</sup> Private interview with Miran Mohar, 2006, unpublished.

<sup>08</sup> Cf. Nataša Petrešin, "Self-historicisation and self-institutionalisation as strategies of the institutional critique in the Eastern Europe", in: Marina Gržinić, Alenka Domjan (eds.), *Conceptual Artists and the Power of their Art Works for the Present*, Celje: Center for Contemporary Arts, 2007.

about art and artists who were opposed to this official art world."<sup>09</sup> Understanding history as the ultimate context, Irwin decided to "democratize" its construction. Following the official selection of the invited professionals, Irwin established an online portal, where anyone who is interested can add proposals or suggest substitutions within the established *East Art Map*. The invitation to do so sounds even emotional: "History is not given, please help construct it!" This portal is now an archive-in-progress for forthcoming proposals and discussions about the compiled documentation.

The exhibitions that belong to the *East Art Map* project offer installations where one is able to browse through an archive of links, digitised images and a transparent system of selections done by the invited professionals. These installations have the status of artworks, so as it is, in its ultimate reading, the publication itself.

Ever since her performances in her flat throughout the 80s in Bucharest, during one of the most repressive systems in Europe, Lia Perjovschi's activities have been creating a space of resistance. From body art she switched to research of the body of international art, says Dan Perjovschi about the change in her practice. Her curiosity and desire to understand, recuperate, discuss, share and coach found its way to a general audience. Her installations took on the form of open spaces, discussion areas, reading rooms, waiting rooms, meeting rooms. Books, slides, photocopies, files, postcards, printed matter about international as well as Romanian contemporary art started to be organised

<sup>09</sup> Irwin, "General Introduction", in: Irwin (ed.), *East Art Map*, London, Afterall Books, 2006, p.11.

and assembled in logical order. Lia also produced exhaustive drawings and texts on the basis of acquiring all the information about the Western history of contemporary art, calling them Subjective Art History. In the early 90s Lia and Dan founded the Contemporary Art Archive in their studio, a collection of issues, publications and reproductions. By the end of the 90s the CAA became a valuable database for all alternative art initiatives, a self-supporting archive created outside the network of state funds. Besides issuing, on the basis of the archive material, cheaply designed publications meant to inform and classify various art movements and tendencies, the CAA organized several exhibitions paired with open discussions or series of lectures. In 2003 the CAA modified its function and ever since has been operating under the title Center for Art Analysis. Lia describes herself as a "Detective in Art", reading, copying, cutting and remixing texts, concepts and images. As Dan Perjovschi says, "her Museum in files is not stuck on the shelves and is never closed... The knowledge of international art practice that she brought together helped to develop local criticism." Lia emphasizes that the most important activity that an archive can establish is: sharing and teaching. While the sharing of books, ideas and information was practically forbidden during the communist regime, she understands that a shared idea gives birth to another idea and that sharing is an essential survival strategy.

*Portable Intelligence Increase Museum*, which bears the subtitle *Pop Art, Conceptual Art and Actionism in Hungary during the 60s*, comprises the period between 1956 and 1976.<sup>10</sup> While having in mind Duchamp's self-representational *boîte-en-valise*, we can observe this easily mountable structure with exhibited collection of multiples, multimedia and video works and documents by some 70 artists as Duchamp's echo. The project was established in 2003 by Tamás St.Auby and other members of NETRAF, an association of artists whose name stands for Neo-Socialist Realist International Parallel Union of Telecommunications' Global Contra-Art-History-Falsifiers Front. This contra-art-historical project was conceived with the intention to expose the flaws in official accounts of Hungarian art of the 1960s and 70s, to "fill the neglected gap", as St.Auby writes himself, precisely noting the important subversive practices of the neo-avant-garde being left out from the seminal publication *The Primary Documents*, or an exhibition like *Aspects and Positions*. In a confrontational tone St.Auby states that the art produced after the 50s in Hungary that developed in synchrony with international trends and with other suppressed experiments within former Eastern Europe, was not properly revealed to the public. He writes that "it might have been covered had Hungarian art historians and curators taken upon themselves the task of informing the unaware public about domestic and foreign developments before and after the 1989 coup. The era's Hungarian artistic developments aren't worked up, appreciated, archived or popularized. As a consequence, the artistic common knowledge is truncated and mutilated." Similar to Irwin's position, this is an artistic intervention into the constituting history of contemporary art that reacts with a constructive proposal and a self-institutionalised position.

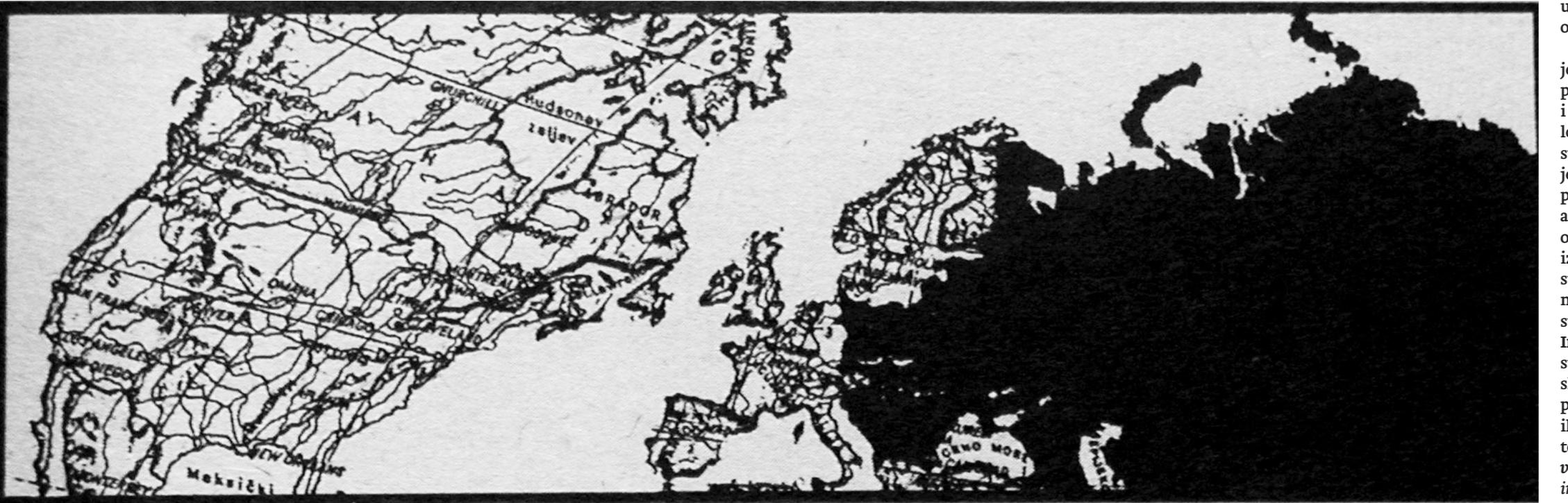
The last case study is a permanent exhibition from the series of authorless projects originating from South-Eastern Europe, called *Museum of American Art* in Berlin. The *Museum of American Art* is an educational institution dedicated to assembling, preserving and exhibiting memories of the exhibitions of modern American art in Europe during the 50s and early 60s. It opened in Berlin in 2004 at Frankfurter Allee 91. This museum is an offspring of the Museum of Modern Art which itself is an exhibit in the *Museum of American Art*. A small-sized Museum in a 2:2m scale encapsulates European modern art from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as it was defined and promoted by Alfred Baar Jr, the founding director of the MoMA in New York. His subjective interpretation of Modern Art, based on international movements, was established in New York in the mid-1930s and brought to Europe after the war. The subject of the exhibition

<sup>10</sup> In Tamás St.Auby's view these are the years that define the notion of "the 60s" in art.

in the space next to the small museum model, called *Americans*, is a series of exhibitions of American art curated by Dorothy Miller that travelled through major European cities between 1953 and 1959. These MoMa exhibitions eventually led to the dominance of American artists on the global scale. What is specific about this project is that the works exhibited are copies of original invaluable paintings by Cubist masters and abstract expressionists, but even go a step beyond by painting pages of the catalogues and photographs of the exhibitions views. One Walter Benjamin, who has supported and followed these projects over the years, noted in his interview with Beti Žerovc, that "*the real change is not going to happen through shock and scandal any more. It is going to take place unnoticed, getting under your skin while you are even not aware of it*". He is referring to these projects that are, as he calls them, *Meta-Kunst* (meta-art). This term denotes the situation in which art history has become an internal subject matter of those projects and thus a position outside of Art History is possible. The meta-position of these projects recontextualises canonical Western art history, but it does not, as Walter Benjamin says, "forget its narrative. We have a re-contextualisation rather than a deconstruction of the historical narrative. While deconstructing is in some way closer to forgetting, re-contextualising might come closer to remembering. Copies are memories",<sup>11</sup> he ends, thus offering a whole new understanding of the ontology of a copy, in relation to the archival documentation of photographs, digitized material and films.

What do these innovative forms of archives activate? They have a multiple ontological status: they can be qualified as a practice of exhibition making (as a permanent exhibition or an exhibition in progress) or as a work of art that takes the form of an archive in various media. At the same time they provide a methodological attempt and publish results of a social scientific research. Presenting or labelling them as museums, publications, online archive, works of art are ways of proposing a process of institutionalisation as a format and critique, and a challenge to both the canon of the Western history of contemporary art and the history of contemporary art in former Eastern Europe that is being written as we speak. The position towards the Western canon for each of the cases is different each time, which also reflects the geopolitical reality from which they have been conceived<sup>12</sup>. Lia Perjovschi understands the former West as a never-ending source of information that was previously not available and as a contextualisation of contemporary art production in Romania; Tamás St.Auby's position is one of reproach towards the local art history; Irwin's a reproach of Western art history, and is proving how to be constructive at the same time; and in the case of the *Museum of American Art* the whole Western canon is a metonymy towards which this project offers a changed perspective. \*

One Walter Benjamin, who has supported and followed these projects over the years, calls them *Meta-Kunst* (meta-art). This term denotes the situation in which art history has become an internal subject matter of those projects and thus a position outside of Art History is possible. The meta-position of these projects recontextualises canonical Western art history, but it does not, as Walter Benjamin says, "forget its narrative. We have a re-contextualisation rather than a deconstruction of the historical narrative. While deconstructing is in some way closer to forgetting, re-contextualising might come closer to remembering. Copies are memories"



## inovativne forme arhiva – izložbe, događaji, knjige i muzeji

Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez

Istraživanje poprima oblik umjetničkog djela, u formatu izložbe ili rada na području teorije i povijesti umjetnosti. U svojim prezentacijama, oni postaju strukture nalik na muzej, kao i autoinstitucionalizirana djelovanja, sa svim pratećim znanjem koje se pritom stvara, prikuplja i prenosi. Dakle, tim umjetnicima zajednička je adaptacija profesije arhivista, povjesničara umjetnosti ili (muješkog) kustosa.

Raznoliki su razlozi za nastanak arhivskih formi od kraja 1980-ih nadalje u slučajevima Arhiva suvremene umjetnosti / Centra za analizu umjetnosti Lie Perjovschi, Irwinove East Art Map, Prijenosnog muzeja povećanja inteligencije Tamáša St. Aubuya, i projekata bez autora nastalih u Jugoistočnoj Evropi,<sup>02</sup> a najodređenije projekta Muzej američke umjetnosti u Berlinu. Njihova praksa ne odnosi se samo na materijal pronađen u istraživanju raznih osobnih i službenih arhiva. Oni stvaraju vizualnu topologiju, nude materijal za daljnje, nužno kunsthistoričarsko istraživanje, a istovremeno i za eksperimentiranje s registrima predstavljanja dokumentacije, pronađenog i arhivskog materijala. Oni su sutvorci diskursa koji

01 Jacques Rancière. *The Politics of Aesthetics. The Distribution of the Sensible*. London i New York: Continuum, 2004, str. 63.

