

The Popescu Chronicles

a project by Ghenadie POPESCU



May 24 – June 3, 2007

Exhibition centre **Constantin Brâncuși, UAP** | Hall gallery

bd. Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 3, Chișinău

open daily between 10 am and 7 pm

curators – **Daphné BROTTE**, **Lore GABLIER**, **Stéphane IBARS**, **Vladimir US**, **Elena YAICHNIKOVA**

ORGANIZERS

MAGASIN – National Centre of Contemporary Art from Grenoble
Union of Artists of Republic of Moldova
Moldova Young Artists Association *Oberliht*

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Dinamo stadium, Chișinău

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After leaving Chișinău, Moldova, at the end of May 2006, Ghenadie Popescu realised a bicycle trip throughout different countries in Europe. Everyday, he sent by various possible means – mobile phone, fax or email – one or several messages recounting his travel impressions. Once collected, these messages made up a daily chronicle, **The Popescu Chronicles**, a kind of log, whose content was voluntarily “offbeat” regarding the epic nature such a trip might convey.

Both physical and conceptual, his trip gradually revealed a dual geography: on the one hand, the territorial and political realities of the countries he passed through and, on the other, the more reflexive and subjective geographical experience, arising from his own circulation within these spaces.

Ultimately, by choosing to circulate by bicycle, the artist revealed his engagement of “slow” resistance, a silent protest in the face of the world’s acceleration.

Ghenadi e POPESCU

During the 90's the artist performed several actions – bicycle trips, that in the former context of post-soviet Moldova should be perceived as acts of personal will with a strong potential. Illustrating the relatively accessible openness resulting in the collapse of the communist regime, one of his trips, to Hungary, realized with only 20 US Dollars in his pocket, had the Modern and Contemporary Art Museums in Budapest as final destination.

Afterwards, because of the closure of the borders, shortly after they had been opened, he could not afford it anymore with exception of going to Romania and Ukraine.

Today Ghenadie Popescu works as an artist building his discourse with the help of images, objects and texts. Full of irony, his works question the ambiguous space continuously reshaped by the new realities of the reborn state lost in between two different ideological systems.

PROGRAM | May 24 – June 3, 2007

May 24, 2007

opening of the exhibition **The Popescu Chronicles**

invited guest **Lore GABLIER, France**

Exhibition Centre *Constantin Brâncuși*, UAP

bd. Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 3, Chișinău

The Hall Gallery | **6 pm**

May 28, 2007

Literary Club – discussing the publication **The Popescu Chronicles**

a project by **Ghenadie POPESCU**

Dinamo stadium, Chișinău

str. Sciusev 106 A, Chișinău

Eastern Tribune | **5 pm**

May 29, 2007

Presentation of the project **un pas de côté (a step aside)**

Presentation of the International Curatorial Training Program **l'Ecole du magasin**

presentation by **Lore GABLIER, Vladimir US**

French Alliance from Moldova

str. Sfântul Țării 18, Chișinău

conference hall | **2 pm**

un pas de côté (a step asi de)

The Popescu Chronicles were commissioned by the MAGASIN – National Centre of Contemporary Art from Grenoble, France (<http://www.magasin-cnac.org>). They were first exhibited in Die, Drôme, France, within the frame of the European meetings of Die (May 29th - June 4th 2006) organized by the Festival Est-Ouest | East-West (<http://www.est-ouest.com>) and then, in Grenoble during the last of the exhibition *un pas de côté (a step aside)* curated by the session15 of the École du Magasin – Daphné BROTTET, Lore GABLIER, Stéphane IBARS, Vladimir US, Elena YAICHNIKOVA (<http://www.ecoledumagasin.com/session15>).

The intent of *a step aside* was to understand and interrogate the field of art and its physical spaces, as public sphere. The project consisted in a fifteen-day program of events (lectures, readings, projections), which took place in various places in the city of Grenoble, France. These events were concerned with the question of daily and artistic forms of resistance to globalization of life and art. As potential forms of resistance, what we understood as participatory practices (those practices engaged in processes of public exchange and negotiation) was the central concern of our project. Although these practices purportedly take place in the public realm, the latter has become increasingly subject to privatization. As a consequence there is less and less place for negotiation, less and less possibility of confronting the values of art with those of society which results in reduction form of meaning and its creation.

During the 15 days of the program, we opened a „space for documentation” inside le MAGASIN – Centre National d’Art Contemporain de Grenoble where the public had access to selected documentation concerning participatory practices in art and architecture since the early 60’s as well as theoretical essays concerning the transformation of the public sphere. We are also comissioned and presented a number of artists’ projects whose elaboration was more important to us then the object form.

More about the project *a step aside* you can find here:
http://ecoledumagasin.com/session15/index_a_step_aside.html

The presentation of *The Popescu Chronicles* in Chişinău, at the Exhibition Centre *Constantin Brâncuşi*, from May 24 to June 3, 2007 is co-organized in partnership with the MAGASIN – National Centre of Contemporary Art from Grenoble, Union of Artists of Republic of Moldova and the publishing house Bernard Carlier.

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