2005 | Ο Ξενόφερτος μέσα και έξω από τα Πλαίσιά του - Εμφάνιση και Παρουσία σε Πραγματικούς και Εικονικούς Χώρους [Α] [ΤΠΕ] [ΕΠ] [ΔΧ] [ΕΔ] [Φ] [ΕΧ] [Σμχ] [Κ] [Παρ] - 2005 | The Outsider In and Out of Context – Appearance and Presence in Actual and Virtual Places [Ι] [SS] [ΕΙ] [PS] [PA] [Ph] [IS] [PP] [Τ] [Pre]





Στιγμιότυπα από τις δράσεις ρόλων στους χώρους δουλειάς | Snapshots of the action-performances in the workplaces' roles



Το βασικό ερώτημα του έργου: Σε ποιόν ανήκει αυτή η πόλη [Wessen Stadt Ist Das?] | The main question of the project: Who owns this town [Wessen Stadt Ist Das?]



Οι αφίσες του project στους δημόσιους χώρους στις κολώνες της Βαϊμάρης | The posters of the project in the public spaces in the columns of Weimar

THE OUTSIDER IN AND OUT OF CONTEXT APPEARANCE AND PRESENCE IN ACTUAL AND VIRTUAL SPACES

Anna Tsouloufi-Lagiou Master's Thesis



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Introduction

The theoretical position of this thesis considers mainly my interested in the results of short periods of residence in foreign countries and cultures. Questioning artistic identity, I will focus on some characteristics which influence some artistic prototypes, and hence of the contemporary art-making. I want to emphasize on the contradictions of different experiences, which influence the life of the contemporary artist/researcher/traveler, created through such circumstances. Therefore, I will indicate a way of how an "outsider" tries to create common ground, or, interact with public space, which becomes his environment. I will give further references to the contemporary language of image representation, which creates a universal, nomadic code of understanding. I will juxtapose and compare the virtual space and the physical place, threading them together, within the context of contemporary, spatial, and international politics.

I will present here my topic taking the position of a specific kind of *outsider* within a social structure and community. I will approach the topic from this point of view, as experienced also through personal anxieties, both existential and materialistic. Being on the move since some years, changing environments constantly, I want to present some thoughts I developed throughout this time. I also see this as a sequel to my previous thesis, "The transformation of the artistic identity in its environmental diversities", a critical reflection on Miwon Kwon's "One Place after Another, Site-Specific Art and locational identity". In this critical position I presented the "RADAR Project-Connecting Europe" as a paradigm.

I will point out some of the areas of interest for my exploration: 1. The passage to post-modernity, 2. Individuality, and subjectivity, 3. Language, image, code and symbolism, as expressed in advertising, 4. Networking, and communication, 5. Art and politics.

In my opinion, not only these topics are directly connected to each another, but also they blend and mingle together. I will focus and give references to specific points representing the subjects of employment, travelling, and education.

I set myself in a place in which all of these things are happening. Positioning myself on a district, I understand I am becoming a member of a global city (Athens, Chicago, Berlin, Venice, Weimar). How is this global city represented and to whom? According to Saskia Sassen "The global city is a border zone where old spatialities and temporalities of the national and the new ones of the global digital age get engaged". ²

¹ For analytical information about the "RADAR Project-Connecting Europe" go to: www.radarlab.net

⁴ The Global City: The De-nationalizing of Time and Space, p. 27, Saskia Sassen, Internationalism and Other, Modernixt Myths, Thesis, Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift der Bauhaus-Universitaet Weimar, (2000) Heft 4/5.

Which roles do institutions, academies, businesses & corporations, and finally, networks & communication systems play in it? To whom, does this *global city* belong? What is the emotional contact created between members of international cultures?

Second, I question what is tourism but an industry for creating cultural economic capital? Does tourism stand as a cultural value? Is tourism an educational practice? What is the role of the international artist in connection to all of these points? Most importantly, how does visual representation function as artistic means of communication and interaction in public space? Is it all influenced by the new global economy, or, does it all happen for the sake of humanity? Where does the notion of democracy stand in between all these factors? Though I am not able to answer to these questions representing universal problems, I will at least try to present some of their important aspects.