02 Pojmom "umjetnost bez autora" taj, vrlo specifičan sklop projekata i izložba opisuje Inke Arns, koja je bila kustos izložbe Što je moderna umjetnost? u Künstlerhaus Bethanien 2006. i zajedno s Walterom Benjaminom uredila katalog *What is Modern Art? Introductory Series to the Modern Art 2*, Frankfurt am Main, Revolver, 2006.

je i tečajko prisutan u suvremenoj umjetnosti danas.<sup>03</sup> Njihovo istraživanje poprima oblik umjetničkog djela, u formatu izložbe ili kritički prihvaćenog rada na području teorije umjetnosti i povijesti umjetnosti. U svojim prezentacijama, oni postaju strukture nalik na muzej, kao i autoinstitucionalizirana djelovanja, sa svim pratećim znanjem koje se pritom stvara, prikuplja i prenosi. Dakle, tim umjetnicima zajednička je adaptacija profesije arhivista, povjesničara umjetnosti ili (muješkog) kustosa.

Zanimanje i tolerancija aparatčika za umjetnost u socijalističkim i komunističkim režimima prema stvaranju eksperimentalne umjetnosti varirali su od zemlje do zemlje te tako utjecali na razvoj umjetničkih scena u razlicitim smjerovima. Informacije, dokumentacija i drugi tiskani materijal cirkulirao je među grupama kritičara istomišljenika, pisaca i umjetnika, te je rijetko dosezao službene umjetničke institucije. Umjetnici i upravitelji eksperimentalnih poprišta umjetnosti i dalje su prikupljali i gomilali dokumentaciju, u okviru svojih osobnih i prostornih mogućnosti. Od kraja 70-ih i cijelih 80-ih, sve slobodnija atmosfera onoga što bi se moglo nazvati "iskoracima ranoga civilnog društva u socijalističkoj državi" nastajala je ruku pod ruku s podzemnim aktivnostima te tako omogućila bolji uvid u tu dokumentaciju, a nastale su i afektivne međugeneracijske veze.

Boris Groys u svojim brojnim tekstovima opisuje mehanizme kolekcioniranja umjetnosti, muzeja ili arhiva u bivšoj Istočnoj Evropi. Umjetnost u bivšoj Istočnoj Evropi stvarala se u ideoleskom kontekstu, a ne prema logici kolekcioniranja, kao što je bio, a još uvjek i jest, slučaj na bivšem Zapadu.<sup>04</sup> Umjesto da se uključe u zapadne zbirke,

03 Vidi Dieter Roelstraete, "The Way of the Shovel: On the Archaeological Imaginary in Art", u: e-flux journal #4, 03/2009, <http://e-flux.com/journal/view/51>

04 Cf. Boris Groys, *Logik der Sammlung. Das Ende des musealen Zeitalters*, München: Carl Hanser, 1997.

umjetnici iz bivše Istočne Evrope, zaključuje Groys, stvorili su alternativne "zbirke-instalacije", povijesti i naracije koje ispunjavaju cjelinu muzejskih prostora. Godine 2006. Zdenka Badovinac bila je kustos izložbe u Modernoj galeriji u Ljubljani, koja je tematizirala strategije arhiviranja umjetnosti u bivšoj Istočnoj Evropi, pod nazivom *Prekinute povijesti*. U kataloškom tekstu napisala je da "jer lokalne institucije koje bi trebale sistematizirati neoavangardnu umjetnost i njenu tradiciju ili nisu postojale ili su takvu umjetnost prezirale, sami umjetnici bili su prisiljeni biti vlastiti povjesničari i arhivisti umjetnosti, a takva situacija ponegdje i dalje postoji. Takva autohistorizacija uključuje kolekcioniranje i arhiviranje dokumenata, bilo vlastitih umjetničkih akcija ili pak, u nekim slučajevima, širih pokreta, koje su lokalni političari obično marginalizirali, a u kontekstu međunarodne umjetnosti bili su nevidljivi".<sup>05</sup> Ilya Kabakov u novijem tekstu objašnjava tu umjetničku strategiju autohistorizacije pojmom samoopisa: "autor bi oponašao, rekreirao onu istu 'vanjsku' perspektivu koju je u stvarnosti bio lišen. Istovremeno je postajao autor i promatrač. Lišen istinskog gledatelja, kritičara i povjesničara umjetnosti, autor se nesvesno pretvara u njih, pokušavajući nagadati što njegov rad 'objektivno' znači. Pokušavao je 'zamisliti' upravo tu 'povijest' u kojoj je djelovao i koja ga je 'gledala'. Očito, ta 'povijest' postojala je samo u njegovoj masti i svaki autor imao je vlastitu sliku te povijesti..."<sup>06</sup> Slično tome, Victor Tuptsyn u svom novom djelu *The Museological Unconscious. Communal (Post)Modernism in Russia*<sup>07</sup> napominje kako su povjesničari umjetnosti, kao i kritičari i umjetnici, nadoknadivali zanemarivanje neoavangardne proizvodnje svojevršnom "muzeifikacijom" svojih unutarnjih svjetova i kolektivnog subjektiviteta.

U slučaju slovenske grupe Irwin strategija nije bila izričito kritička, ali je postojala u obliku konstruktivnog pristupa ili korektiva. Kako kaže Miran Mohar iz grupe Irwin, misleći na institucijsku kritiku na Zapadu: "kako možete kritizirati nešto što zapravo nemate?"<sup>08</sup> Glavni motto Irwina 90-ih bio je "konstrukcija vlastitog konteksta", pri čemu je grupa djelovala istovremeno i kao promatrač i kao predmet promatravanja. To je osnova s koje možemo promišljati strategiju autohistorizacije,

05 Zdenka Badovinac, "Interrupted Histories", u: Badovinac i drugi (ur.), *Prekinjene zgodovine / Interrupted Histories*. Ljubljana: Museum of Modern Art, 2006, nije paginirano.

06 Ilya Kabakov, "Foreword", u: Laura Hoptman i Tomáš Pospisyl (ur.), *Primary Documents. A Sourcebook for Eastern and Central European Art since the 1950s*, New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2002, str. 8.

07 Victor Tuptsyn, *The Museological Unconscious. Communal (Post) Modernism in Russia*, Cambridge (MA): The MIT Press, 2009.

08 Privatni razgovor s Miranom Moharom, 2006, neobjavljeno.

umjetničke strategije koju se štoviše može vidjeti kao jedno od obilježja istočnoevropske institucijske kritike.<sup>09</sup>

*East Art Map*, trajni projekt koji je započeo 2002. uobičio je knjigu objavljenu 2006. uz nekoliko izložaba. Irwin je 2002. pozvao 23 kustosa, kritičara i povjesničara umjetnosti iz Srednje i Istočne Evrope, kako bi odabralo 10 umjetnika iz njihovih lokalnih konteksta koje je smatralo presudnima za razvoj suvremene umjetnosti u Istočnoj Evropi. "Povijest umjetnosti je povijest prijateljstva", i nastavlja: "U Istočnoj Evropi u pravilu nema transparentnih struktura kojima su ti događaji, artefakti i umjetnici koji su važni za povijest umjetnosti organizirani u referentni sustav koji bi bio prihvaćen i poštovan izvan granica određene zemlje. Umjesto toga nailazimo na sustave koji su zatvoreni unutar nacionalnih granica, na cijele nizove priča i legendi o umjetnosti i umjetnicima koji su se suprotstavljali tom službenom svjetu umjetnosti",<sup>10</sup> tvrde Irwini. Razumijevajući povijest kao vrhovni kontekst, Irwini su odlučili "demokratizirati" njezino konstruiranje. Nakon službene selekcije pozvanih profesionalaca, osnovali su online portal na kojem svu zainteresirani mogu dodavati prijedloge ili sugerirati zamjene u postavljenoj *East Art Map*. Poziv da se to učini čak zvuči emocionalno: "Povijest nije zadana, molimo vas da je pomognete konstruirati" Taj portal sada je archive-in-progress za nadolazeće prijedloge i rasprave o prikupljenoj dokumentaciji.

Izložbe koje pripadaju projektu *East Art Map* nude instalacije, gdje se može pregledavati arhiva poveznica, digitaliziranih slika i transparentan sustav selekcija koje su načinili pozvani profesionalci. Te instalacije imaju status umjetničkih djela, kao što je to u konačnom čitanju i sama publikacija.

Još od performance u njezinu bukureštanskom stanu tijekom 80-ih, u jednom od najrepresivnijih sustava u Evropi, aktivnosti Lie Perjovschi stvarale su prostor otpora. S body arta prešla je na istraživanje korpusa internacionalne umjetnosti, govori Dan Perjovschi o promjeni njene prakse. Njena radoznalost i želja da razumije, ispravlja, raspravlja, dijeli i poučava našla je put do publike. Instalacije su poprimele oblik otvorenih prostora, podržajući raspravu, čitaonicu, čekaonicu, prostorija za sastanke. Knjige, dijapo pozitivi, fotokopije, dopisnice, te publikacije o međunarodnoj i rumunjskoj suvremenoj umjetnosti počela je organizirati i slagati logičnim redom. Lia je stvarala brojne crteže i tekstove na osnovi svih informacija koje je prikupila o zapadnoj povijesti suvremene umjetnosti, i nazvala ih *Subjektivna povijest umjetnosti*. Početkom 90-ih Lia i Dan u svom stanu utemeljili su Arhiv suvremene umjetnosti (CAA), zbirku izdanja, publikacija i reprodukcija. Krajem 90-ih CAA je postala vrijedna baza podataka o svim inicijativama alternativne umjetnosti, samoodržavajuća arhiva stvorena izvan mreže državnih fondova. Osim objavljuvanja, na temelju arhivske građe, jeftino dizajniranih publikacija namijenjenih informiranju i klasificiranju ranih umjetničkih pokreta i tendencija, CAA je organizirala nekoliko izložaba popraćenih otvorenim raspravama ili nizom predavanja. Godine 2003. CAA je promijenila funkciju i otad djeluje pod naslovom Centar za analizu umjetnosti. Lia sebe opisuje kao "detektivku na području umjetnosti", koja čita, kopira, izrezuje i mijesha tekstove, pojmove i slike. Kako kaže Dan Perjovschi: "njen Muzej dosjeda nije fiksiran na policama i nikad nije dovršen... Znanje o međunarodnoj umjetničkoj praksi koje je prikupila moglo je pokrenuti lokalnu kritiku." Lia ističe najvažniju aktivnost koju arhiva može uspostaviti: dijeljenje i predavanje. Iako je u vrijeme komunističkog režima dijeljenje knjiga, ideja i informacija bilo praktički zabranjeno, ona shvaća da zajednička ideja potiče nastanak nove ideje i da je dijeljenje bitna strategija opstanka.

Prijenosni muzej povećanja inteligencije, s podnaslovom

09 Cf. Nataša Petrešin, "Self-historicism and self-institutionalisation as strategies of the institutional critique in the Eastern Europe", Marina Gržinić, Alenka Domjan (ur.), *Conceptual Artists and the Power of their Art Works for the Present*, Celje: Center for contemporary arts, 2007.

10 Irwin, »General Introduction«, u: Irwin (ur.), *East Art Map*, London, Afterall Books, 2006, str. 11.

Autor bi oponašao, rekreirao onu istu 'vanjsku' perspektivu koje je u stvarnosti bio lišen. Istovremeno je postajao autor i promatrač. Lišen istinskog gledatelja, kritičara i povjesničara umjetnosti, autor se nesvesno pretvara u njih, pokušavajući nagadati što njegov rad 'objektivno' znači. Pokušavao je 'zamisliti' upravo tu 'povijest' u kojoj je djelovao i koja ga je 'gledala'. Očito, ta 'povijest' postojala je samo u njegovoj mashi i svaki autor imao je vlastitu sliku te povijesti... Slično tome, Victor Tuptsyn u svom novom djelu *The Museological Unconscious. Communal (Post)Modernism in Russia* napominje kako su povjesničari umjetnosti, kao i kritičari i umjetnici, nadoknadivali zanemarivanje neoavangardne proizvodnje svojevršnom "muzeifikacijom" svojih unutarnjih svjetova i kolektivnog subjektiviteta.

je 'zamisliti' upravo tu 'povijest' u kojoj je djelovao i koja ga je 'gledala'. Očito, ta 'povijest' postojala je samo u njegovoj mashi i svaki autor imao je vlastitu sliku te povijesti...

