

Contributors

Conference »Signs of the European City«

Uta Staiger, European Network Coordinator, urban dialogues, London Uta Staiger is currently completing a PhD on culture and citizenship in the European Union at the University of Cambridge. Previously, she worked as a project manager and policy researcher at Interarts, a Barcelona-based agency for international cultural cooperation.

Dr. Bernd M. Scherer, Director of the House of World Cultures, Berlin Bernd Scherer holds a doctoral degree in Philosophy and is author of several publications focussing on international cultural exchange. Before he came to the House of World Cultures he was Director of the Goethe Institute Mexico and subsequently Director of the Arts Department for the GI Munich.

Eugenio Delfino, Cultural 2007 Programme, Brussels Project manager at the Culture Unit of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Agency at the European Commission in Brussels.

Rudolf Netzelmann, Project Manager, urban dialogues, Berlin Rudolf Netzelmann is a sociologist and works as project manager and advisor to educational and art projects at the metropolitan arts organisation urban dialogues. Educated in Berlin and Barcelona, he specialises in art and media in urban and human resources development.

Stefan Horn, Artistic Director, urban dialogues, Berlin Stefan Horn is the artistic director of urban dialogues, a Berlin-based non-profit metropolitan art organisation and is internationally working as a project manager, theatre designer and installation artist. In his projects he deals with urban and social spaces.

Prof. Michael Keith, CUCR, Goldsmiths College, University of London Michael Keith is Professor in Sociology and the Head of the CUCR. His research focuses on representation of the city in relation to urban policy, race and racism, and policing. He has published, amongst others, »Race, Riots, and Policing: Lore and Disorder in a Multi-racist Society«.

Dr. Kristin Veel, Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen Kristin Veel studied Comparative and European Literature and Modern Culture at the University of Copenhagen and at the University of Cambridge. Her projects and publications as a Postdoctoral Researcher are concerned with, amongst others, »Urban identity in net art« or »Representing Cityness«.

Douglas Nicolson, Artist, London Douglas Nicolson is a multimedia artist and educator. He has created, facilitated and developed numerous projects engaging diverse groups of disadvantaged people in and around London.

Ivan Kiuranov, Artist, Sofia Having studied Fine Arts in Sofia and Milan (Master Class with Prof. Diego Esposito), Ivan has exhibited widely in Sofia, as well as in Austria, Italy and the UK. He is the founder and executive director of the Contemporary Art Foundation in Sofia.

Martin Ruge, Artist, Berlin Having studied Communication Design in Berlin, Martin Ruge co-founded the Garderobe23 group in 1998. He developed a number of media projects and worked on the Signs of the City project as a workshop leader.

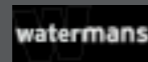
Dr. Susanne Stemmler, House of World Cultures, Berlin Susanne Stemmler is an expert on cultural and post-colonial studies. She did a research project on »Urban Culture Hip-Hop« with the Columbia and New York University. After two years at the Center of Metropolitan Studies she joined the HKW as Head of the Department of Science and Literature.

Matthias Gommel, Project Flick_A, ZKM Karlsruhe Matthias Gommel is an associated artist at the ZKM - Centre for Art and Media, and co-founder of the artist group »robotlab«. In his multimedia installations like FLICK_KA he works with socio-political, technological and ecological topics.

Das Projekt ist eine Initiative des Berliner Stadtkunstvereins *urban dialogues* und wird in Kooperation mit Institutionen der zeitgenössischen Kunst, Medientrainingszentren, Jugendkusteinrichtungen und akademischen Partnern durchgeführt. Eingebunden sind *Watermans London*, *Hangar* und *Artibarrí Barcelona*, *Atelier for Free Associations* und *House of Cinema Sofia*, sowie das *Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin*. In Berlin wird das Projekt in Kooperation mit *Next Interculturelle Projekte* realisiert.

The project is an initiative by the Berlin-based arts organisation *urban dialogues* and realised in co-operation with institutions of contemporary art, media learning centres, youth art organisations and academic partners. These are *Watermans London*, *Hangar* and *Artibarrí Barcelona*, *Atelier for Free Associations* and *House of Cinema Sofia* and *the House of World Cultures Berlin*. In Berlin the project is realised in co-operation with *Next Intercultural Projects*.

