

Utopiana invites you to two film events in the frame of the EU project "SPACES":

Film screening and directors talk:

Stefan Rusu

RECLAIMING THE CITY

Through a complex interweaving of field trips and interviews, archival footage, personal narratives and interventions in public spaces, the film reveals a number of sites of the New Berlin that uniquely exemplify the contradictions and tensions of social memory and national identity in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. It is conceived as an investigative documentary, and is a quest through dramatic socio-economic restructuring processes, the physical transformation of the city following the fall of the Wall, and the impact of gentrification processes on public space.

The film is based on city walks with Svetlana Hagen, Erik Göngrich, Jochen Becker, Mathias Heyden, Berndt Langer, who guide the viewer through Kreuzberg, Neukölln, and Prenzlauer Berg districts, among others - areas that are trapped in a continuing cycle of gentrification. Along these trips we re-visit Tempelhof Airport, haunted by the ghosts of the Cold War; and we climb to the top of Reichstag - rebranded from a symbol of defeat into a temple of democracy.

The journey continues as we visit a number of former and still existing squats, in order to compare them with more recent initiatives and models of urban resistance. Following this path, the film spotlights agents of change - cultural workers and activists - and explores the political dimension of public space.

The film is commissioned by the 7th Berlin Biennale, and co-produced by KSAK Center for Contemporary Art, Chisinau. With kind support from Goethe Institute, Bucharest; ERSTE Foundation, Vienna; and Romanian Cultural Institute, Berlin.

Stefan Rusu is a visual artist, curator, editor, and filmmaker based in Chisinau and Bucharest. His artistic/curatorial agenda is geared towards the processes of transformation and changes in post-socialist societies after 1989.

More info: <http://www.berlinbiennale.de/blog/en/events/reclaiming-the-city-a-film-by-stefan-rusu>

Stefan Rusu takes part in the social study meeting "Ensuring the Public Space for Citizens: Innovation and Inclusion", taking place in Armenia from Dec.10 - Dec. 13 2012 in the frame of the EU project SPACES, funded by the "Eastern Partnership Culture Programme" and supported by OSF.

SPACES is a three year project for artistic and cultural action in public space, taking place in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

www.spacesproject.net

10.12.2012, at 18:30
at ICA

(Institute of Contemporary Art)
Shara Talyan 8, Aygestan



Film screening
Hayk Bianjyan

DISAPPEARING MEMORIES

Directors Statement:

It is the seventh year that I'm busy with Photo Documentary Projects which are about the problems of inhabitants at old districts of Yerevan which are being wrecked down. Since 2001 by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, constructional projects started at the very centre of Yerevan. As a result of which, old districts were being wrecked, where some of the houses were considered to be historical monuments of architecture. According to the law they were to be dismantled and moved to other places for reassembling them. Unfortunately many of them were just pulled down by the help of heavy machinery and as a result reassembling was impossible.

Yerevan is considered to be one of the oldest cities of the world (2794 years old). Actually, few historical monuments are preserved. These old districts having history of 150 years were the last witnesses of old Yerevan and by destroying them we have not many evidences proving its old past.

The second problem which I started to study was investigating the violation of property rights of the inhabitants of those districts. They started protesting against the authorities. In many cases they were not recognized as property owners and for that reason they were not compensated and many others who were recognized as property owners received very low compensations. Not a single case among hundreds of judicial acts was decided in favour of an inhabitant's claim. There were cases where the inhabitants were excluded by force from their paternal houses which were pulled down before their eyes. For most of them this was a heavy blow and even there was registered a case of death. The reconstruction process of the central part of Yerevan created many problems and it is continued up to now and several districts are also waiting for their turn. While photographing for my project I have organized different NGO-s, open air photo exhibitions and protest actions, It was held for the purpose of inviting society's attention to the problem.

At the moment I'm still taking many photos for my projects. Now many archival photos are accumulated and I'm trying to edit and archive them in order to create photo-films. Now I have created one multimedia film Disappearing Memories For the future I want to use many photos of family archives which I have found at the abandoned houses. They are from the years starting 1930-s. I'm so interested in photo-courses organized by you and I'm especially interested in the course of studies for creating photo histories. Today I have already archived stories about 40 houses approximately of which some of them are being continued to be photographed, and some of them I have finished and I'm trying to edit them and make photo stories.

I'm so eager to finish them by the help of your experienced specialists. I'm also eager to get acquainted with the world-wide experience for the ways of making useful the efforts of photographers for defending human rights. I also want to know how such projects can be accessible to the communities and to be helpful for them.

The events are part of the EU project SPACES, funded by the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme.

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www.spacesproject.net

12.12.2012, at 18:30
at AJZ Space
Sayat Nova Ave. between
9 & 11