NETRAF (Neo-Socialist. Realist. International Parallel Union of Telecommunication's Global Counter-Arthist.ory-Falsifiers Front): Portable Intelligence Increase Museum (Pi<sup>2</sup>M) – Pop Art, Conceptual Art and Actionism in Hungary during the 60s (1956–1976) – Presented at Dorottya Gallery, Budapest, 2003. SNIMIO / PHOTO: TAMÁS ST. AUBY



**Stanoviti Walter Benjamin, koji je podupirao i pratio te projekte, u intervjuu s Beti Žerovc napomenuo je: "prava promjena više se neće dogoditi kao šok i skandal. Dogodit će se neprimjetno, zaci će vam pod kožu a da toga nećete biti ni svjesni." On misli na projekte koji su kako ih on naziva, Meta-Kunst (metaumjetnost).**

Taj izraz označava situaciju u kojoj je povijest umjetnosti postala unutarnjom temom tih projekata i stoga je moguća pozicija izvan povijesti umjetnosti

"Pop Art, konceptualna umjetnost i akcionalizam u Mađarskoj tijekom 60-ih obuhvaća razdoblje od 1956. do 1976." Imajući na umu Duchampovu autoreprezentacijsku *boîte-en-valise*, tu strukturu koju je lako postaviti, možemo promatrati – u izloženoj zbirci multipla, multimedijskih i videoradova i dokumenata o 70-ak umjetnika – kao Duchampov odjek. Taj projekt pokrenuo je 2003. Tamás St. Auby s drugim članovima NETRAF-a, asocijacije umjetnika čiji naziv znači "fronta neosocijalističkorealističke internacionalne paralelne unije globalnotelekomunikacijskih protufalsifikatora povijesti umjetnosti". Taj projekt protiv povijesti umjetnosti zamislio je s nakanom da razotkrije greške u službenim prikazima mađarske umjetnosti 1960-ih i 70-ih, da "popuni zanemarenim jaz", kako piše sam St. Auby, precizno uočavajući da su važne subverzivne prakse neoavangarde izostavljene iz utjecajne publikacije *The Primary Documents* i izložaba kao što je *Aspects and Positions*. Polemičkim tonom, St. Auby piše da umjetnost nastala nakon 50-ih u Mađarskoj, koja se razvijala sinkrono s međunarodnim trendovima i drugim potisnutim eksperimentima u bivšoj Istočnoj Evropi, nije odgovarajuće predstavljena javnosti. Piše da je "mogla biti predstavljena da su se mađarski povjesničari umjetnosti i kustosi prihvatali posla informiranja neobavještene javnosti o domaćim i stranim procesima razvoja prije i poslije udara 1989. Procesi razvoja mađarske umjetnosti nisu obrađeni, vrednovani, arhivirani ni popularizirani. Posljedica toga je da je znanje o umjetnosti potkresano i osakaćeno." Slično poziciji Irwina, to je umjetnička intervencija u konstitutivnu povijest suvremene umjetnosti koja reagira konstruktivnim prijedlogom i pozicijom autoinstitucionalizacije.

Posljednji slučaj je trajna izložba dijela niza projekata bez autora, nastalih u Jugoistočnoj Evropi, pod naslovom *Muzej američke umjetnosti* u Berlinu. *Muzej američke umjetnosti* je obrazovna ustanova posvećena slaganju, čuvanju i izlaganju sjećanja na izložbe moderne američke umjetnosti u Evropi

11 Prema gledištu Tamása St. Aubya, te godine definiraju pojam "60-ih" u umjetnosti.

50-ih i početkom 60-ih. Otvorena je 2004. u Berlinu, na adresi Frankfurter Allee 91. Taj muzej potomak je *Muzeja moderne umjetnosti*, koji je pak izložak *Muzeja američke umjetnosti*. Umanjeni muzej, unutar 2:2 m obuhvaća evropsku modernu umjetnost prve polovice dvadesetog stoljeća kako ju je definirao i zastupao Alfred Baar Jr, utemeljitelj i prvi direktor MoMA-e u New Yorku. Njegova subjektivna interpretacija moderne umjetnosti, zasnovana na međunarodnim pokretima, uspostavljena je sredinom 30-ih u New Yorku, a nakon rata prenesena je u Evropu. Tema izložbe u prostoru uz malenu maketu muzeja, pod naslovom *Americans*, niz je izložaba američke umjetnosti čiji je kustos bila Dorothy Miller, koja je putovala glavnim evropskim gradovima između 1953. i 1959. Te izložbe u MoMA-i na kraju su dovele do prevlasti američkih umjetnika u globalnim razmjerima. Taj projekt specifičan je po tome što su izloženi radovi kopije neprocjenjivih originalnih slika kubističkih majstora i apstraktnih ekspresionista, ali i po tome što je otisao korak dalje oslikavajući stranice kataloga i fotografija s izložbe. Stanoviti Walter Benjamin, koji je podupirao i pratio te projekte, u intervjuu s Beti Žerovc napomenuo je: "prava promjena više se neće dogoditi kao šok i skandal. Dogodit će se neprimjetno, zaci će vam pod kožu a da toga nećete biti ni svjesni." On misli na projekte koji su kako ih on naziva, *Meta-Kunst* (metaumjetnost). Taj izraz označava situaciju u kojoj je povijest umjetnosti postala unutarnjom temom tih projekata i stoga je moguća pozicija izvan povijesti umjetnosti. Metapozicija tih projekta rekonstukcionalizira kanonsku povijest zapadne umjetnosti, ali kako kaže Walter Benjamin, "ne zaboravlja svoju priču. Imamo rekonstukcionalizaciju, a ne dekonstrukciju povijesne priče. Dok je dekonstruiranje na neki način bliže zaboravljanju, rekonstukcionaliziranje je možda bliže sjećanju. Kopije su sjećanja",<sup>12</sup> završava on, nudeći tako posve novo razumijevanje ontologije kopije, u odnosu prema arhivskoj dokumentaciji fotografija, digitaliziranih materijala i filmova.

Što aktiviraju te inovativne forme arhiva? Imaju višestruki ontološki status: može ih se kvalificirati kao praksu stvaranja izložaba (kao trajne izložbe ili izložbe u radu) ili kao umjetničko djelo koje poprima oblik arhiva u raznim medijima. One istovremeno nude i metodološki pokušaj i objavljuju rezultat društvenog znanstvenog istraživanja. Predstavljena ili označena kao muzeji, publikacije ili online arhive, umjetnička djela su način da se predloži proces institucionalizacije kao format i kao kritika, te kao izazov i kanonu zapadne povijesti suvremene umjetnosti i povijesti suvremene umjetnosti u bivšoj Istočnoj Evropi, koja se upravo piše. Pozicija prema zapadnom kanonu drukčija je u svakom od tih slučajeva, što je i odraz geopolitičke stvarnosti u kojoj su zamisleni.<sup>13</sup> Lia Perjovschi shvaća bivši Zapad kao beskrajnog izvor informacija koji prije nije bio dostupan i kao kontekstualizaciju suvremene umjetničke proizvodnje u Rumunjskoj; Tamás St. Auby nastupa sa stajališta zamjerenja lokalnoj povijesti umjetnosti; grupa Irwin osuduje zapadnu povijest umjetnosti i pokazuje kako istovremeno biti konstruktivna; a u slučaju Muzeja američke umjetnosti, cijeli zapadni kanon je metonomija prema kojoj taj projekt nudi promijenjenu perspektivu. \*

12 Beti Žerovc, »My Dear, This Is Not What It Seems To Be. An Interview with Walter Benjamin«, u: Inke Arns, Walter Benjamin (ur.), *What is Modern Art? Introductory Series to the Modern Art 2*, Frankfurt am Main, Revolver, 2006, str. 34.

13 Najnoviju, vrlo zanimljivu analogiju s pokušajem održavanja muzejske strukture nalazimo u izložbi Walida Raada *A History of Modern and Contemporary Arab Art\_ Part I\_Chapter 1: Beirut 1992-2005* u galeriji Sfeir-Semler u Beirutu 2008. S jedne strane, cilj njegovog projekta je identificirati i razobiljeći ideološke, ekonomski i političke dimenzije te nove fasciniranosti vizualnim umjetnostima u arapskom svijetu. S druge strane, polazeći od tekstova libanonskog filozofa i umjetnika Jalala Toufic-a i njegova pojma "odbacivanja tradicije na putu prema neumitnoj propasti", Raad kani istražiti da li i kako kultura i tradicija u arapskom svijetu trpe posljedice, materijalne i nematerijalne, raznih ratova koje tu vode lokalne i vanjske sile. Jedan od radova je maketa muzeja u malenom omjeru, s minijaturiziranim retrospektivom radova The Atlas Group.

# invisible exhibitions: performance & the archive in moscow conceptualism

## Yelena Kalinsky

In the history of unofficial art exhibitions in Moscow, two events have come to define the period between Stalin's death and the breakup of the Soviet Union: Khrushchev's visit to 30 Years of MOSKh at the Manezh in December 1962 and the First Fall Outdoor Exhibition of Paintings in Beliaev (also known as the "Bulldozer Show") in 1974. Both exhibitions resulted in confrontations between unofficial artists and Soviet authorities, reinforcing the boundaries between official and unofficial art and further equating unofficial art with the struggle for visibility and a broader public.<sup>1</sup> Focusing on these visible public conflicts, however, runs the risk of obscuring immediate artistic concerns with accounts of censorship and oppression, of framing unofficial artistic practice in terms of conformity and dissent and mapping it onto a familiar narrative of belated modernist progress. The emergence in the 1970s of albums, conceptualist object-poetry, and performances that addressed a small and select audience in private studios or suburban fields is evidence that at least some artists did not seek access to the wider Soviet public or official recognition of their activities in exhibitions. On the contrary, this conceptual turn constituted a reassessment of what it means to exhibit and experience artworks, at times explicitly thematizing recent exhibition history and rejecting both the exhibition as a convention and the notion of artwork that it presupposes. In particular, two forms of conceptualist practice – performance and collaborative artists' archives – articulated these new positions regarding artworks and publics in the late 1970s and early 1980s. While they served as alternative exhibition spaces at a time when state-run museums and exhibition halls were inaccessible, they went well beyond this necessity and declared a shift in artistic priorities that has become one facet of the movement now known as Moscow Conceptualism.

Russian performance had always incited artistic collaboration and sought to narrow the distance between artists and audience. Unlike Futurist street spectacles or Meyerhold's avant-garde theater, performance art in the 1970s limited itself to small audiences of friends and fellow artists.<sup>2</sup> In 1976, a group of artists and poets that would soon be called Collective Actions began to stage outdoor actions loosely based on semi-private poetry readings. In actions such as *Appearance* (March 13, 1976) or *Lieblich* (April 2, 1976), small audiences were invited to gather in a field where an organizer would appear from the forest to hand out documentary certificates or an electric

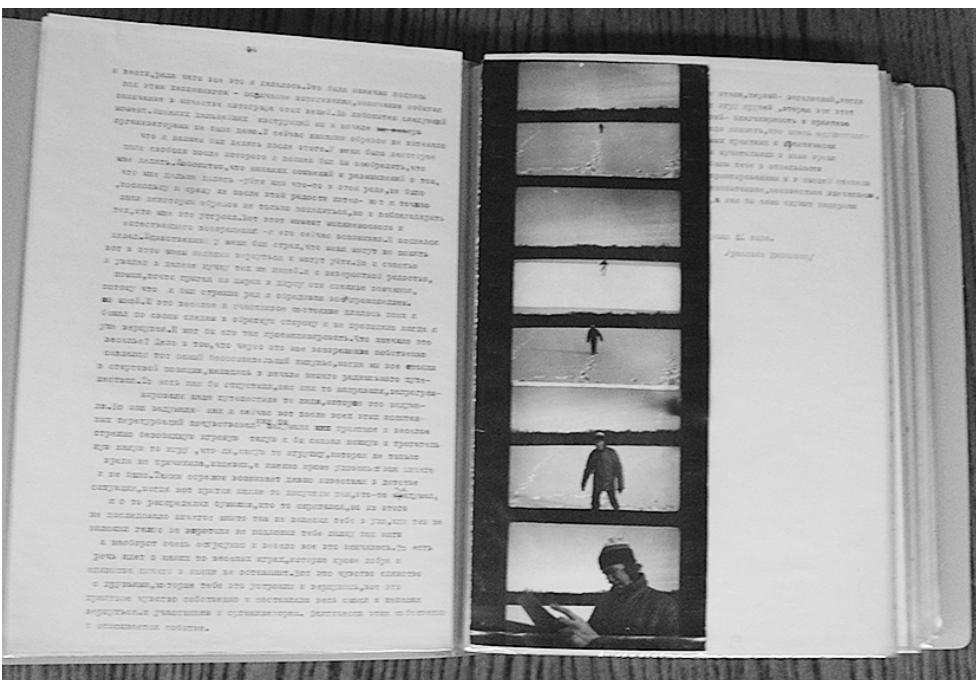


buzzer would sound continuously beneath the snow.<sup>3</sup> In the context of recent events and local institutional structures, this aesthetic was a radical repositioning of the traditional artistic encounter in the museum or exhibition hall. The actions were staged away from the city and its art establishment; viewers were invited personally, by word of mouth or distributed

01 On the Manezh Affair, see Yury Gerchuk, "Krovoizljanie v MOSKh", ili Khrushchev in Manezhe (Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2008) and Susan Emily Reid, *Destalinization and the Remodernization of Soviet Art: The Search for a Contemporary Realism, 1953–1963* (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1996). On the Bulldozer Show, see Laura Hoptman and Tomas Pospisyl, eds., *Primary Documents: A Sourcebook for Eastern and Central European Art since the 1950s* (New York: The Museum of Modern Art; Cambridge and London: MIT Press, 2002), 65–77, and I. Alpatova, L. Talochkin, and N. Tamruchi, "Drugoe iskusstvo", Moskva 1956–1988 (Moscow: Galart, 2005), 197–200.

