

On Difference #2: Grenzwertig 18 February - 30 April 2006

With contributions by

Nancy Adajania (IND)
AGITPROP (BG)
artesvisuais_políticas (BR)
Sándor Bartha (H)
Solomon Benjamin (IND)
Balázs Beóthy (H)
Big Hope (Miklós Erhardt, H /
Dominic Hislop, GB)
CAB - Curator's Association Budapest (H)
Capacete Entretenimentos (BR)
CyberMohalla Lab Practitioners (IND)
Petko Dourmana / Kyd Campbell (BG/CA)
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Javor Gardev (BG)
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Ruchir Joshi (MC, IND)
Sejla Kamerić (BIH)
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Kira KIM (MC, ROK)
Tae Jung KIM (MC, ROK)
Tamás Kaszás / Viktor Kotun (H)
Riyas KOMU (IND)
Prabhat Kumar / Ravikant (IND)
Yongbaek LEE (MC, ROK),
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MOON Hyungmin (MC, ROK)
Ivan Moudov (BG)
Vladimir Nikolic (SCG)
Sun Tag NOH (MC, ROK)
Satyajit Pande (IND)
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Milica Tomic (SCG)
Evgeni Vasilev (BG)
X-TENDO (BG)
Yangachi (MC, ROK)
Zona Franca (BR)

Concept

Iris Dressler / Hans D. Christ

In Cooperation with

Judit Angel [Kunsthalle Budapest]
Galia Dimitrova [InterSpace, Sofia]
Alenka Gregoric [Skuc Gallery, Ljubljana]
Ricardo Basbaum [Rio de Janeiro]
Nathalie Boseul SHIN [MIDDLE COREA project, Seoul]
Raqs Media Collective [Sarai, New Delhi]

Introduction

“On Difference” is the title of a series of projects initiated by Württembergischer Kunstverein and developed in close co-operation with numerous international curators and artists. In two exhibitions, the project sets out in search of the **local contexts, critical practices and networked spaces of action of contemporary art** – specifically in “non-Western” cultures.

“On Difference” focuses on the importance of **independent formats of communication and presentation of contemporary art** – internet fora, magazines, archives, self-managed exhibition rooms, etc. – whose actors engage in a critical analysis of social, political, economical and urban developments. The concept of **difference** is seen **as a problem – and as a challenge – of “translation”**: for example between art, activism and institutions, but also between various local fields of reference and “realities”.

All in all the **On Difference #1 and #2** will involve more than hundred curators, artists, critics, film-makers, urbanists, architects and activists from Egypt, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Iran, India, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, South Korea, Hungary and the USA, among others.

On Difference #2: Grenzwertig

“On Difference #2: Grenzwertig” has been developed in close cooperation with **Ricardo Basbaum, Judit Angel, Galia Dimitrova, Alenka Gregoric, Nathalie Boseul SHIN** and **Raqs Media Collective** – each of them creating independently their own section of the exhibition. The **transformation processes** in the so-called “**post-communist**” **societies** will be just as much a topic of the analysis as the links between **artistic and activist practices** in Brazil or Hungary. The focus is on **urban developments** – and their perception – in Indian metropolises or the **border politics** between North and South Korea. In addition to artistic works, ranging from painting to interactive projects based on the internet and mobile telephones, the exhibition will also comprise contributions from activists, writers, critics, filmmakers, architects and urban planners.

An **extensive programme of talks and screenings** will complement the exhibition.

Main sponsors of „On Difference #2“ are **Kulturstiftung des Bundes** and the **European Union**, Culture 2000.

Curatorial contributions

Judit Angel (Budapest), It's Up To Us!

By taking civilian activism as its theme, Judit Angel's curatorial contribution wishes to stress the importance of this phenomenon in Hungary. It presents Hungarian artists and collaborative groups which have developed lasting contacts with the activist movement, reflect on issues of civic participation and aim at initiating changes in the institutional structure of contemporary art in Hungary. This growth in participatory demands signals rather a qualitative than a quantitative turn in local art and society and it may be ascribed both to the so-called "mental transition" that follows the economic, legal and political transformations of the post '89 Central East European countries and to the expansion of globalisation and neo-liberal economy which give rise to various forms of resistance.

WITH: SÁNDOR BARTHA, BALÁZS BEÖTHY, BIG HOPE, CAB – CURATOR'S ASSOCIATION BUDAPEST, TAMÁS KASZÁS/VIKTOR KOTUN, MANAMANA

Ricardo Basbaum (Rio de Janeiro), 4br

Ricardo Basbaum's curatorial contribution, consisting of four spheres, revolves around actions by artists and intellectuals operating in the context of politicizing the art system in present-day Brazil. Examples include local initiatives that oppose the "global players" of the art industry – for example the Guggenheim Foundation – as well as various informal spaces of action of a critical art practice. What initially appears to be an examination of a local problem in the various projects is reflected on in a wider context. The main aim is to scrutinise the changed role of artists and intellectuals in view of a realignment of the relations between art, culture, society and capital. At the same time, the project sets out to put the local shifts it engenders back into the local scenes – i.e. to generate concrete feedback.

