



Exposé – Press # 1

Balaklava–Odyssey. Media Art and Performance Festival. Balaklava (Crimea, Ukraine), 04.–06. August 2006

Leadership: Sebastian Kaiser (Berlin) und Roman Markholia (Moscow, Sewastopol)

1. Concept

In August 2006 for the first time the Media Art and Performance Festival **Balaklava–Odyssey** takes in the over 2500 years old cultural city Balaklava (Crimea, Ukraine) place. Artists from 8 countries – Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Poland, Moldova, Switzerland, Austria and Germany – are invited to the pilot project. They will stage art works in the areas of video, animation, multi–media, performance, experimental music and dance that deal with the multitude of historical references in Balaklava .

Balaklava–Odyssey includes an academic part that will illuminate the references between the projects and the abundant history in Balaklava and its links to West– and East Europe.

Being over 2500 years old Balaklava is one of the most ancient cities in the Ukraine and very popular for tourists now. For 40 years it had been closed for ordinary citizens and was only used by the Soviet army. **Balaklava–Odyssey** is a pilot project with the aim to reclaim the city for civilian and cultural purposes by means of an international art and science programme. The festival will take place in the former submarine hangar in the Taurus Mountain which is open to public as a museum now.

2. Financing

The project is mainly financed by the Netherlands based European Cultural Foundation (ECF www.eurocult.org), the German Federal Cultural Foundation (www.kulturstiftung-bund.de), the German Institute for Foreign Relations (IFA www.ifa.de), the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs Austria and the Austrian Kulturforum in Kiev, the Polish Institute and the Hungarian Embassy in Kiev. The mentioned institutions cover travel and accommodation fees of all participants and offer as well a certain budget to rent sound and light equipment. The German Cultural Federal Foundation supports the production of short films in the frame of the project and the presentation of the event in three cities in Germany in April 2007. The entire event is a non profit and non commercial one.

3. Organizer and partners

The main responsible body of the project is the non-profit cultural association Laistrygon e.V. (Berlin, Germany). The project is organized by Sebastian Kaiser (Berlin) and Roman Markholia (Moscow, Sevastopol). Roman Markholia is a festival producer who organized already big art and theatre festival in Sevastopol (for instance: "Chesones Games). To ensure sustainable effects with **Balaklava Odyssey** concerning the Media Art scene in the Ukraine and the exchange with the neighbour countries, seven more organisations specialized on contemporary art are involved in the project. Each institution provides for the festival in Ukraine a curator, who chooses and coordinates the artists from each country.

Ukraine. Centre for Contemporary Art and Media Art Lab. Kiev. Curator: Natalia Manzhali and Ljudmilla Montsiuk www.cca.kiev.ua

Russia. Natalia Paloka

Romania. Asociatia Vector. Iasi. Curator. Matei Bejenaru www.periferic.org

Moldova. AlteArte. Contact: Pavel Braila and Lilia Dragneva www.altearte.md

Germany. TransMediaAkademie. Dresden. Contact. Thomas Dumke <http://www.t-m-a.de/>

Poland. Wro-Center. Wroclaw. Curators. Piotr Krajewski and Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka www.wro-center.pl

Polish Institute in Kiev. Contact. Jerzy Onuch. <http://www.polinst.kiev.ua>

4. Participating Artists (Selection)

Ukraine: Olga Kashembekova, Glib Katshuk, Kotra, REP

Russia: Olga Kumeger, Natalia Paloka und Nikita Tsymbal, Roman Markholia, Nikita Vinogradov, Nikolei Morosov

Romania: Matei Bejenaru, Alexander Grigorias und Levania German

Germany: Joulia Strauss, Sebastian Kaiser und Hendrik Schumacher, DS-x.org und Nora Schott

Moldova: Stefan Rusu

Poland: Aleksander Janicki, Peter Style

Austria: Klaus Pobitzer, Claudia Plank und Hans Werner Poschauko

Switzerland: Simona Sbaffi

5. Participating Scientists

Prof. Friedrich Kittler, (Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany)

Prof. Sven Spieker (University of Santa Barbara, California, USA)

Dr. Veronika Darian (University Leipzig, Germany)

Vladimir Shavshin (Historian, Sevastopol, Ukraine)

Victor Mazin (Freud's Dream Museum, Russia)

Olesja Turkina (Russian State Museum in St. Petersburg)

Piotr Krajewski (Wro-Center for Media Art Wroclaw, Poland)

Matei Bejenaru (Periferic Festival, Iasi, Romania)

4. Audience

The event is geared towards a diverse audience: its main part will consist of inhabitants and the numerous tourists from Sevastopol and its vicinity. Apart from that we especially want to address the students from the universities in Sevastopol and professionals from the field of arts in and around Sevastopol. That means cultural operators involved with theatres, galleries and the theatre in Sevastopol. On a wider scale we finally want to address all arts professionals living or working on Crimea. On the one hand those are people working in cultural institutions in Jalta, Odessa, Simferopol. On the other hand there are a lot of Ukrainian and Russian artists living and working on Crimea. In addition we will invite cultural producers from the Ukraine and Russia, so that they can use the project for their own contacts and own organizational work. Furthermore the festival will be visited by representatives from different embassies in Ukraine. His visit affirmed or instance Jean-Pierre Froehly – the director of the cultural section in the German embassy Kiev.

5. Press and sustainable effects

All TV-channels in Ukraine affirmed already to cover the project. In addition the channels *INTER* and *STB* plan to shoot and to broadcast a report about the preparation of the festival. To announce the project to professionals on the press field we use the address file of the *Centre for Contemporary Art* (CCA) in Kiev. In cause of the unusual location and the international set up of partners, artists and theoreticians we expect a very high press resonance. Supported by the German Cultural Federal Foundation five short films will be produced in the frame of the festival that will help to present the festival on following up events in each participating country and in three cities in Germany.

A project of Laistrygon e.V. Director Hendrik Schumacher

www.balalaklava-odyssey.com

A project of: Laistrygon e.V. // Funded by: European Cultural Foundation // German Federal Cultural Foundation // German Institute for Foreign Relations // Austrian Cultural Forum in Kiev // Polish Institute // Wro Center

LAISTRYGON E.V.

 european cultural foundation

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beziehungen e.V.

 австрійський культурний форум







 wro center for media art