02 Margarita Masterkova [Tupitsyn], "Performances in Moscow," A-Ya: Unofficial Russian Art Review 4 (1982), 6.

Kolektivne akcije: Pojavljivanje, Ismailovsko polje, Moskva / Collective Actions: Appearance, Izmailovskoe Field, Moscow, March 13, 1976. SNIMIO / PHOTO: GEORGY KISEWALTER, LJUBAZNOĆU / COURTESY: ANDREI MONASTYRSKI



Izleti u prirodu / Trips to the Countryside, The Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ. SNIMILA/PHOTO BY: Yelena Kalinsky

had come to see. Andrei Monastyrski, one of the group's founders, invokes the term "demonstrational field" to describe this performance structure. As various objects and bodies enter the demonstrational field in the course of the action, the field expands, transforming objects of everyday perception into objects of the demonstration. Triggered by cues marking the start of the performance, this concentrated attention and sense of anticipation is sustained until the final point, when it becomes clear that these tasks had all been "empty actions" and it was the anticipation itself that had been on display. As Monastyrski puts it, "the demonstrational field itself expands and becomes the object of observation."<sup>66</sup>

The "dematerialization of the art object," to borrow Lucy Lippard's term, was in this case as much a critique of the

<sup>64</sup> Ivan Chuikov, "Rasskaz I. Chuikova (O 'Vremia deistviia' i 'Kartiny')," *Poezdki za gorod*, 72.

<sup>65</sup> The reference to John Cage was a conscious one. His avant-garde compositions had been performed in the Soviet Union in the 1970s and his ideas were the subject of great interest (along with Eastern spirituality, Russian Orthodox Christianity, and mysticism) in Moscow's intellectual circles.

<sup>66</sup> Andrei Monastyrski, Preface to the first volume of *Poezdki za gorod*, 19.

invitations; and success was gauged in conversation and discussions, never the specialized art press or scholarly establishment.

The key difference, however, was the de-emphasis of the object of display, a tactic that is cleverly foregrounded in another action, *Pictures* (February 11, 1979). Here, members of the audience were given envelopes inscribed with information related to the action and instructed to arrange them in a line on the ground. They then spent time perusing the "artworks" of the resulting "exhibition," which stretched nearly 50 meters in the snow. In the course of the action, it became clear that the majority of the inscriptions on the envelopes were false and that in fact the key to the action had been the nearly imperceptible withdrawal of two participants from the field. As one viewer-participant later noted, the action had been staged as an elegant sleight-of-hand, meant to cast light on the illusion, the insufficiency of the ritual that was taking place. Despite the pleasant atmosphere, the familiar friends among the audience, and the amusing game with the envelopes, it all receded in light of the real action (the imperceptible disappearance).<sup>67</sup>

If *Appearance* and *Lieblich* had been a kind of Cagean "listening to silence," then *Pictures* went a step further by stimulating perception at an unconscious level.<sup>68</sup> The ritual structure of the action functioned to direct viewers' attention and immerse them in a state of anticipation, as if in following instructions they would receive a payoff, the thing that they

conventions of exhibition as of the art object.<sup>69</sup> "Our goal was not to 'show' something to the viewer-participants," writes Monastyrski, "the goal consists of maintaining the feeling of anticipation as of an important, meaningful event."<sup>70</sup> In their focus on structure, ephemerality, and psychological experience, the group's actions echoed the staunch rejection of institutional forms of painting and sculpture voiced in the 1960s by artists like Donald Judd or Joseph Kosuth.<sup>71</sup> The message, however, was delivered not in the style of the Americans' polemics, aimed as they were at the medium-centered American modernism of Clement Greenberg and Michael Fried, but as an exploration of immediate artistic concerns, including existential questions of the spiritual, the sacred, or the ineffable that painting seemed no longer capable of containing. It is as if painting itself had been "written upon" in a way that distracted from the viewer's immersion in the process of perception; to reject painting and contemplate perception in the empty field was the response to this problem of institutionalization.<sup>72</sup>

At this point, a temporal paradox arises that is at the center of Collective Actions' practice and its critique of exhibitions: if the object on display is consciousness itself as it experiences action (its own anticipation of "something about to happen"), what access do the viewers (not to mention those not present at the action) have to this elusive state? As Monastyrski writes,

...by the time we realize that this 'looking' was a 'looking in the wrong direction,' the main event has passed. We can only recall it in the present moment, but not observe it consciously, since at the time of its taking place, consciousness is busy elsewhere, is directed toward the perception of something else.<sup>73</sup>

If, as has been argued, museums stage modern man's Enlightenment through the ritual performance of a particular kind of receptivity to the artworks on display, then Collective Actions' displaced temporality undercuts this rhetoric of temporal and epistemological closure.<sup>74</sup> Instead of investing the displayed object with a timeless, legible presence, the action's meaning is perpetually deferred as the viewer must look back to contemplate what *that* experience and *that* experience and *that* experience was like. From the earliest actions, this making sense of experience was taken up in group discussions and materialized in the growing body of the archive. Audience members were asked to recount and comment on the actions in stories that joined photographs, audio, and video in the machine-typed, hand-bound volumes entitled *Trips to the Countryside*. Like performance, the tactile and discursive fabric of the artists-made archive became another exhibition space for the group's ideal "outside observer." Like the museum, its ordered pages seem materially and temporally fixed. Yet as soon as we attempt to access the event through language and the traces left on photo paper or film, we find the demonstrational field enlarged, but ourselves no closer to the action's "truth" or "meaning."<sup>75</sup>

At the end of 1980, a number of artists came together to create an archive to document recent activity, serve as

<sup>67</sup> Lucy Lippard, *Six Years: The Dematerialization of the Art Object...* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997).

<sup>68</sup> Monastyrski, Preface, 22.

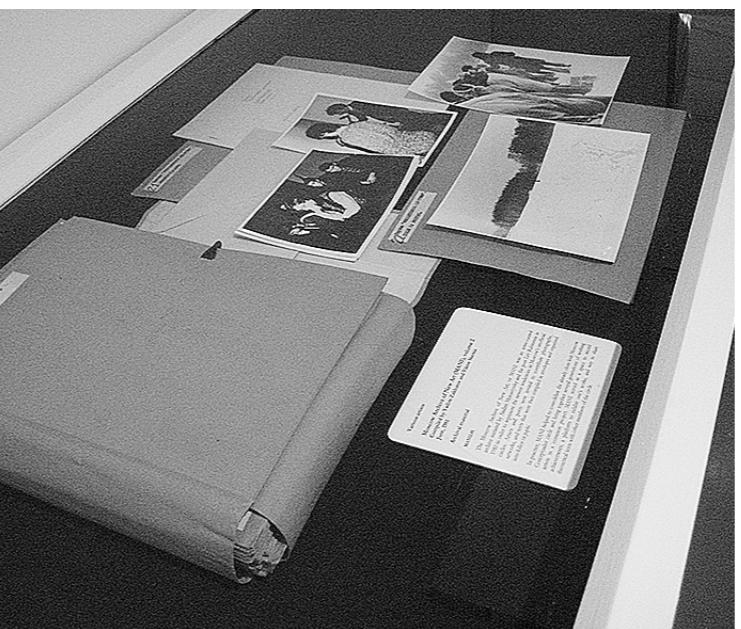
<sup>69</sup> I am referring here to statements such as Donald Judd, "Specific Objects," *Arts Yearbook 8* (1965) and Joseph Kosuth, "Art After Philosophy," *Studio International* (October 1969).

<sup>70</sup> On the "written upon" problem, see Monastyrski, Preface, 22.

<sup>71</sup> Monastyrski, Preface, 23.

<sup>72</sup> On the museum as ritual space, see Carol Duncan, *Civilizing Rituals: Inside Public Art Museums* (New York and London: Routledge, 1995).

<sup>73</sup> Amelia Jones discusses the contingent quality of documentation in "Presence" in Absentia: Experiencing Performance as Documentation," *Art Journal* 56, no.4 (Winter 1997), 11–18. See also Sven Speiker on the modern archive's "precarious oscillation between narrative and contingency" in *The Big Archive: Art from Bureaucracy* (Cambridge and London: MIT Press, 2009).



Reading between the lines, we see in this rejection of Collective Actions' more hermetic and extreme tendencies the yearning for a "normal" art world: for artworks both challenging and meaningful, for access to a broader public, to take part in a wider debate on the direction of contemporary art. Again, it seems, fundamental questions about art's nature and status expressed themselves through questions of audiences and exhibitions. Soon, in the fall of 1982, Alekseev and several fellow conceptualists founded a gallery in Alekseev's apartment to which they gave the name Aptart.<sup>18</sup> As Margarita Tupitsyn noted at the time, the early 1980s saw many younger artists turn away from the "idealism and arcane theorizing of the Collective Actions group."<sup>19</sup> Sven Gundlakh, a regular exhibitor at Aptart expressed this attitude when he wrote:

[Collective Actions'] performances had become overburdened by piles of documentation and abstruse texts. It was not clear what exactly constituted the product of creation: the action itself or its photographs and descriptions. The latter were lost in the thick files of the artists' remarks of the [sic] speculative nature.<sup>20</sup>

Aptart's colorful, carnivalesque installations were the polar opposite of Collective Actions' interminable black-and-white discursivity. Rather than concentrating on perception in "empty" time and space, they filled every inch of the gallery space with provocative photographs, childish drawings, poems, collages, assisted readymades, and flickering constructions. The gallery was open any time Alekseev was home and welcomed not just invited guests, but strangers who had learned of it by word of mouth.<sup>21</sup> If Moscow Conceptualism had abandoned the struggle for public exhibitions and turned its gaze inward, then Aptart's appeal to an international "transavantgarde" made clear that the situation had changed once more. Artists redirected their gaze outward and put themselves again on display.<sup>22</sup>

Unofficial Soviet art's changing attitudes towards exhibition – the struggle for a Soviet public after Stalin, Moscow Conceptualism's rejection of the rhetoric of display, and the return to exhibitions with a vengeance in the 1980s – was closely linked to immediate artistic concerns and changing notions of art itself. And yet, the larger invisibility of unofficial art to both the Soviet art establishment and to the mainstream narrative of contemporary art played an important part in these developments, too. It is hard to imagine a long-term, engaged group practice that Collective Actions carried on in the 1970s and 1980s sustaining the same critical intensity or having the same resonance in an art world driven by museums, commercial galleries, and a for-profit art press. Even an independent art space would have difficulty garnering an equivalent level of audience engagement. Collective Actions' strategy of perpetual deferral and heightened state of discursivity seems utterly strange or even utopian today. All that is left is its ever-growing archive, a mountain of texts, images, audio, and video that continues to pose its challenges to exhibition's rhetoric. One example: a recent action took place entirely on the internet.<sup>23</sup> ✕

MANI (Moscow Archive of New Art). Installation view from *Performing the Archive: Collective Actions in the 1970s & 1980s*, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ. SNIMILA/PHOTO BY Yelena Kalinsky

*The larger invisibility of unofficial art to both the Soviet art establishment and to the mainstream narrative of contemporary art played an important part in these developments, too. It is hard to imagine a long-term, engaged group practice that Collective Actions carried on in the 1970s and 1980s sustaining the same critical intensity or having the same resonance in an art world driven by museums, commercial galleries, and the for-profit art press*

<sup>18</sup> Apt Art: *Moscow Vanguard in the '80s* (Mechanicsville, M.D.: Cremona Foundation, 1985).