WITH: ARTESVISUAIS_POLÍTICAS, CAPACETE ENTRETENIMENTOS, EXO EXPERIMENTAL ORG, ZONA FRANCA

Galia Dimitrova (Sofia), Satellite 003

In her contribution, Galia Dimitrova explores the ways in which artists respond to the socio-political processes of a country in transition. In this context, she selected works focusing on the shifts that are emerging as a consequence of increasing neoliberalism in post-socialist metropolises: city-dwellers are increasingly becoming the focus of attention in their role as consumers. The city space is being re-interpreted as an advertising space – but also as a

place of surveillance and regulation and a reservoir of collective memories of a suppressed era of history. The videos, installations and interactive works present the intricate situation of an eclectic and chaotic urban life – as well as the arbitrary situation of the citizens.

WITH: AGITPROP, PETKO DOURMANA/KYD CAMPBELL, JAVOR GARDEV, IVAN MOUDOV, EVGENI VASILEV, X-TENDO

Alenka Gregoric (Ljubljana), Redefinition

In the section curated by her, Alenka Gregoric gathers together artistic positions that focus on the very specific historical and political reality of a region. With the aid of videos, installations, graphical works and objects by artists from ex-Yugoslavia, her contribution discusses the complex relations between contemporary art and a radical political and social upheaval after 1989. The project analyses the language of politics and art of the socialist past as well as the question of the relationship between mass media and neoliberalism that is becoming consolidated. Finally, the exhibition also touches on the question as to the position of Eastern European artists on an art market dominated by the West.

WITH: IRWIN, SEJLA KAMERIC, VLADIMIR NIKOLIC, MARJETICA POTRC, TOBIAS PUTRIH, MLADEN STILINOVIC, MILICA TOMIC

Raqs Media Collective (New Delhi), Building Sight

The Raqs Media Collective focuses on the question of how and why urban spaces can be perceived in different ways. 'Building Sight' is a sketch of how a different way of looking at, thinking about, or getting a feel for urban spaces has to be constructed, brick by brick. The collective presents projects by documentary film-makers, researchers, urbanists, architects, curators and media practitioners. „Building Sight“ takes a heterogeneous view of urbanism, focusing on actions and reflections that confront mega infrastructure projects, examine forms of temporary architecture, excavate images of construction, examine processes of the intersection of digital imaging technology with votive or commemorative processes, and offer uniquely subjective, condensed interpretations through images and text of the immeasurable density of metropolises in South Asia.

WITH: NANCY ADAJANIA, SOLOMON BENJAMIN, CYBERMOHALLA LAB PRACTITIONERS, RUCHIR JOSHI, SANJAY KAK, PRABHAT KUMAR/RAVIKANT, SATYAJIT PANDE, SARAI.TXT

Nathalie Boseul SHIN (Seoul), MIDDLE COREA episode 1

Nathalie Boseul SHIN developed her contribution to the exhibition in co-operation with the MIDDLE COREA project, a newly founded group of visual artists and curators. Starting from the reality of a divided Korea, the project focuses on the fiction of an alternative, ideal state space. The demilitarised zone (DMZ), two kilometres wide on each of the two divided Korean state territories, serves as a model: as an unpopulated, supposedly ideology-free and ecologically intact space, the DMZ appears to be a tabula rasa and ideal projection point for such a new draft. In the form of videos, digital photographs and online works there evolve artistic visions of MIDDLE COREA, that transform this border region effaced from official consciousness into a utopian living space.

WITH: JOON HO JEON, KIRA KIM, TAE JUNG KIM, RIYAS KOMU, YONGBAEK LEE, LIGYUNG, MOON HYUNGMIN, SUN TAG NOH, JAE OON RHO, YANGACHI

Dates

On Difference #2: Grenzwertig

18 February - 30 April 2006

Press conference: Friday, 17 February, 11 a.m.

Opening: Friday, 17 February, 7 p.m.

TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION WITH THE ARTISTS AND CURATORS

Saturday, 18 February, 1 p.m.

TALKS AND FILMS (in English)

Saturday, 18 February from 4 p.m.

Talks

Nancy Adajania, Curator, critic and film-maker, Bombay

Else-who and Else-where: Moments of Agency in India's New Mediatic Reality

Petko Dourmana, Director of the media art centre InterSpace, Sofia

About activities in the areas of free and open software

Alenka Gregoric, Co-curator On Difference #2, Ljubljana

Redefinition - the need to (re)define art in a non existing state

Nathalie Boseul SHIN, Co-curator On Difference #2, Seoul

What is MIDDLE COREA?

Ricardo Basbaum, Co-curator On Difference #2, Rio de Janeiro

Local actions, global problems: the 4br cases

Videos

Zona Franca

Revolta do Zona Franca / Zona Franca Strikes Back, 20 Min.

artesvisuais_políticas

Vade Retro: the Guggenheim-Rio affair, 8 Min.

SYMPOSIUM

7 - 9 April 2006

Further information will follow soon.

Credits

Concept

Iris Dressler / Hans D. Christ

In Cooperation with

Judit Angel, Galia Dimitrova, Alenka Gegoric, Ricardo Basbaum, Nathalie Boseul SHIN,
Raqs Media Collective

Research assistant + Organisation

Katrin Mundt

Graphic design

L2M3

Partners

Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart
InterSpace MAC, Sofia
MIDDLE COREA project, Seoul
Sarai, Neu Delhi
Skuc Gallery, Ljubljana
Trafo, Budapest

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