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Press release

Exposition Fleuves

Opening at cneai

Sunday 13 September 2009 from 2pm to 6pm

From 14 September to 17 December 2009

On the 2nd of May 1989, Hungarians demolished the barbed wire between Hungary and Austria, while the police watched them do it without paying the slightest attention. High in the watchtowers, the soldiers didn't shoot. On the 10th of September 1989, the Hungarian government decided itself to open its boundaries with Austria. The Berlin Wall fell two months later. In 2008, Hungary, The Czech Republic and Slovakia joined the Schengen countries. In 2013, the high-speed train (TGV) will connect Paris to Bratislava in four hours fifty minutes.

In 1992, Nadine Gandy left Paris and opened the first private space dedicated to international contemporary art in Prague. The Czech public had not seen any western art since the beginning of Communist military control. She invited Lawrence Wiener, Joseph Grigely, Jochen Gerz, Wim Delvoye, Matali Crasset, Daniel Buren, Annelies Strba, Nan Goldin, Douglas Gordon and many others to play the game of the art market in a place where such a market did not exist yet. The first contemporary art exhibitions gave rise to long queues. Step by step, Czech artists (Vaclav Stratil, Jiri David), Hungarian, Slovak, Serbian, Bosnian, and Romanian artists mixed with the French, German, Spanish, American or Swiss key figures among the artists represented by Gandy Gallery. The projects became a collection of multiples and publications which reflect the ideas of insertion and cultural migration. In 2005, Nadine Gandy moved her gallery to Bratislava, opposite the Danube, in the heart of the Europe; this way she is closer to the Balkans and gets to meet some new artists.

In connection with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Cneai introduces **Exposition Fleuves**, a dialogue between two collections of multiples and artists' publications that span the territories of Central and western Europe. The Gandy Gallery's collection and the Fmra's collection were born during the years that contemporary art was at a crossroads. The Cneai's collection began in the sixties, when the Cneai itself and numerous other publishing houses meant to break away from institutions and to free themselves from market networks, at a time when editorial practices were breaking down the closed boundaries of Europe and America. The growth of the Gandy Gallery's collection in the nineties was a new impulse on the artistic scene of Central and Western Europe. Both collections are made up of multiples, artists' books, booklets, posters, journals, videos, flyers, postcards, DVD, Webpages....

These form of expression that cross cultural influences through actions, information and representation, split up the cultural territory itself and become a melting pot of fine arts, music, graphic design, design, dance and literature researches. These media works suggest that the time has come to stop thinking of art in terms of marginality, isolated and insulating.

The publishing practices are specifically organised as a project open to intervention, reproduction and free distribution, they reveal a sharing of the authorship between the various protagonists of the artistic process and express the possibility of mutual copyright and mutual right to read.

Matali Crasset French designer and a widely represented artist in the Gandy's collection, is always searching for new territories to explore: scenography, graphic design, architecture, furniture, or handcrafts, fair trade, the textile industry..., naturally took part in this project's screenplay and created the exhibition's design.

Opening Sunday 13 September 2009 from 2pm to 6pm: conferences, concerts and performances.

Non-exhaustive list of artists :

Rita Ackermann (HU), Joze Barsi, Milko Bambic, Matei Bejenaru (RO), Ben (FR), Katya Bonnenfant (FR), Vesna Bukovec (SL), Henryk Bzdok, André Cadere (RO), Mircea Cantor (RO), Ivan Cargo, Giorgio Carmelich, Avgust Cernigoj, Karlo Cernigoj, Jagna Ciuchta (PL), Matali Crasset (FR), Josip Costaperaria, Danica Dakic (BA), Danubians Dreams, Ferdo Delak, Aleksander Dev, Iancu Dimitrescu (RO), Kota Ezawa (DE), Roza El-Hassan (HU), Kota Ezawa (DE), Dragotin Fatur, Patrick Faigenbaum (FR), Pavlína Fichta Cierna (SK), Yona Friedman (HU), Sebastien de Ganay (FR), Jochen Gerz (DE), Pernecky Geza, Nan Goldin (USA), Steven Gontarski (USA), Douglas Gordon (UK), Cosmin Gradinaru (RO), Joseph Grigely (USA), Jugnet&Clairet (FR), Herman Hus, Bozidar Jakac, Virginija Januskeviciute, Sejla Kameric (BA), Ilya Kabakov (UK), Art Keller (FR), Leopold Kessler (DE), Jaroslaw Kozlowski (PL), Elke Krystufek (AT), Lena von Laspchina (RU), Denisa Lehocka (SK), Yuri Leiderman (UK), The IRWIN group (SL), Marko Maetamm(ET), Jonas Mekas (LT), Boris Melus (SK), Aleksandra Mir (PL), Vlad Nanca (RO), Yves Netzhammer (CH), Roman Ondak (SK), Tanja Ostojic (BS), PAS (CS), Simon Patterson (UK), Javier Perez (ES), Slavica Perkovic (HR), Dan Perjovschi (RO), Vaclav Pozarek (cs), Mark Raidpere (ET), Zbynek Sedlecky (CZ), Bojan Sarcevic (SR), Jose Maria Sicilia (ES), Zdenko Skalicky, Marko Stamenkovic, Annelies Strba (CH), Vaclav Stratil (CZ), Vladimir Subic, Balint Szombathy, Ciril Tavcar, France Tomazic, Gabor Toth, Mitja Tusek (SL), Urnamo (IQ), Adam Vackar (CZ), Patrick Van Caekenbergh (BE), Josip Vlah, Vaclav Vlcek, Ivan Vurnik, Lawrence Weiner (USA), Lidija Wisiakova, Rudina Xhaferi (KO), Piotr Zaztrozny....

Play synopsis: Sylvie Boulanger, Matali Crasset, Nadine Gandy, Madeleine Mathé.



Culture Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

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