<sup>19</sup> Margarita Tupitsyn, "The Decade 'B.C.' (Before Chernenko) in Contemporary Russian Art," in *Apt Art: Moscow Vanguard in the '80s*, 10.

<sup>20</sup> Sven Gundlakh, quoted in *Ibid*.

<sup>21</sup> See Nikita Alekseev's account of this time in *Riady pamiatii* (Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2008).

<sup>22</sup> Alekseev uses the terms "New Wave" and "transavantgarde" in "Kogda v 1979 godu..." 194.

<sup>23</sup> <http://conceptualism.letov.ru/118/KD-ACTIONS-118.htm>

# nevidljive izložbe: performance i arhiva u moskovskom konceptualizmu

34

Yelena Kalinsky

**Usredotočimo li se na  
vidljive javne sukobe,  
izlažemo se opasnosti  
da neposredne  
umjetničke teme  
prikrijemo prikazima  
cenzure i represije,  
da neslužbenu  
umjetničku praksu  
stavimo u kontekst  
konformizma i  
disidentstva te je  
projiciramo na  
poznatu priču  
o zakašnjelom  
modernističkom  
napretku.  
Pojava albuma,  
konceptualističke  
objektne poezije  
i performancea  
namijenjenih  
malobrojnoj i  
odabranoj publici u  
privatnim ateljeima  
ili na poljima u  
predgradima, 70-ih,  
dokaz je da barem  
neki umjetnici nisu  
tražili pristup široj  
sovjetskoj publici niti  
službeno priznanje  
svojih izložbenih  
aktivnosti**

01 O aferi u Manježu vidi Yurii Gerchuk, "Krovoziljanie v MOSKh", ili Khrushchev v Manežhe (Moskva: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2008) i Susan Emily Reid, *Destalinization and the Remodernization of Soviet Art: The Search for a Contemporary Realism, 1953–1963* (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 1996). O Bulldozer Show, vidi Laura Hoptman i Tomas Pospisyl, ur. *Primary Documents: A Sourcebook for Eastern and Central European Art since the 1950s* (New York: The Museum of Modern Art; Cambridge and London: MIT Press, 2002), 65–77, i. Alpatova, L. Talochkin, i N. Tamruchi, "Drugoe iskusstvo", Moskva 1956–1988 (Moscow: Galart, 2005), 197–200.

02 Margarita Masterkova [Tupitsyn], "Performances in Moscow," A-Ya: Unofficial Russian Art Review 4 (1982), 6.

03 Kollektivne deistviia, Poezdki za gorod (Moscow: Ad Marginem, 1998). Dokumentarna grada može se naći online na <http://letov.conceptualism.ru/KD-actions.html>.

**U**povijesti neslužbenih likovnih izložaba u Moskvi dva događaja definiraju razdoblje između Staljinove smrti i raspada Sovjetskog Saveza: Hruščovljev posjet izložbi 30 godina MOSKh-a u Manježu u prosincu 1962. i Prva jesenska izložba slike na otvorenom u Beljajevu (poznata i kao "buldožerska izložba") 1974. Obje izložbe prouzročile su sukobe između službene i neslužbene umjetnosti i sovjetskih vlasti, pojačale granice između službene i neslužbene umjetnosti te dodatno izjednačile neslužbenu umjetnost s borbom za vidljivost i šиру publiku.<sup>01</sup> No, usredotočimo li se na te vidljive javne sukobe, izlažemo se opasnosti da neposredne umjetničke teme prikrijemo prikazima cenzure i represije, da neslužbenu umjetničku praksu stavimo u kontekst konformizma i disidentstva te je projiciramo na poznatu priču o zakašnjelom modernističkom napretku. Pojava albuma, konceptualističke objektne poezije i performancea namijenjenih malobrojnoj i odabranoj publici u privatnim ateljeima ili na poljima u predgradima, 1970-ih, dokaz je da barem neki umjetnici nisu tražili pristup široj sovjetskoj publici niti službeno priznanje svojih izložbenih aktivnosti. Naprotiv, taj konceptualni zaokret značio je prevredovanje onoga što znači izlagati i doživljavati umjetnička djela, a katkad je eksplicitno tematizirao noviju izložbenu povijest te odbacivao i izložbu kao konvenciju i pojam umjetničkog djela koje ona prepostavlja. Posebice dvije vrste konceptualističke prakse – performance i arhive umjetničkih suradnji – artikulirale su tu nova gledišta na umjetnička djela i javnost krajem 1970-ih i početkom 1980-ih. Iako su služile kao alternativni izložbeni prostori u vrijeme kad su državni muzeji i izložbene dvorane bili nedostupni, one su nadišle tu nužnost i objavile pomak u umjetničkim prioritetima koji je postao jednom od karakteristika pokreta koji se danas naziva moskovskim konceptualizmom.

Ruski performance uvijek je poticao umjetničku suradnju i težio smanjivanju udaljenosti između umjetnika i publike. Za razliku od futurističkih uličnih spektakla Mejerholdovog avantgardnog teatra, perfomrance art 1970-ih ograničila se na malobrojnu publiku prijatelja i kolega umjetnika.<sup>02</sup> Skupina umjetnika i pjesnika koja će se nedugo potom nazvati Kolektivne akcije počela je 1976. izvoditi akcije na otvorenom, zasnovane na polupravatim čitanjima poezije. U akcijama kao što su bile *Appearance* (13. ožujka 1976.) i *Lieblich* (2. travnja 1976.) malobrojna publika bila je pozvana da se okupi na polju na koje bi organizator izbio iz šume i uručio im dokumentarne certifikate, ili bi pak pod snijegom neprekidno brujala električna zujalica.<sup>03</sup> U kontekstu novijih dogadaja i

lokalnih institucijskih struktura, ta estetika bila je radikalno repozicioniranje tradicionalnog umjetničkog susreta u muzeju ili izložbenoj dvorani. Te akcije izvodile su se daleko od grada i njegova umjetničkog establishmenta; gledaoci se pozivalo osobno, usmenom predajom ili raspačavanim pozivnicama, a uspjeh se mjerio u razgovoru i raspravama, a nikad u specijaliziranom umjetničkom tisku niti u akademskom establishmentu.

No glavna razlika bila je skidanje naglaska s izloženog predmeta, taktika koja je promišljeno istaknuta u prvi plan u drugoj akciji, *Slike* (11. veljače 1979.). Tu se publici davalo omotnice s informacijama povezanima s akcijom i upućivalo ih se da formiraju red na polju. Zatim su neko vrijeme proučavali "umjetnička djela" tako nastale "izložbe", koja se prostirala gotovo 50 metara u snijegu. Tijekom akcije postalo je jasno da su bilješke na omotnicama većinom lažne i da je ključ akcije zapravo gotovo neprimjetno povlačenje dvoje sudionika s polja. Kako je kasnije primjetio jedan gledalac-sudionik, akcija je bila izvedena kao elegantan madioničarski trik namijenjen tome da razobliči iluziju, nedostatnost rituala koji se odvijao. Usprkos ugodnoj atmosferi, prijateljima u publici, i zabavnoj igri s omotnicama, sve je to ustuknulo pred stvarnom akcijom (neprimjetnim nestankom).<sup>04</sup>

Ako su *Appearance* i *Lieblich* bili svojevrsno cageovsko "slušanje tišine", onda su *Slike* značile korak dalje tako što su stimulirale percepciju na nesvesnoj razini.<sup>05</sup> Ritualna struktura akcije usmjerila je pažnju gledalaca i u njima potaknula stanje očekivanja, kao da će slijedeći upute ostvariti dobitak, vidjeti ono što su došli vidjeti. Andrej Monastirski, jedan od osnivača skupine, spominje termim "demonstracijsko polje" kako bi opisao tu strukturu performancea. Kako razni predmeti i tijela tijekom akcije dolaze na demonstracijsko polje, polje se proširuje, transformira predmete svakodnevne percepcije u predmete demonstracije. Potaknuta signalima koji obilježavaju početak performance, ta koncentrirana pažnja i osjećaj očekivanja održava se sve do posljednjeg trenutka, kad postaje jasno da su ti zadaci bili "prazne akcije" i da je prikazano samo očekivanje. Kako kaže Monastirski, "samo demonstracijsko polje se širi i postaje predmet promatranja".<sup>06</sup>

"Dematerijalizacija umjetničkog predmeta", da se poslužimo izrazom Lucy Lippard, u tom je slučaju bila u jednakoj mjeri kritika konvencija izložbe kao i kritika umjetničkog predmeta.<sup>07</sup> "Naš cilj nije bio 'pričavati' nešto gledaocima-sudionicima", piše Monastirski, "cilj se sastoji od održavanja osjećaja očekivanja kao važnog, značajnog događaja".<sup>08</sup> U usredotočenosti na strukturu, privremenost i psihološko iskustvo, akcije te skupine bile su odjek odlučnog odbacivanja institucionalnih formi slikarstva i kiparstva koje su 1960-ih zastupali umjetnici

poput Donalda Judda ili Josepha Kosutha.<sup>09</sup> No poruka nije bila isporučena u stilu američke polemike, usmjereni američkom medijskom modernizmu Clementa Greenberga i Michaela Frieda, nego kao istraživanje neposrednih umjetničkih tema, uključujući egzistencijalna pitanja o duhovnosti, o svetosti ili onom neizrecivom što slikarstvo, kako se čini, više ne može obuhvaćati. To je kao da se "pisalo po" samom slikarstvu na način koji odvlači pažnju od gledaočeve uronjenosti u proces percpecije; odgovor na taj problem institucionalizacije je odbacivanje slikarstva i kontempliranje percepcije na pustom polju.<sup>10</sup>

Tada se pojavljuje vremenski paradoks koji je u središtu prakse Kolektivnih akcija i njihove kritike izložba: ako je prikazani predmet sama svijest koja doživljava akciju (vlastito očekivanje da će se "nešto dogoditi"), kakav pristup tom teško dokučivom stanju imaju gledatelji (a da ni ne spominjemo one koji nisu bili prisutni akciji)? Kako piše Monastirski,

...kad shvatimo da je to "gleđanje" bilo "gleđanje u pogrešnom smjeru", glavni događaj je već prošao. U sadašnjem trenutku možemo ga se samo sjećati, ali ne možemo ga svjesno promatrati, jer u vrijeme kad se događao svijest je bila zauzeta drugdje, bila je usmjerena na percepciju nečega drugog.<sup>11</sup>

Ako, kao što se tvrdi, muzeji prikazuju prosvjetljenost modernog čovjeka ritualnom praksom osobite vrste receptivnosti za prikazana umjetnička djela, onda pomaknuta temporalnost Kolektivnih akcija potkopava tu retoriku vremenske i epistemološke zatvorenosti.<sup>12</sup> Umjesto da prikazani predmet prožme bezvremenom, čitljivom prisutnošću, značenje akcije neprekidno se odlaže jer se gledalac mora osvrati i kontemplirati kakvo je bilo *ovo* iskustvo, *to* iskustvo, *ono* iskustvo. Od najranijih akcija, to osmišljavanje iskustva razmatralo se u grupnim raspravama i materijaliziralo u rastućem arhivskom korpusu. Publiku se pozivalo da prepičava i komentira akcije u pričama koje su pratile fotografije, audio i video u strojno otiskanim, ručno uvezanim svescima pod naslovom *Izleti u prirodu*. Poput performancea, taktilno i diskurzivno tkivo arhiva koje su stvarali umjetnici postalo je dodatni izložbeni prostor za idealnog "vanjskog promatrača" skupine. Poput muzeja, poslagane stranice doimaju se materijalno i vremenski uređene. No čim pokušamo pristupiti događaju jezikom i putem tragova na fotopapiru ili filmu, vidimo povećano demonstracijsko polje, ali mi sami nismo nimalo bliže "istini" ni "značenju" akcije.<sup>13</sup>

09 Pritim mislim na izjave kao što je ona Donalda Judda, "Specific Objects," Arts Yearbook 8 (1965) i Joseph Kosuth, "Art After Philosophy," Studio International (October 1969).

