Projects and Initiatives

The presentation of transdisciplinary projects and art journals from throughout East-Europe serves as a material and informational pool for visitors. The documentation of projects and initiatives in the areas of art and politics supplement those aspects of “New Europe” thematized in the exhibition. The selection was made by the artists and curators of the exhibition.

The presentation displays are by Silke Wagner (Roland, 1998).

**A Room of One’s Own**

In cooperation with H.arta group, Timișoara (Rumania).

“A Room of One’s Own” is a forum of woman artists, founded in Vienna in 2001. The forum thematizes, investigates, and expands contemporary feminist discourse and practice in the field of art. Aims are to promote both the exchange of experience among artists as well as to enable an awareness of political acts. In keeping with the group’s approach, reflection on the legacy of achievements of former generations of women is just as important for successful intervention as the necessity to constantly redefine and push ahead feminist activism in keeping with current conditions. “A Room of One’s Own” are Tanya Bednar, Carola Dertnig, Petja Dimitrova, Sonja Draub, Eva Egermann, Anita Fricek, Kristina Haider, Juma Hauser, Moira Hille, Lisa Holzer, Katharina Lampert, Ursula Mayer, Sascha Reichstein, Patricia Reschenbach, Nina Stuhldreher, and Sofie Thorsen. “H.arta group” are Anca Gyemant, Maria Crista, and Rodica Tache.

www.aroomofonesown.at

**art-ist contemporary art magazine**

“art-ist” is a bi-annual art magazine that focuses on the contemporary art scene in Turkey, questioning local notions of culture and power and considering the relationship between life and art. The publication also references visual culture in Turkey’s surrounding regions with texts and reviews about work by young artists from the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and South East Asia. Working within these different contexts, art-ist attempts to compare and translate related cultures, to define how memory differentiates according to an artist’s location and culture, their political and social situation and how local codes are reflected in their practice. The seventh issue of art-ist re-launched the magazine as a bilingual publication and since the fourth issue art-ist has and will continue to be guest edited by a different editor. There are ongoing projects with the art magazines Balcon, Remont, and Umelec, from Eastern Europe, Camera Austria and springerin from Austria, and Neid from Germany.

artisteposta@yahoo.com

**CAA—Contemporary Art Archive / Center for Art Analysis**

Under different names and shapes, CAA (founded by Lia Perjovschi in Bucharest) has been active since 1990. Its first goal was to bridge the information gap between the East and West but gradually it has transformed to a platform for the independent art scene. Today,
CAA reserves a space for criticism in a totally obedient society. The range of activities varies from one to one discussions to international exhibitions and lectures. In 2000, one of CAA’s projects was *Everything on sight*, a three hour-live show about arts and society, broadcast weekly on Romanian National TV. Every CAA event also has an accompanying, freely distributed publication.

perjovschi@yahoo.com

**Doña Carmen**

Since its founding 1998, the organization has been active in the social and political affairs of prostitutes, especially migrant prostitutes. It has conducted an advice center at Elbestraße 41 in the neighborhood of Frankfurt’s train station, and there it publishes the only multilingual newspaper for prostitutes in Germany (*La Muchacha*). The organization works for the contractually regulated employment relations for prostitutes and supports the recognition of prostitution as a profession. The official EU “fortress Europe” policy of containment, mainly perceives foreign prostitutes solely as the victims of the trafficking in women. By contrast, Doña Carmen supports the self organized migration of prostitutes and demands their legalization (Green Card for foreign prostitutes). Doña Carmen rejects any type of institutionalized cooperation with the police.

www.donacarmen.de

**ESI—European Stability Initiative**

ESI is a non-profit research and policy institute, created in recognition of the need for independent, in-depth analysis of the complex issues involved in promoting stability and prosperity in Europe. ESI was founded in 1999 by a multi-national group of practitioners and analysts with extensive experience in the regions it studied. ESI’s experienced and multidisciplinary team is committed to providing policy makers with relevant strategic analysis. In its first five years of operation, ESI has had a substantial impact on international policy towards Southeastern Europe. Its advice was sought regularly by a range of policy makers across the region. In order to promote discussion and debate among the policy community all ESI publications are widely distributed and available on its website free of charge. ESI’s efforts depend on the contributions of governments, corporations and private individuals to fund its activities.

www.esiweb.org

**The FrauenLesbenFilm collective**

The video group, comprised of three women of two generations, was founded in Berlin in 1997 to document women’s lives and struggles. In 1997 they produced the video *Wir sind schon da*, in which the women from the “Sans Papiers” report on their resistance, their experiences and hopes. In 1999 came the film *Unsichtbare Hausarbeiterinnen*, a film on the situation of undocumented women doing domestic work in Germany. On the initiative of and in cooperation with *Mucolade* (women against deportation), the group realized the film project *otras vias—ander Wege*, a film about immigrants from Latin America, who have no legal papers and work in the sex industry. The FrauenLesbenFilm collective participates in political, social, anti-racist, feminist initiatives and campaigns.