Seeing the theme from all of these various perspectives, my first aim was to approach the specifics of a local, social and cultural structure, broadening my artistic point of view. I started on thinking about the multiplicity of my subject. I wondered how I should point out some of the perplexities of human behavior, focusing on the exception of a person who functions as a catalyst within a social structure, and finally pointing on the idea of how to formulate public space. The issue is of how I connect art with politics & space? How should I plan a good strategy to realize this action?

I built up a strategy of complexes for a micro-macro perspective, to grasp the totality of my surrounding. Practically I reduced this strategy to a tactic of practice in everyday life, within the form of an art project.



As globalism redefines our understanding of place, it simultaneously affects the pedagogical role of the institution for the public artist. Can the idealistic notions of an academic public art program absorb expanding contexts from beyond the ivory tower? Art programs worldwide share the goal of teaching students to be socially responsible, yet the art school is also the setting for students' socialization and the distillation of their personal interests. How does European education begin to frame the variety of ways and means available for the student of public art? The goal of most M.F.A. programs in the United States is not focused on the audience for art nor does it question how the work intersects culture and society. This creates a disconnect between the students' vision of artwork as a cultural practice versus a studio practice.

As nationalities and countries continually reinvent cultural identity, artists are more than ever becoming citizens of the world and students of a grand conglomerate culture. The often talked about, and often missing, "sense of place" is one of the artist's challenges in creating meaningful work in the public realm. Yet to begin the move from modernist plaza plops toward intuitive site responses, the artist needs constant encouragement to expand the horizons of the academic institution. Several academic art centers in North America offer inventive strategies for artists interested in art in public space, yet they often emulate European models of higher education. Educator and executive director of Chicago-based architreasures, Joyce Fernandes asserts that "there is a disconnect between the reality of public art in community settings and the idealistic notions of cultural production reproduced within many M.F.A. programs in the United States."

Several public art academic programs are offered in Europe: Pompeu Farba—Barcelona, Spain; Oxford-Brookes— Oxford, England; Bauhaus School—Weimar, Germany; Piet Zwart Institute—Holland. All have particular philosophies of interacting with public space; however, the Bauhaus School has an especially interesting method for helping students understand the practice of public art by understanding their role as always evolving and multidisciplinary.

Since 1919 the Bauhaus School has addressed the politics of social space by combining avant-garde notions of design and art. The institution currently offers an M.F.A. program, led by Professor Liz Bachhuber and Assistant Professor Susanne Bosch, entitled Public Art and New Artistic Strategies. This international program, taught in English and German, educates





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At 1971. Plants contract the artist. At other plants by Manual Analthic court has were printed



the artist as an evolving cultural producer. Current students represent sixteen nationalities and languages, and offer a truly global perspective on art in public space. Grook citizen Anna Lagiou-Tsouloufi, a 2005 graduate of the program, explains. Public art doesn't only expose work in a typical public setting but begins to create a dialogue and questions a concept that is exposed to the public in a new way, by reinventing public space."

The Bauhaus program includes four major fields of specialization: (a) temperary interventions in public space; (b) new media: (c) integrated art within architecture; and (d) memory, the function of memorials, and the role of the historical. The program explores artist interactions, planning and creating political debates, and the interplay between multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary art practices. It also examines the process of bringing art to an audience in unconventional ways and inspiring communities to adopt an artist's vision. Artists are not only encouraged to explore public space but also to redecipher current trends in the art world, enabling them to invent new approaches to public art.

2004 Bauhaus graduate Peer Olivier Nau focused on bridging design and public space; this has led him to create unconventional performative works outside the gallery. He says, "Design and art in public space creates exchanges with people and their experiences; the viewer is confronted with your concept in unexpected ways. In design the aim is to find a perfect form for a specific problem. In combining both genres you grapple with the daily lives of people and the hope for a connection that can begin to transcend."

The emerging Bauhaus philosophy of new artistic strategies is an evolving support mechanism for artists who incurporate philosophical, multidisciplinary, and experimental art practices into a public space. Lagiou-Tsoulouff's thesis project was an investigative performance that involved volunteering skills and services to public and private agencies over a twoday period. She says, "The places I chose to work were places where an intense interaction between the local society and CPPUISTE PAGE FAR LEFT: Pier Dierr Nau, sotalistion at Ernat-Albie Plats, Jena, Germony, Located at the betwicel garden at the University of Jena to celebrate the 200th birthday of German author Friedrich Schiller.

OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT (fine of Arms Lagues-Isosánuli's protect for Mesore Zoot or dut?

(Moses City in Tolo?), 2005, on the Lectoflobials of Goethepiste, Wesman, Gormany.

TOP and BOTTON: Arms Lagues-Isosánuli, Am Marketiste; working at a Meditamaneum delicateum. Face Bathetist: working in the information Seoth at the main train station of Weiman.

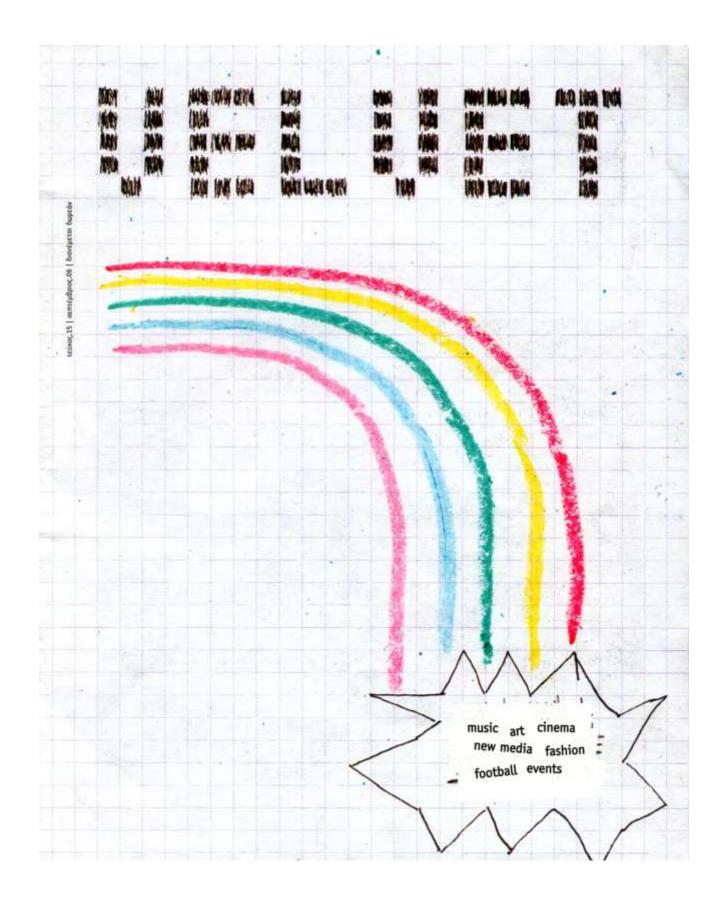
Protect consist of percentage decumentation of the artists actions in also.

the foreign immigrant element takes place on a daily basis."
The outcome of the inquiry was formed into a theoretical text
and public posters with the logo "Whose city is this?" (Wessen Stadt ist das?), as well as a website that was publicized
through a handbill campaign. By targeting specific locales,
Lagiou-Tsouloufi was able to converse, educate, and learn
through first-hand dialogue, as well as formulate a personal
vision in a variety of public spaces outside the conventional
public art arena.

As Lucy Lippard writes in Moving Turgets/Moving Out,
"The great and still clusive questions surrounding public art
are: Which public? And is there an exchange between art and
audience?" These questions lead to an expanding vision of
public art whose pedagogy in the academic realm shapes artists
and fosters meaningful work in this arena. Presenting and
inventing new strategies of work is crucial as the artist's role
evolves and changes conceptions of art in the public domain.
How can American academia include such explorations of
space and public interests? Is a successful artist one who
honors concepts and connections to others in public space
or one steeped in idealism and convention? The evolution of
art in public space is one ripe for invention, as artists take a
leading role with meaningful and socially conscious work.

STUART KEELER is an artist dedicated to exploring the context of art in public spaces.







Δημοσίευση με αναφορά στην ιστοσελίδα του έργου στο ελληνικό περιοδικό τέχνης Velvet #15 Σεπτ. 2006 | Publication with reference to the project's website in the Greek art magazine Velvet #15 Sept. 2006