10 O problemu "pisanja po" vidi Monastirski, predgovor, str. 22.

11 Monastirski, predgovor, str. 23.

12 O muzeju kao ritualnom prostoru vidi Carol Duncan, *Civilizing Rituals: Inside Public Art Museums* (New York and London: Routledge, 1995).

13 Amelia Jones raspravlja o kontingenčnoj kvaliteti dokumentacije u

"Presence" in Absentia: Experiencing Performance as Documentation," Art Journal 56, no. 4 (Winter 1997), 11–18. Vidi i Svena Spiekera o "nesigurnom titranju između naracije i kontingenčije" modernog arhiva u *The Big Archive: Art from Bureaucracy* (Cambridge and London: MIT Press, 2009).



Kolektivne akcije, *Slike*. Sukhanov park, Moskva / Collective Actions, Pictures, Sukhanovo Park, Moscow/Moskva. Veljača/February 11, 1979. LJUBAZNOŠĆU/COURTESY: ANDREI MONASTIRSKI

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Krajem 1980. okupio se određen broj umjetnika kako bi načinio arhiv s dokumentacijom nedavnih aktivnosti koja bi služila kao prijenosan izložbeni prostor i izvor kritičkih teksta.

Ona je postala Moskovska arhiva nove umjetnosti (MANI) i taj naziv ubrzo je postao oznakom identiteta grupe.<sup>14</sup> Prvi MANI-ev dosje izasao je u veljači 1981. i sadržavao je trinaest strojno otiskanih tekstova Borisa Groysa, Ilje Kabakova, Andreja Monastirskog, između ostalih, i dvadeset jednu omotnicu s fotografijama umjetničkih djela, opisima, a u nekim slučajevima i sa stvarnim djelima. Tako je svojom strukturom MANI prihvatio poznatu kustosku strategiju grupne izložbe. No uključivši dokumentaciju performance i umjetničkih djela kojima gledatelj može rukovati, poput pjesama na indeksnim karticama Leva Rubinštajna ili Matalke Monastirskog,<sup>15</sup> arhiva je bila odjek radikalne temporalnosti i kritičke oštice Izleta u prirodu.

MANI se često hvali zbog toga što je okupio radove starije i mlade generacije moskovskih konceptualnih umjetnika, i njegova četiri dosje su dobro uočrena snimka žive aktivnosti koja se odvijala početkom 1980-ih. Dok su se novi umjetnici pojavljivali na sceni, unutarnja neslaganja unutar Kolektivnih akcija označila su promjenu umjetničke klime. 1980. godine, kad je izasao prvi svezak *Izleta u prirodu*, Nikita Aleksejev, jedan od osnivača, zabilježio je svoje neslaganje sa smjerom kojim je grupa krenula. U tekstu pod naslovom "O kolektivnim i individualnim akcijama 1976-1980" Aleksejev pruža protutežu Monastirskom i njegovoj usmjerenoći samo na promatranje percepcije.<sup>16</sup> Istoči niz akcija koje Monastirski nije obuhvatio u svom predgovoru, uključujući kvalitete poput "predmetnosti", poticanja različitih razina svijesti bez pribjegavanja trikovima kakve vidimo u *Slikama*, i čina bacanja nečega u prirodu. Za Aleksejeva, opći trend udaljavanja od radova utemeljenih na predmetima, meditativnih i onih koje naziva "živima", te približavanja strukturalno kompleksnijim akcijama koje treba raspravljati, te poticanje arhivskog aspekta grupne prakse, bile su znake nepoželjnog izoliranja i hermetizma. Iste kvalitete koje su akcijama dale osobit karakter – slavnička ekscentričnost, zajedništvo i udaljenost od sumorne urbane egzistencije – katkad su, po njegovu mišljenju, značile opasan zaokret prema pseudokononističnosti, grupnom snobizmu i besmislenom izlaženju iz društva. *Izleti u prirodu*, ubrzo će napisati Aleksejev, bili su nadgrobni kamen Kolektivnih akcija.<sup>17</sup>

Citajući između redaka, u tom odbacivanju hermetičnih i ekstremnih tendencija Kolektivnih akcija vidimo čežnju za "normalnim" svijetom umjetnosti: za izazovnim i smislenim djelima, za pristupom široj publici, za sudjelovanjem u široj

<sup>14</sup> Dosje MANI alternativno se pripisuju Monastirskom i Viktoru Skersisu ili pak Monastirskom i Levu Rubinštajnu; vidi Vadim Zakarov, "Papki MANI", Pastor 3 (1993): str. 117-122, i Nikita Aleksejev u *Drugoe iskusstvo*, str. 298.

<sup>15</sup> Rad baziran na tekstu koji poziva gledaoca da mota nit od jednog komada kartona do drugoga.

<sup>16</sup> Nikita Aleksejev, "O kollektivnykh i individual'nykh aktsiiakh," *Pozdki za gorod*, 87.

<sup>17</sup> Nikita Aleksejev, "Kogda v 1979 godu..." *Pozdki za gorod*, str. 193.

raspravi o smjeru suvremene umjetnosti. Ponovno, kako se čini, bitna pitanja o prirodi i statusu umjetnosti izrazila su se preko pitanja o publici i izložbama. Ubrzo, na jesen 1982, Aleksejev i nekoliko kolega konceptualista utemeljili su galeriju u Aleksejevovom stanu, koju su nazvali Aptart.<sup>18</sup> Kako je tada istaknula Margarita Tupitsyn, početkom 1980-ih mnogi mlađi umjetnici odbaci su "idealizam i zakučasto teoretičiranje grupe Kolektivne akcije".<sup>19</sup> Sven Gundlakh, redoviti izlagac u Aptartu, izradio je taj stav kad je napisao:

Performancei [Kolektivnih akcija] postali su preopterećeni gomilama dokumentacije i neprohodnih tekstova. Nije bilo jasno što točno čini proizvod kreativnog čina: sama akcija ili njene fotografije i opisi. Potonji su bili izgubljeni u debelim dosjeima punima umjetničkih napomena spekulativne [sic] prirode.<sup>20</sup>

Životispisne, karnevaletske instalacije u Aptartu bile su dijametalna suprotnost beskrajnoj crno-bijeloj diskurzivnosti Kolektivnih akcija. Umjesto da se koncentriraju na percepciju u "praznom" vremenu i prostoru, ispunjavale su svaki centimetar galerijskog prostora provokativnim fotografijama, djetinjastim crtežima, pjesmama, kolažima, potpomognutim readymadeima i svjetlučavim konstrukcijama. Galerija je bila otvorena kad god je Aleksejev bio kod kuće i dočekivao ne samo pozvane goste nego i strance koji su za nju čuli usmenom predajom.<sup>21</sup> Ako je moskovski konceptualizam odbacio borbu za javne izložbe i okrenuo se samome sebi, onda je Aptartovo pozivanje na međunarou "transavanguardu" pojasnilo da se situacija još jedanput promjenila. Umjetnici su preusmjerili pogled prema i ponovno se izložili.<sup>22</sup>

Promjenljivi stavovi neslužbene sovjetske umjetnosti prema izlaganju – borba za sovjetsku publiku nakon Staljina, odbacivanje retorike izlaganja u moskovskom konceptualizmu i odlučan povratak izložbama 1980-ih – bili su blisko povezani s neposrednim interesima umjetnika i promjenjivim poimanjima same umjetnosti. No ipak, važnu ulogu u tim procesima igrala je i veća nevidljivost neslužbene umjetnosti i za sovjetski umjetnički establishment i za mainstream priču suvremene umjetnosti. Teško je zamisliti da dugoročna, angažirana grupna praksa kakvu su Kolektivne akcije provodile 1970-ih i 1980-ih održi isti kritički intenzitet ili da ima isti odjek u svijetu umjetnosti kojim vladaju muzeji, komercijalne galerije i profitni umjetnički tisk. Čak i nezavisni umjetnički prostor teško bi ostvario podjednaku razinu angažmana publike. Strategija trajnog odlaganja i povišenog stanja diskurzivnosti Kolektivnih akcija danas se doima vrlo neobičnom, pa čak i utopiskom. Ostala je samo sve veća arhiva, brdo tekstova, slika, audio- i videozapisa koji i dalje upućuju izazov retorici izložbe. Tek jedan primjer: jedna od novijih akcija održala se u cijelosti na internetu.<sup>23</sup> \*

<sup>18</sup> Apt Art: Moscow Vanguard in the '80s (Mechanicsville, M.D.: Cremona Foundation, 1985).

<sup>19</sup> Margarita Tupitsyn, "The Decade 'B.C.' (Before Chernenko) in Contemporary Russian Art," u Apt Art: Moscow Vanguard in the '80s, str. 10.

<sup>20</sup> Sven Gundlakh, citiran u ibid.

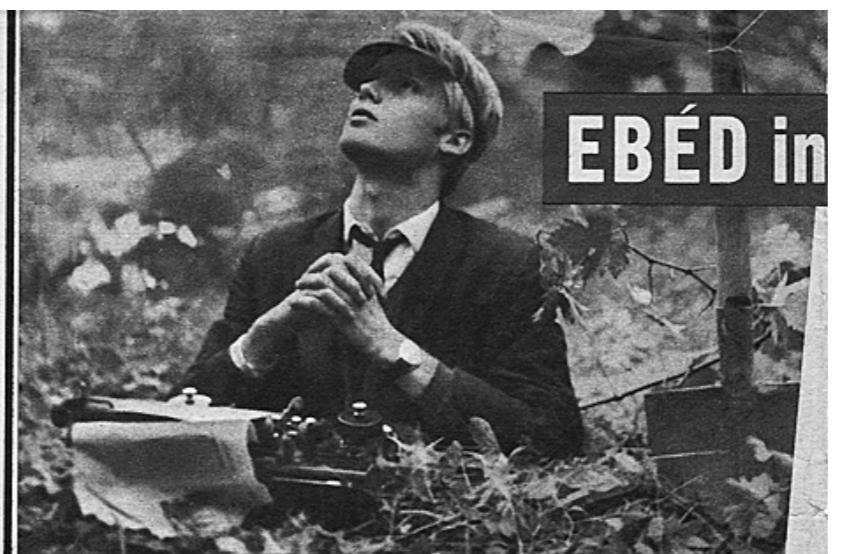
<sup>21</sup> Vidi prikaz tog vremena Nikite Aleksejeva u *Riady pamjati* (Moskva: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2008).

<sup>22</sup> Aleksejev se služi izrazima "novi val" i "avangarda" u "Kogda v 1979 godu...", str. 194.

<sup>23</sup> <http://conceptualism.letov.ru/I18/KD-ACTIONS-I18.htm>

# Dóra Hegyi & Zsuzsa László [tranzit.hu] in conversation with Támas St. Auby

superintendent of INPUT, agent of NETRAF / Neo-Socialist. Realist. INPUT's Global Counter-Artist.ory-Falsifiers Front/



**VANNAK** hagyományos ételk, melyeknek a táperétekben szinte senki sem kételkedik.  
Ilyen étel — talán még ma is — a spenót. Edd meg! Ettől erősödök! — így buzdítják fél évszázada a jót akaró szülők, szelid nagymamák és gondos óvónők a rájuk bizott gyerekekkel.

Haszmos és tápláló — ez a menteségűl az általuk ki- osztogatott pofonokért. Ez volt a menteségük. A spenót legendáját ugyanis egy svajci tudós már tizéves szötszszalatá, bizonyítván, hogy ennek a csodálatos zöldfűszérleknek a törpejebe vetett már-már fanatikus hit *egy tizedespont elírásnak a következménye* s hogy a spenót táperétek semmivel se nagyobb, mint peldául az addig mélyen lenézetet sósakát.

Mint hajdanvolt lázadó, aki tudományos felkészüllést sége hiánynak idején nem célohatta meg a nevelőt, nagy örömmel és erkölcsi elégítéssel olvastam a svájci tudós korrekcióját, amit hátha várta, váron azóta is jóhiszemű nevelőmnő önkritikáját.

A rejtejt napíthető csupán néhány rokonlélek: spenót- ellenes szerkesztő és glosszszárd figyelt fel.

Ez a többiek?

A lázadókból reformistákként lettek és — paraj elnevezéssel — ők is rakényszerítettek a gyerekekére?

