

Conference on 16th until 17th November 2010 in Ruse/ Bulgaria

On both sides of the Danube Political engagement of contemporary artists

The Danube separates, the Danube connects.

Artists from countries on both sides of the Danube how art and political engagement can be combined, what political art means and which challenges the artists with their double-tracked activity – as political and artistic actors – face.

From 16th until 17th November the performing artists and authors will debate about problems and motivations to become a political artist in their respective countries in readings and panel discussions.

Does there exist a platform for political art? What makes an artist to be defined as a political artist? Which pressure and repression the political art in the different countries has to resist?

Under which conditions political art arises? These will be leading questions of the conference. Whether the Danube separates, distinguishes or connects the work of political active artists stays a leitmotiv behind.

Supported by the Austrian Embassy Sofia, Goethe Institute Bulgaria and "Sava Ognianov" Theater Ruse.

Conference

On both sides of the Danube

Political Engagement of contemporary artists in the Danube region

16th November 2010, Tuesday

- morning Individual arrival
4 p.m. Opening
speech of Prof. Dr. Penka Angelova
4:30 p.m. Round table
participants:
1. Wolfgang Kutschera, Austrian Embassy Sofia
2. Elena Velikova, director of the Municipal Art Gallery of Ruse
3. Rashko Mladenov, director of the Municipal Theater of Ruse
4. Iva Chavdarova, head of the cultural department in Ruse
5. Strahil Karapchanski, University of Ruse / BRIE
6. Atanas Totlijakov, artist from Veliko Tarnovo
7. Teodora Dimova, writer from Sofia
8. Didi Macher, actress & comedian in Vienna
9. Prof. Dr. Ulf Birbaumer, professor at the institute for dramatics in Vienna
10. Prof. Dr. Penka Angelova, inter alia director of the IECS
6:30 p.m. Break
7 p.m. Movie screening
„Marele jaf comunist – The great communist bank robbery“(A. Solomon)
8:30 p.m. Dinner for all participants (City Bar)

17. November 2010, Wednesday

- 9 a.m. Discussion & workshop (Austrian Library)
„National Strategy for the Bulgarian culture industry“, team led by Assoc.
Prof. Dr. Ivan Tchalakov
12 a.m. Final discussion (Austrian Library)
1 p.m. Joint lunch with all participants (Del Cano)
3:30 p.m. Visit of the Canetti House and the exhibited art installations of
Atanas Totlijakov (Slavjanska Street no 12)
5 p.m. „Attack on Freedom“ (Illija Trojanow & Juli Zeh)
Presentation of the Bulgarian translation
Reading with Didi Macher (Regional Library „Lyuben Karavelov“)
7 p.m. Joint visit of the theater
„Three Sisters“(from Anton Tschechow)

All events of the conference are open to the public. The conference's languages are German and Bulgarian. The venue (if not announced differently) is the Municipal theater of Ruse, pl. Svoboda 4, 7000 Ruse.