otras.vias@berlin.de
IDEA
The IDEA cultural project began in 1999 in Cluj (Romania) with the IDEA arts + society magazine and the IDEA Publishing House. Beside reflecting local and international art events, the magazine had section “+”—a transfer area between the artistic and social and “verso,” a section devoted explicitly to socio-politic matters, trying to offer an interpretation that should inspire the reader to personal meditation on the social condition, which also includes contemporary art. IDEA Publishing House has an editorial program promoting the latest studies and debates on contemporary philosophy, culture, and contemporary art; fields that are almost unexplored on the Romanian book market (Walter Benjamin, Thierry de Duve, Boris Groys, Vilém Flusser, Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze, Peter Sloterdijk, Jacques Derrida).
www.idea.ro

K@2
Karosta (which means war harbor) was built 100 years ago by the Russian czar Alexander III as the Baltic region’s largest naval base. During the Soviet era, Karosta was a closed military base. “Culture and Information Centre K@2” in Karosta started out as an initiative by an artist/filmmaker group to create a cultural environment in this former naval base. The center currently manages a small network of cultural spaces spread around in the area. Karosta is creating a balance between spaces and structures, and cultural events, performances, workshops, exhibitions. The long-term goal for the initiators has been, for several years, to set up a campus/student city to host an international film and media school—an international cultural training camp.
www.karosta.lv

Locus
The project Locus Athens was founded in 2004 with the social aim of placing art within an urban context, yet results of the project tend to be highly political. Having no set space, Locus events are held in a variety of spaces (terraces, coffee shops, galleries) and comprise open talks with and exhibitions of young Greek artists, whose work is very politically and socially orientated. A special focus is on the medium of performance art. Each event is documented and accompanied by a publication.
www.locusathens.com

Platforma 9,81
Platforma 9,81—Organization for Research in Architecture was founded in 1999 as a not for profit organization. It is an architecture and media platform that explores spatial and urban phenomena in the context of shifting political, economic, and cultural identities of Croatia, new methods in design practice and new cross-disciplinary educational networks. It is run by a group of young architects in collaboration with the architectural scene and with architecture students and Zagreb’s non-institutional culture scene with the aim of reflecting spatial phenomena in transitional social contexts and enabling public dialogue and influence on these problems. Activities include educational projects Architecture Live (2000-02), Travel Living Room (2001-02), Swarm Intelligencies, research and media projects like
Invisible Zagreb (2003-05), and cultural policy projects such as Zagreb Cultural Kapital 3000 (with CDU, mi2, WHW, 2004-05).
www.platforma981.hr

rote ruhr-uni
The working group rote ruhr-uni emerged in 1995 from a student’s reading group at the Ruhr University of Bochum and has existed since then as an organization of freelance critics. The working group rote ruhr-uni organizes reading groups, seminars, and lecture series. For two weeks each winter semester, a forum of events for science and social critique takes place at the Ruhr University of Bochum. The thematic concentrations are, among others, work and social dominance, afterlife of national socialism in democracy, human rights criticism, the culture industry and ideology, critical theory and psychoanalysis, studies on authoritarian character, and transformation of democracy.
www.rote-ruhr-uni.com

Shahrzad
In 2000, the artist Shirana Shahbazi, the art theorist Tirdad Zolghadr, and the designer Manuel Krebs joined as the art collective Shahrzad. With a dose of self irony and critique, they comment on cultural and social phenomena. Commodity fetishism is among their themes as is the autonomy of artworks, exhibition practice, and conceptual art. Since their founding, the group has been represented in exhibitions in Germany and Switzerland and has published three booklets (most recently The Americas, 2004). The booklets combine graphic, literary, and artistic elements and refer to post colonial relations, ethnic marketing, and the art world.
shahrzad@norm.to

trafo.K
trafo K is a group of five women who, as a Vienna-based organization, have initiated and supervised non-institutional projects in the area of art and art mediation since 1999. The work areas comprise mediation projects, trainings, and workshops in museums and in exhibitions and the public space. The main focus is on the connection of strategies of contemporary art with socially relevant themes such as migration and contemporary history. The activities are meant to initiate communication processes and expose medial and institutional structures, and create a public exposure of “counter-histories” and “counter-images.” The most recently realized projects took place, e.g., in the context of the exhibition projects Gastarbajteri (2004), Festival der Regionen #6 (2003), Verbrechen der Wehrmacht. Dimensionen des Vernichtungskrieges 1941-1944 (2002), and Langweilige Geschichten über den Alltag (2002).

WHW—What, How & for Whom
WHW is a non-profit organization for visual culture and a curator’s collective that was formed in 1999 and is based in Zagreb, Croatia. WHW projects are conceived as a platform for discussing relevant social issues through art, theory, and media, as well as a model of collaboration between cultural organizations of different backgrounds. Besides exhibitions, WHW projects include lectures and public discussions, publications, radio broadcasts, and
interventions, screenings and live acts. Since 2003, WHW has been running the program of Gallery Nova—non-profit city owned gallery in the center of Zagreb. WHW published several books (Against Indifference by Renata Salecl, Hieroglyphs of the Future by Brian Holmes, Zagreb, 16/6/01 by Hans Ulrich Obrist) and regularly publishes Gallery Nova newspapers.

whw@mi2.hr