A tudósító, aki azonos a cikk írójával, az új művészeti törekvések iránti konzsenzvá s a divat iránti gyanakvás egyként jellemzi.

Eddigi tapasztalataira támaszkodva úgy véli, hogy nem minden elvetendő, ami hagyományos (még az étlapon se), de azt is tudja,



Osvrt na "Ručak" László Kamondyja: Meditacija na prvi mađarski hepening. In memoriam Batu Khan / Review of "The Lunch" by László Kamondy: Meditation on the first Hungarian happening: The Lunch. In memoriam Batu Khan, SNIMIO/PHOTO BY: Gyula Zaránd, objavljen/ published in Tükör, September 13, 1966. LJUBAZNOŠĆU/COURTESY: INPUTNPU-ARCHIVES

What motivated you to turn from poetry to happening and actions?

There was no turn from poetry to happening and actions, but its escalation towards and into them and to other directions also, like concrete-poetry, visual-poetry, objects, environment, music, architecture, film, etc. The method is based on two complementary principles: all and everything is poetry *ab ovo*, and *poiesis* is practically extendable into *techné* – in the order of its regrouping, "poetization", occasionally constructing a new word, a new element.

Earlier, while I was writing ("I was written by") "pure", 'metaphysical' poetry", the aim was the transcending of the given temporal towards the level of Eternity, the description and realization by the word of the "holy tendency" towards the One. When this type of poetry was criticized, attacked, censored, banned and punished by the given, surrounding state-power's idiotic ideology-brick-a-brac, it became obvious that this type of poetry as such is limited by its own voluntary self-isolation as well, while there is a collectively still not yet cultivated territory for poetry: the newly discovered, rich and exciting potentiality, possibility and realizability of the regrouping of the present till now excluded from the poetic dimension. That is the revolting of the universal Kali Yuga-status quo – exactly by a parallel process of the existing repressive/intolerant state-requirement – by my new finding: the Neo Socialist Realism. The picking up of the elements of "pop-reality" is the coming back to physics, the involvement in the "life – history" – naturally without the betrayal or even forgetting the metaphysics – is the lyric "I"'s transposition into the epic "We", later the crystallization of the "We" into the "She", the mythical Mutant.

How did you encounter the genre of happening, what did you find interesting/inspiring in it at that time (1966)?

While I was fed up with the ridiculous psychoanalytic kitsch of Abstract Expressionism in the mid-60s already, I had unsolvable, general semantic problems in poetry also. In 1965 suddenly I made – as a spontaneous break out from my conventional mentality – recipes of some objects (intermedial per se) – qualified as "pop" and "conceptual" things. I planned to show them publicly, but the internal and external situation was not ripe yet. I wrote – still in the earlier, "metaphysical" approach – my "last poem" in January 1966, and was waiting paralyzed during many weeks for a really new intuition.

Although I was sure for a while that a sort of "contra-abstract" theory and practice must rotate the process of art-history in a given moment, I had a very pejorative opinion about Pop art. In spite of this antipathy – more precisely: because of this

*The inspiring in Fluxus is that it excludes the notion of the artist as a talented, almost superhuman being from the creative process, more precisely: it includes the "untalented" into it*



– one day I decided to write some poems in the spirit of Pop art – as an endurance test – and during the composing of the different text-materials the reason of Pop art became obvious for me. I found myself back to the sweet home, back to reality, not to the high metaphysical one, but to the surreal, the pop underground. And the semantic problem evaporated. And there was no metaphysical standstill either, but medium and intermedium as cause and effect, global mass-repetition as history, and domino-effect and chain-reaction as running to the revolution.

At that sparklingly fresh moment of enlightenment an awkward and despising article was published in the May 1966 issue of the periodical *Film, Theatre, Music* mentioning some happenings in the US and West-Europe. Despite the author's bad-will, the extreme importance of the Happening as such was apparent. I met this notion and the name of Allan Kaprow and Joseph Beuys in this article the first time. The recipes of the objects I made some months earlier got a tremendous substantiation.

Ignited, we channelled (Gábor Altörjay and I – with the co-acting of Jankovics Miklós and Varannay István, supported by Miklós Erdély, and sponsored by Enikő Balla) the first Hungarian Happening in July of 1966. Some weeks later we got a book edited by Wolf Vostell and Jürgen Becker: *Happenings*, and we understood that we were not lonely madmen, but in the midst of a huge intercontinental movement.

The main idea in a Happening is the replacement of the artist by the public – the public becomes the creative actor – and as a consequence the replacement of the given history with autonomous acts done on the given history itself by the "public" itself. That is, a new history driven not by an "artist"'s interest, but by the interest of the participating individual non-art-artists, detached, freed from the conventional dichotomy of the hierarchic contents. The reality, the destiny, the history changes by the will of the transmuters in the personalized direct-democratic series of events. The interacting acts are functioning in a chain-reaction process, so all and everything becomes rapidly and in an experienceable way linked to all and every other elements – not as in slow and dark history – and the whole set of actions are interconnecting a flux of impulses. The Happening is a network of participants, where History becomes an instantly continuous flow of teleportations of things and relations and ideas: telecommunications.

#### **What significance did the title (*Lunch, in memoriam Batu Khan*), the location (a cellar), and the objects and tools used have?**

It is difficult to find something more basic, more earthly, more physical than eating and unloading – so we did that. It is difficult to find something more evident, more accurate, more contemporary than a cellar at a time of underground ideas and practices. It is difficult to find a better sub-title than the reference to the supposed builder of the cellar. It is difficult to find something manmade not suitable for its destruction. It is difficult to find matter not for colliding, fusing, smashing and transilluminating it by the Will.

**How did the audience and the press react to the happening?**  
The unprepared invited people were shocked by the unexpected process, they understood that they themselves, their presence and their destiny became parts and participants of an essentially new history. It was like a trans-baptism for everybody. An initiation into a more authentic, a more profound, a more deserved, liveable and interesting life, worthy to the people between the repressed and the oppressor, to the race between the mythic demons and the mythic angels, to the individual between the One and the Infinite.

The press reacted as it used to: libels and denunciations.

But what else could it do? They realized that the world overrode by the Happening was theirs. How would it look like if the press would press for a Global, Eternal Happening?

#### **Did your relationship to the audience change through various happenings and actions? If yes, how?**

Every action and happening is aiming at a new structure of the given elements. Since the various happenings – unfortunately – could not generate a world-wide aesthetic uprising yet, we must experiment with it till it will go by itself. Non-equality, non-fraternity, non-liberty is kitsch.

#### **What influences did you have here and abroad?**

The state-power was self-contradicting: the military-mercantile bureaucracy's punishing system banned my travel to western countries, and from 1968 I could not travel even to the so-called socialist countries either, so the influences – better to say: "focal points" – were rather limited and sporadic. I would mention only one name here: Béla Hamvas – it covers all the other corresponding "hot-spots" from the megalithic cultures, brahmanism, Echnaton pharaoh, sufí, etc. through Fra Angelico, Angelus Silesius, Purcell, Jakob Böhme, etc. up to Nietzsche, Malevich, Mahatma Gandhi, René Guenon, etc. The daily food was Gerry Mulligan and R'n'R, and the party as the art of the epoch was practiced wildly. The concrete and electronic music by dr. László Végh presented in semi-legal situations at apartments in 1963 was a revelation – it derailed me from puberty to adulthood. There were some chances to find some interesting sources during my frequent trips to Poland from 1963, like the Warsaw Autumn, the international Polish festival of contemporary music.

The interest changed radically after the Lunch-happening in 1966. Marcel Duchamp, John Cage, George Brecht, Allan Kaprow, Wolf Vostell, Joseph Beuys, Andy Warhol, Henry Flynt, Maciunas, Malcolm X, Frantz Fanon, Timothy Leary, Abbie Hoffman, etc. and Dada, Pop art, Actionism, Fluxus, Concept art, Conceptual art, Mail art, Project art and all the related trends became the subject of my interventions – still through secondary sources of information until 1975 when I could leave grey Hungary legally – although illegally sent to golden exile by the illegal khaki authority.

#### **How did you encounter fluxus and what did you find inspiring in it?**

By the above mentioned book about Happening.

The inspiring in Fluxus is that it excludes the notion of the artist as a talented, almost superhuman being from the creative process, more precisely: it includes the "untalented" into it, and by this it reassesses the whole phenomena of the creative process.

A new outlook on life, a new ethos. Non-art-art is for and by everybody.

#### **How did you get involved in fine art and exhibition-making?**

By the above mentioned escalation of poetry.

Practically speaking: by the "poetization" or conceptualization of the given by the objects I made in 1965, then by the involvement in the Happening and Environment as such in 1966, and then by the foundation of the International Parallel Union of Telecommunications, established under the cover-name of Parallel Course / Study Track in 1968. *The Subsistence Level Standard Project 1984 W* is the very non-art-art-operation of IPUT. The mere art pieces are simply by-products of the superintendent's hobby.

Exhibition is just another way of publication of printed matters. Interacting intermedial action is just another way of liberating history. Shabbat / Wei Wu Wei / St.Rike is just another way towards the Mythic Free Will Self-Salvation. ✕

GENF – BUDAPEST – ISTANBUL – VARANASI, 16. 09. 2009.



*A new outlook on life, a new ethos.*

*Non-art-art is for and by everybody*

# Dóra Hegyi i Zsuzsa László [tranzit. hu] u razgovoru s Támasom St. Aubyjem

nadglednik IPUT-a, agent NETRAF-a / IPUT-ove neosocijalističkorealističke Fronte globalnih protufalsifikatora povijesti umjetnosti /

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## Što vas je motiviralo da s poezijske prijeđete na happening i akcije?

Nije bilo prijelaza s poezijske na happening i akcije nego je poezijska težila prema njima i prerasla u njih, kao i u drugim smjerovima, poput konkretnog poezijskog, vizualne poezijske, objekata, environmenta, glazbe, arhitekture, filma itd. Metoda se temelji na dva komplementarnata načela: sve je poezijska *ab ovo*, i poezijska je praktično proširiva na *techné* – kako bi se regupirala, "poetizirala", povremeno stvarajući novu riječ, nov element.

Prije, kad sam pisao "čistu", "metafizičku" poezijsku ("bio pisan njome"), cilj mi je bio transcedirati dano vremensko, prema razini vjećnosti, opisati i riječju ostvariti "svetu težnju" prema Jednomu. Kad je ta poezijska naišla na kritiku, napade, cenzuru, zabranu i kaznu dane, idiotske državne ideologije tadašnjeg okruženja, postalo je očito da je ta vrsta poezijske kao takve ograničena i vlastitom, dobrovoljnom samoizolacijom, kad postoji kolektivan, još ne kultiviran teritorij za poezijsku: novootkrivena, bogata i uzbudljiva potencijalnost, mogućnost i ostvarivost regupiranja sadašnjice, dosad isključena iz poetske dimenzije. To je remećeće općeg *statusa quo* u razdoblju Kali-yuge – upravo procesom paralelnog postojećem represivno-netolerantnim zahtjevima države – putem mog novog izuma: neosocijalističkog realizma. Uzimanje elemenata "pop-stvarnosti" je povratak fizici, uključenje u "životnu povijest" – naravno, bez izdaje, a kamoli zaborava metafizike – transpozicija lirskega "ja" u epsko "mi", a poslije i kristalizacija toga "mi" u "ona", mitskoga Mutanta.

## Kako ste upoznali žanr happeninga, što vam je u njemu bilo zanimljivo/inspirativno u to vrijeme (1966)?

Sredinom 60-ih već mi je bilo dosta smješnog psihoanalitickog kiča apstraktne ekspresionizma. Imao sam nerješive, opće semantičke probleme i u poezijskom. 1965. iznenada sam načinio – kao spontani raskid sa svojim konvencionalnim mentalitetom – recepte nekih objekata (po sebi intermedijskih) – označenih kao "pop" i "konceptualni". Planirao sam ih pokazati javnosti, ali unutarnja i vanjska situacija još nije bila zrela. U siječnju 1966. napisao sam – još u ranijem, "metafizičkom" pristupu – svoju "posljednju pjesmu" i tjednima paralizirano čekao doista novu intuiciju.

