



BALAKLAVA ODYSSEY
MEDIA ART AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

Conference Programme

Festival. 4th – 6th August 2006. Submarine Hangar. Balaklava. Crimea/Ukraine

The media art and performance festival **Balaklava-Odyssey** is taking place for the first time in August 2006. Balaklava, the site of the event, is situated in Crimea (Ukraine) and has been a European cultural site for over 2500 years. Artists and scientists from nine countries – Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Moldova, Poland, Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain are invited to this pilot project. They will stage around 20 Media and Performance art works. These art works will deal with the multitude of historical references in Balaklava.

Being over 2500 years old, Balaklava is one of the most ancient cities in the Ukraine. For 40 years it was used by the Soviet army and was inaccessible to ordinary citizens. **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 art presentation will take place in the former submarine hangar in the Taurus Mountain that is open to the public as a museum now.

Conference. 7th August 2006. Cultural-Center (ex-Officers' mess). Balaklava Crimea/Ukraine
Balaklava-Odyssey includes an academic part that is meant to illuminate the references between the art projects staged at the festival and the abundant history of Balaklava as well as the links to West and East Europe. The conference with the title "Humanistic Projections and Technique Inventions – Art and Science in Crimea" will be divided into two conceptual parts. In the first part the historical and cultural traces in Balaklava (in literature, architecture, war technology, history, politics etc.) will be discussed with the objective of a better understanding of the ancient location. The second part will be related to the actual art works at the festival and the art scenes in the participating countries. The theoreticians will discuss the latest developments, problems and prospects on the field of Media Art in the Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Poland and Germany. The second part may also include comments on the immediate Art works in Balaklava.

Time table of the conference.

Panel 1. The Taurus Story

Being over 2500 years old, Balaklava is one of the most ancient cities in the Ukraine. In that Black Sea bay milestones of the occidental culture and their military dark sides are culminating. Homer – so say the philologist from the former Soviet Union – already told us about Ulysses stopping in Balaklava. Apart from that the bay staged the Taurus Myth that was used in theatre plays by Euripides and Goethe. In the 19th century Balaklava was the site of many decisive battles during the Crimean War and the place of the English Headquarter. 1953 under the command of Chrushtshov the submarine tunnel with a size of 200.000 square meters was built in the Taurus Mountain and subsequently the city was closed for civilians. It is the aim of that conference part to enlighten the role of Balaklava in the discourse of the cultural studies.

Consultant: Victor Mazin (Freud's Dream Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia)

09.45

Sebastian Kaiser (Germany) and Roman Markholia (Russia, Ukraine).
Introduction and Opening

10.00

Vladimir Shavshin (Historian, Ukraine).
From the Roman temple to the Second World War – the historical multitude of occupations in Crimea and Balaklava

10.30

Juri Nitshik (Konter-Admiral of the Black Sea Fleet, Ukraine)
Object "825" – the history of the submarine hangar in the Taurus Mountain

11.00

Discussion

11.30

Coffee Break

12.00

Friedrich Kittler (Media theory, Germany).
The Greeks – a link between the occidental culture and the Black Sea Area

12.30

Discussion

12.45

Lunch

Panel 2 – Arts and New Media in Ukraine

In Ukraine exists a small but vital media and performance scene. Young artists dealing unreserved with new technologies and bring up a symbiotic connection between the classical video together with digital images and sound architectures. Some of these artists showed their works on festivals in Ukraine – namely in 2000 (second event in 2001) took part in Kiev the International Media Art Festival (KIMAF) where the first time the Ukraine New Media scene was presented to a wilder audience. Since some years also in Kiev the musician Dmytro Fedorenko (alias Kotra) organizes a festival for electronic music.

Those successful examples can not hide the shady sides of the Ukraine media scene. On the one hand the most art works are characterized by low budget und low tech; there is still a lack of media education in art academies and media studies are still not available. That panel wants to enforce the exchange of experiences of artists and festival organizers from Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Romania and Germany. Curators from Poland, Romania and Russia will present the festivals they organize in their home countries and will present the subjects, which are for the artists important for.

14.30

Piotr Krajevski (Curator and author; Director of the WRO-Center in Wroclaw, Poland
www.wrocenter.pl)
Media Art in Poland.

15.15

Olesya Turkina (Curator and author, State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. Russia).
Contemporary Russian artists – two examples.

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30

Samo Darian (Project Manager. Relations e.V. – an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation) Germany, Berlin www.projek-realations.de

17.00

Veronika Darian (Theatre Studies, Leipzig, Germany)
Crossing the Maps! – Histories between Arts and Sciences

17.30

Discussion

18.00

Sven Spieker (University of Santa Barbara in California, USA)
Wild and beautiful. Exhibition concepts and perception of contemporary art from East-Europe
in the USA

Project Directors. Sebastian Kaiser, Roman Markholia

A project of Laistrygon e.V. Vorstand 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 Cultural Institute // Wro Center

LAISTRYGON E.U.



european cultural foundation

KULTURSTIFTUNG
DES
BUNDES

i f a

Institut für Auslands-
beziehungen e.V.

астрійський культурний форум



WRO center for media art