The project is organised by:



In cooperation with:

Media Partner:



Supported by:



Lucas Evers, Waag Society, Amsterdam Waag Society is an institution that is active in the fields of network art, education and internet. Lucas Evers joined the Waag Society staff in April 2007 as leader of the e-culture programme. Before, Lucas worked at the cultural centres De Balie and De Melkweg, as a festival programmer.

Armin Linke, Artist, Berlin/Milan Armin Linke applies diverse working strategies and is conceptually concerned with means of representation. On extensive travels throughout the world, he has used both film and photography to document the effects of the transformation of cities and the resulting social and political consequences.

Dr. Alison Rooke, CUCR, Goldsmiths College, University of London Alison Rooke is head of the evaluation team for Signs of the City. She works at the CUCR in London as a tutor, lecturer and researcher. Her research focusses on »Lesbian Landscapes And Portraits: The Sexual Geographies Of Everyday Life«.

Velislava Donkin, Atelier for Free Associations, Sofia Velislava Donkin is a clinical psychologist, member of the Bulgarian Association for psychotherapy, and vice director of the »Atelier for Free Associations« - a Bulgarian nongovernmental organization that manages projects in the area of arts, psychoanalytical therapy and language.

Andres Prera, Artist, Guatemala Andres Prera studied urban management and architecture in Berlin and Guatemala. As an artist and architect he is working on national and international projects. In addition to his artistic activities Andres publishes and lectures on Environmental Design.

Diego Ferrari, Artist, London Diego Ferrari teaches courses on »Public Space« in Barcelona, and on »Photography, Art and Architecture« in London. He is engaged in an ongoing project about public space and its relation to different social and artistic practices. He has published and exhibited widely.

Lars Denicke und Peter Thaler, Pictoplasma, Berlin Since 1999 Lars Denicke and Peter Thaler, the founders of the Pictoplasma project, have encouraged the international character design scene by publishing collections, organising conferences, and by maintaining the Pictoplasma Archives, an extensive inventory of contemporary character design.

Prof. Dr. Franz Josef Röhl, FH Darmstadt Dr. Franz Josef Röhl has been active as a freelance lecturer and training representative in the education of multipliers in the field of photography, audio and image design and multimedia. He is currently working as a Professor in New Media and Pedagogy at the Technical College, Darmstadt.

Harriet Murray, Artist, London Together with her husband Neil Taylor she founded Campbell Works in 1997, an artists network that initiates arts projects and creative workshops. In addition, Campbell Works runs a non-profit arts education organisation as well as a gallery space.

Dr. Ivaylo Ditchev, University of Sofia Ivaylo Ditchev is Professor for Cultural Studies at the University of Sofia. As an author and journalist he writes essays and articles on national identity in Europe, migration, and the phenomena of the fluid city - with the main focus on the Balkan area.

Julia Lossau, Junior Professor in Urban Geography, Humboldt University, Berlin Julia Lossau is a Junior Professor in Urban Geography at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Her work is mostly concerned with art in public space, the symbolic economy of the city, urban planning and public art.

Andrew McIlroy, Author, Brussels Andrew McIlroy is a senior policy advisor and project manager in the international cultural sector. He has worked for European institutions, public authorities and arts organisations, including the agency Futurecity, specialised in arts and urban development. He is also an arts journalist, critic, and writer.

THE EXHIBITION
SIGNS OF THE CITY - METROPOLIS SPEAKING
Opening 25 September , 7 pm
Daily from 12 am to 8 pm, except Mondays
26 September until 2 November 2008
at the House of World Cultures, Berlin

Seminare in London und Sofia

Neben der Abschlusskonferenz in Berlin werden in Zusammenarbeit mit den Goethe-Instituten am 4. Oktober in London und am 24. Oktober in Sofia eintägige Seminare stattfinden, die ebenfalls die sichtbaren Resultate des Projektes aufgreifen werden, um über die Themen Partizipation, Medienkunst, kulturelle Bildung, Bildwissenschaft, Medienpädagogik, Semiotik und Urbanität zu konferieren.

Seminars in London and Sofia

Besides the final conference in Berlin, one-day seminars will take place in collaboration with the Goethe Institutes on the 4 October in London, and on the 24 October in Sofia. These will equally address the visible results of the project to discuss themes of participation, media art, cultural education, media pedagogy, semiotics and urbanity.