Iako sam već neko vrijeme bio siguran da svojevrsna "protoapstraktna" teorija i praksa mora zaokrenuti proces povijesti umjetnosti u danom trenutku, imao sam vrlo loše mišljenje o pop-artu. Usprkos toj antipatiji – preciznije rečeno: upravo zbog nje – jednoga dana odlučio sam napisati neke

pjesme u duhu pop-arta – kao test izdržljivosti – i tijekom slaganja raznih tekstualnih materijala, logika pop-arta postala mi je očita. Vratio sam se kući, vratio sam se u stvarnost, ne u visoko metafizičku nego u podstvarnost, u pop-podzemlje. I semantički problem je nestao. A nije bilo ni metafizičke slijepote ulice, nego medij i intermedij kao uzrok i posljedica, globalno masovno ponavljanje kao povijest, i domino-efekt i lančana reakcija kao ono što vodi prema revoluciji.

U tom trenutku svježeg prosvjetljenja objavljen je neugodan i denuncijantski članak u svibanjском broju časopisa *Film, kazalište, glazba*, u kojem se spominjalo neke happeninge u Sjedinjenim Državama i Zapadnoj Evropi. Usprkos autorovoj zlonamernosti, bila je očita velika važnost happeninga kao takvoga. U tom članku sam prvi put naišao na taj pojам i na imena Allana Kaprowa i Josepha Beuysa. Recepti za objekte koje sam načinio nekoliko mjeseci prije toga dobili su snažno potkrepljenje.

Nadahnuti time, organizirali smo (Gábor Altorjay i ja – uz suradnju Jankovicsa Miklósa i Varannaya Istvána, uz podršku Miklósa Erdélyja i pokroviteljstvo Enikő Balla) prvi mađarski happening u srpnju 1966. Nekoliko tjedana potom dobili smo knjigu *Happenings*, koju su uredili Wolf Vostell i Jürgen Becker, i shvatili smo da nismo usamljeni ludaci nego smo usred velikog interkontinentalnog pokreta.

Glavna ideja u happeningu je zamjena umjetnika publikom – publika postaje kreativan aktér – i kao posljedica toga, zamjena dane povijesti autonomnim činovima koje sama "publika" obavlja na danoj povijesti. Naime, na novoj povijesti koju ne pokreće "umjetnikov" interes nego interes sudjelujućih neumjetnika-umjetnika, nezainteresiranih, oslobođenih od konvencionalne dihotomije hijerarhijskih sadržaja. Stvarnost, sudsudina, povijest mijenjaju se voljom agensa promjene u niz personaliziranih događaja direktnog demokratije. Ti interaktivni činovi funkcioniraju u procesu lančane reakcije, tako da sve postaje brzo i na iskusiv način povezano sa svim drugim elementima – ne kao u polaganju i mračnoj povijesti – i flaks impulsa međupovezuje cijeli niz akcija. Happening je mreža sudionika, pri čemu povijest postaje neprekinuta struja teleportacija stvari, odnosa i ideja: telekomunikacije.

**Kakvu je važnost imao naslov (Ručak, in memoriam Batu kanu), lokacija (podrum) i upotrijebjeni predmeti i alatke?**  
Teško je naći nešto temeljnije, zemaljskije, tjelesnije od jela i olakšavanja – pa smo to činili. Teško je naći nešto očitije, preciznije, privremenije od podruma u vrijeme underground ideja i praksa. Teško je naći bolji podnaslov od reference na pretpostavljenog graditelja podruma. Teško je naći nešto što je načinio čovjek, a da nije pogodno za uništenje. Teško je naći materijal koji nije za sudaranje, stapanje, razbijanje i transiluminaciju Voljom.

**Kako su publike i tisak reagirali na happening?**  
Nepripremljeni uzvanici bili su šokirani neočekivanim procesom, shvatili su da oni sami, njihova prisutnost i njihova sudsudina postaju dijelovi i sudionici bitno nove povijesti. Za sve njih bilo je to poput pokrštenja. Poput inicijacije u autentičniji, dublji, dostojaštvjeniji, zanimljiviji život, vredniji življjenja, za ljude između potlačenih i tlačitelja, za rasu između mitskih demonova i mitskih anđela, za pojedinca između jednoga i beskonačnoga.



Tisak je reagirao kao i obično: objedama i denuncijacijama.

Ali, što je drugo i mogao? Shvatili su da je happening prebrisao njihov svijet. Kako bi to izgledalo da se tisak založi za globalni, vječni happening?

## Je li se vaš odnos s publikom mijenjao kroz različite happeninge i akcije? Ako jest, kako?

Svaka akcija i happening teži novoj strukturi danih elemenata. Budući da razni happeninzi – nažalost – još nisu uspjeli potaknuti svjetski estetski ustank, moramo eksperimentirati s njim sve dok se ne podigne sam. Nejednakost, nebratstvo, nesloboda je kić.

## Koji su bili vaši utjecaji ovdje i u inozemstvu?

Državna moć proturječila je sama sebi: sistem vojno-trgovačke birokracije zabranio mi je putovanja u zapadne zemlje, a od 1968. nisam mogao putovati ni u takozvane socijalističke zemlje, pa su utjecaji – bolje rečeno, "žarišta" – bili prilično ograničeni i sporadični. Spomenuo bih samo jedno ime: Béla Hamvas – on pokriva sva druga "žarišta", od megalitskih kultura, brahmanizma, faraona Ehnatona, sufija itd, preko fra Angelica, Angelusa Silesiusa, Purcella, Jakoba Böhmea itd, do Nietzschea, Maljeviča, Mahatme Gandhija, Renéa Guenona itd. Svakodnevno sam se napajao Gerryjem Mulliganom i rock-and-rollom, a party je pstajao umjetnička forma epohе. Konkretna i elektronička glazba dr. László Végha, predstavljena u polulegalnim situacijama, u stanovima 1963. bila je pravo otkriće – ona me je prenijela iz puberteta u odraslo doba. U nekim prilikama uspijevalo sam pronaći neke zanimljive izvore na svojim čestim putovanjima u Poljsku od 1963., na primjer na Varšavsko ljetu, međunarodni poljski festival suvremene glazbe.

Interes se radikalno promjenio nakon happeninga s ručkom 1966. Marcel Duchamp, John Cage, George Brecht, Allan Kaprow, Wolf Vostell, Joseph Beuys, Andy Warhol, Henry Flynt, Maciunas, Malcolm X, Frantz Fanon, Timothy Leary, Gyula Zarán, Ljubaznošću / COURTESY OF IPUTNPU-ARCHIVES

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Ručak (in memoriam Batu Khan), Happening, Budimpešta, 1966. / Lunch (in memoriam Batu Khan) Happening - Budapest, 1966  
SNIMIO / PHOTOS: GYULA ZARÁND, LJUBAZNOŠĆU / COURTESY OF IPUTNPU-ARCHIVES

Interes se radikalno promjenio nakon happeninga s ručkom 1966. Marcel

Duchamp, John Cage, George Brecht, Allan Kaprow, Wolf Vostell, Joseph Beuys, Andy

Warhol, Henry Flynt, Maciunas, Malcolm X, Frantz Fanon, Timothy Leary, Abbie Hoffman, itd, i dada, pop-art, akcionalizam, Fluxus,

Concept art, konceptualna umjetnost, Mail art, Project art i svi srodnii trendovi postali su temom mojih intervencija – i dalje putem sekundarnih izvora informacija, do 1975, kada sam mogao legalno izaći iz sive Mađarske – iako su me ilegalne sive

vlasti ilegalno poslale u zlatno izgnanstvo.

## Kako ste se upoznali s Fluxusom i što vam je u njemu nadahnulo?

Preko spomenute knjige o happeningu.

U Fluxusu nadahnjuje to što on iz stvaralačkog procesa isključuje pojam umjetnika kao talentiranog, gotovo nadljudskog bića, ili preciznije: u njega uključuje "talentiranje" i tako prevrednuje cijeli fenomen stvaralačkog procesa.

Nov pogled na život, novi etos. Neumjetnička umjetnost je za svakoga, od svakoga.

## Kako ste se počeli baviti lijepim umjetnostima i izlaganjem?

Preko spomenutog prerastanja poeze.

Govoreći praktično: "poetizacijom" ili konceptualizacijom danoga putem objekata koje sam načinio 1965., a zatim i uključenjem u happening i environment još 1966., a zatim i u temeljenjem Internacionale paralelne telekomunikacijske unije, osnovane 1968. pod paravanom Parallel Course / Study Track. Subsistence Level Standard Project 1984. W upravo je neumjetnička umjetnička operacija IPUT-a. Puki umjetnički predmeti samo su nusproizvodi nadglednikovog hobija.

Izložba je samo još jedan način objavljivanja tiskanih materijala. Interaktivna intermedijска akcija samo je još jedan način oslobađanja povijesti. Shabbat / Wei Wu Wei / St. Rike samo je još jedan put prema mitskom samospasenju slobodne volje. \*

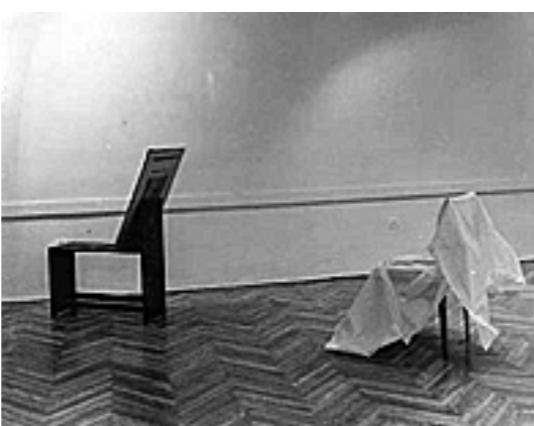
# documentation of the action

Dokumentacija akcije "Akt/Model" Orshi Drozdik

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In 1977 Orsolya Drozdik presented an action in the Club of Young Artists: from January 4-10 she was drawing a female nude model in the exhibition space. The exhibition was opened every day by different male artists and an art historian. The visitors were not allowed to enter the room where the artist and the sitter were working but could only see them from the door through a gauze curtain.



1. Fine art Model.  
2. The institutionalized fine art model. Art model.  
3. The model of thought - that society wishes to the individual. -  
4. The model of thought - that the individual offers to society.  
5. Modelconflict.  
— Orsolya Drozdik



# The Nude/Model by Orshi Drozdik

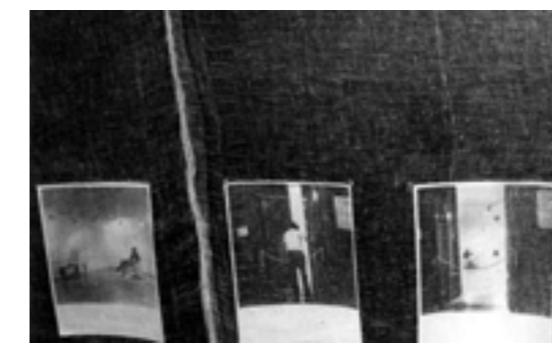
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Godine 1977. Orsolya Drozdik predstavila je akciju u Klubu mladih umjetnika: od 4. do 10. siječnja u izložbenom prostoru crtala je ženski akt. Svaki dan izložbu je otvarao drugi muški umjetnik i povjesničar umjetnosti. Posjetioci nisu smjeli ulaziti u prostoriju u kojoj su radili umjetnica i model, nego su ih mogli vidjeti samo s vrata kroz zastor od gaze.

1. Umjetnički model.
2. Institucionalizirani umjetnički model. Umjetnički model.
3. Model mišljenja – što društvo želi pojedincu.
4. Model mišljenja – što pojedinac nudi društvu.
5. Sukob modela.

— Orsolya Drozdik



Izbor vizualnog materijala prikazanog na izložbi Paralelne kronologije, Labor, Budimpešta, 2009 / Selection from the visual materials presented at the Parallel Chronologies exhibition, Labor, Budapest, 2009, LJUBAZNOŠĆU / COURTESY: ORSHI DROZDIK

# BALATONBOGLÁR 26-27.8.72.

POPOVIČ GINDL KOCMAN VALOCH POSPIŠILOVÁ FILKO SYKORA BARTÓŠ ŠTEMBERA FILKOVA SYKROVÁ

BAK



BEKE



LEGÉNDY



MÉHES



PAUER



STÝOBY



HAP



HALÁSZ



TÜRK



GALÁNTAY



HAÝ



ERDÉLY



ZIVÁNOVCS



PHOTO: BEKE LÁSZLÓ  
LAY-DUT: BORISZOV ZENO