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Memory, Art and Culture (Berlin, 2-5 Jul 08)

Memory, Art and Culture Remembrance and Dealing with the past after 1989

International Conference and workshop in Berlin: 2-5 July 2008 in the House of the World Cultures, Berlin

to download the Conference and Workshop Programme please visit: http://www.network-migration.org/d/projekte/index_mac.htm

Since 1989/90, the divided memory culture of Eastern and Western Europe has been changing within the new social, political and cultural sphere of post-socialist Europe. This interdisciplinary conference reflects on individual and collective memory and the interpretation of remembrance in Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosova after 1989. Despite the different historical contexts in and between these countries, their societies and people face similar experiences of war, flight, expulsion and (ethnic) post-war conflicts.

In reunified Germany, in Poland and in the Czech Republic public discourses on war, flight and expulsion are questioning national myths, and politics of memory are challenging the relations between these three countries. In contrast to the peaceful transition in socialist Central Europe, the former Yugoslavia experienced violent upheavals, wars and new forced migrations, which led to nation building processes in Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia and Kosova.

The project goal is to open a dialogue and an active exchange between artists, historians and social scientists and examine national, transnational and European cultural memory discourses in post-war former Yugoslavia and Central Europe. This interdisciplinary project focuses on the following questions: How are the societies of Central-Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe dealing with their past? What does European memory culture mean and how are artists dealing with memory culture? Are there common ways in Europe to remember the different and similar experiences of war, flight, expulsion and (ethnic) post-war conflicts? Are there any limits that can be defined regarding the common memory culture?

The international conference in July 2008, which is open to the public, and a follow-up closed workshop are the starting points of the transnational project MEMORY, ART and CULTURE. The project will be

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developed into a year long cooperation between scientists and artists in each one of the selected countries. Through creative dialogue and an active exchange between the project participants from the different countries, selected artistic and cultural works on memory will be elaborated for a forthcoming exhibition and publication. A second workshop will be held in November in Belgrade in the Goethe Institute (5 to 9 November 2008). In spring 2009 an exhibition and a third workshop will take place in Berlin.

International Conference and first workshop in Berlin: 2 -5 July 2008 in the House of the World Cultures, Berlin Conference and Workshop Programme

Second Workshop in Belgrade: 5 -9 November 2008 in the Goethe-Institute Belgrade and the Centre of Cultural Decontamination, Belgrad

Realisation:

Netzwerk Migration in Europa e.V. in cooperation with Allianz Kulturstiftung and Haus der Kulturen der Welt

Partners:

Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, www.hkw.de Goethe-Institut, Belgrad, www.goethe.de/ms/bel Zentrum KARTA, Warschau, www.karta.org.pl Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Belgrad, www.yihr.org The Documentation Center Wars 1991-1999, Belgrad Center for Cultural Decontamination, Belgrad, www.czkd.org.yu

Reference:

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