DIE AUSSTELLUNG
SIGNS OF THE CITY - METROPOLIS SPEAKING
Eröffnung am 25. September , 19 Uhr
Täglich außer montags von 12 bis 20 Uhr
26. September bis 2. November 2008
im Haus der Kulturen der Welt

Information zur Konferenz und Anmeldung:

Tel. + 49 - (0)30 - 397 87 180
Fax + 49 - (0)30 - 394 86 79
info@next-kultur.org

(Änderungen am Programm sind vorbehalten. Aktuelles Programm auf www.hkw.de)

Signs of the European City

Konferenz im Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

17./18. Oktober 2008





Signs of the European City

is the final conference of »Signs of the City - Metropolis speaking«

House of World Cultures, Berlin
17/18 October 2008

Signs of the City – Metropolis Speaking is an artistic engagement with the urban world of signs of the European city using photography and new media. Teenagers and young people explore the signs of their cities with the guidance of professional artists while also documenting their urban life through the use of cameras and GPS loggers. The results can immediately be seen in an online image library www.citipix.net, which has been especially developed for this project. From autumn 2007 to autumn 2008, more than 30 workshops take place across the four different cities. The final presentation of the project combines several exhibition parts that will simultaneously run alongside each other in the participating cities, including an exhibition at the House of World Cultures in Berlin from 26 September to 2 November 2008.

The final conference at the House of World Cultures, designed to coincide with the exhibition hosted at this renowned Berlin cultural institution, will mark the end of this one-year European media art project. It seeks to stimulate a critical dialogue with a specialised public, presenting papers and round tables ranging from practical examples to theoretical reflections, from presentations to reports, illustrations and narratives. Project managers will have their say alongside observers, artists, and researchers.

The two-day conference addresses professionals from the fields of arts education, media pedagogy, visual studies and urbanism. With its interdisciplinary approach to a variety of subject areas – urbanity, European city, media art, media pedagogy, cultural education, youth, participation, visual culture – the conference also aims to address academic researchers in these fields.

Signs of the City – Metropolis Speaking creates a youthful view of our own city and those foreign to us. Experts discuss this digital transformation of urban signs into photographic expressions from various different perspectives. A central theme is the temptation and power of images and its ubiquitous invitation to communicate. The urban worlds of images are being questioned in their ability to shape young people's identity and personal situatedness.

The project partner Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR), Goldsmiths College, University of London, accompanies the entire process of the project and has, as co-organiser of the European project, contributed to the planning and conceptualisation of the conference. The CUCR will particularly bring its insights into participatory media projects, the significance it had for the young participants, and broader reflections on urban and community cultures to this event.

Signs of the City – Metropolis Speaking ist eine künstlerische Auseinandersetzung mit der urbanen Zeichenwelt der Europäischen Stadt mit den Mitteln der Fotografie und der Neuen Medien. Jugendliche und junge Erwachsene erkunden, von professionellen Künstlern angeleitet und begleitet, die Zeichen ihrer Städte und dokumentieren dabei zugleich ihr urbanes Leben mit Hilfe digitaler Fotokameras und GPS-Receiver. Die Ergebnisse sind unmittelbar danach auf der eigens entwickelten Bilderdatenbank im Internet unter www.citipix.net zu sehen. Von Herbst 2007 bis Herbst 2008 finden insgesamt mehr als 30 individuelle Workshops in Berlin, London, Sofia und Barcelona statt. Neben lokalen Präsentationen in den Partnerstädten wird zwischen dem 26. September und dem 2. November eine umfassende Ausstellung im Haus der Kulturen der Welt zu sehen sein. Neben lokalen Präsentationen in London, Sofia und Barcelona wird zwischen dem 26. September und dem 2. November eine umfassende Ausstellung im Haus der Kulturen der Welt zu sehen sein.

Mit der abschließenden Konferenz wird der Endpunkt dieses einjährigen interkulturellen europäischen Medienkunstprojekts markiert und der kritische Dialog mit einer interessierten Fachöffentlichkeit gesucht. Die Konferenzbeiträge sollen im Wechselspiel von Praxis und Theorie, von Vortrag und Bericht, von Illustration und Erzählung präsentiert werden. Dabei kommen die Projektmacher ebenso zu Wort wie Beobachter und Theoretiker.

Die zweitägige Konferenz in Berlin richtet sich an Multiplikatoren aus dem Bereich der kulturellen Bildung, an Fachleute aus dem Bereich der Medienpädagogik, an Bildwissenschaftler und Urbanisten. Die Themenfelder – Urbanität, Europäische Stadt, Medienkunst, Medienpädagogik, kulturelle Bildung, Jugend, Teilhabe, Bildwissenschaft – machen die Konferenz auch für Studierende dieser Fächer interessant.

Signs of the City – Metropolis Speaking erzeugt einen jungen Blick auf die eigene und die fremde Stadt. Diese digitale Verwandlung der urbanen Zeichen in einen fotografischen Ausdruck wird aus unterschiedlichen Blickwinkeln von Experten diskutiert. Ein zentrales Thema hierbei ist die Verlockung und die Macht der Bilder und die damit einhergehende, allgegenwärtige Aufforderung zur Kommunikation. Die städtischen Bilderwelten werden danach befragt, wie sie die Selbstverortung und Identitätsbildung der Jugendlichen im Zeichen von Globalisierung und Unterscheidungswunsch prägen.

Der Projektpartner Center for Urban and Community Research (CUCR), Goldsmiths College, University of London, begleitet den gesamten Projektprozess und hat als Mitorganisator des europäischen Projektes an der Ausgestaltung der Konferenz mitgewirkt. Er wird seine Einsichten in dieses partizipative Medienprojekt, seine Bedeutung für die Teilnehmer und weiterführende kulturwissenschaftliche Bewertungen in die Konferenz einbringen.

Day 1: Friday, 17 October 2008		Day 2: Saturday, 18 October 2008	
10:00	Opening Welcome – Uta Staiger, Moderator of the Conference, urban dialogues Welcome – Dr. Bernd M. Scherer, Director of the House of World Cultures, Berlin Welcome – Eugenio Delfino, Cultural 2007 Programme, Brussels	10:00	Welcome
10:45	Keynote Prof. Michael Keith, (CUCR, Goldsmiths College, University of London) Referring the three topics SIGNS, MY CITY and DIALOGUES	10:05-10:35	Visual Keynote Armin Linke (Artist, Berlin/Milan): »Urban Photography - How can we »read« the City?«
11:15-11:30	Coffee	10:30-10:45	Coffee
11:30	Topic: SIGNS Stimulus 1: »Surveying the City - Urban Signs between Attention and Automaticity« by Dr. Kristin Veel (University of Copenhagen) Round Table 1: Douglas Nicholson (Artist, London), Ivan Kiuranov (Artist, Sofia), Martin Ruge (Artist, Berlin), Dr. Susanne Stemmler (House of World Cultures, Berlin) <i>Introduced by brief presentations of some aspects of the artist's workshops.</i>	10:45	Topic: MY CITY Stimulus 2: »Participation, Youth & Urban Culture: An Evaluation« by Dr. Alison Rooke (CUCR, Goldsmiths College, University of London) Round Table 2: Velislava Donkin, (Atelier for Free Associations, Sofia), Andres Prera (Artist, Guatemala), Diego Ferrari (Artist, London), Matthias Gommel (ZKM Karlsruhe) <i>Introduced by brief presentations of some aspects of the artist's workshops.</i>
13:30-14:45	Lunch	12:45-14:00	Lunch
14:45	Meet your Expert – Meet your Issue Talk: »Audience and Experts: Big Issues in small Groups.«	14:00	Keynote Lars Denicke & Peter Thaler (Pictoplasma, Berlin): »Characters as Living Signs«
16:15-16:30	Coffee	14:30	Topic: DIALOGUE Stimulus 3: »Intercultural Communication in Media Projects« by Prof. Dr. Franz Josef Röhl (FH Darmstadt) Round Table 3: Stefan Horn (urban dialogues, Berlin), Harriet Murray (Artist, London), Dr. Ivaylo Ditchchev (University Sofia), Armin Linke (Artist, Berlin/Milan), Lars Denicke (Pictoplasma, Berlin), Peter Thaler (Pictoplasma, Berlin) <i>Introduced by brief presentations of some aspects of the artist's workshops.</i>
16:30	Critical Friends: Presentation Flick_KA Project ZKM Karlsruhe and Waag Society, Amsterdam Matthias Gommel (Associated Media Artist at ZKM Karlsruhe) and Lucas Evers (Leader of the e-culture programme at the Waag Society)	16:30	Wrap-up by Andrew McIlroy (Author, Brussels)
18:00	End of first Day	17:00	End of Conference

Conference language will be English and German with translation.