

ROMANISTAN. Crossing Spaces in Europe

6.4.2013 – 31.5.2013

Various locations in Berlin

Press Release

Within current discourse on Europe and the European crisis the voices of minorities – particularly those of Europe's largest minority, the Roma – go largely unheard. "Roma" are widely portrayed in the media as a homogenous group while an alternative perspective that acknowledges individuals seems scarcely imaginable. Inherited resentments continue to provide a breeding ground for virulent antiziganism and contribute to social segregation as well as day-to-day discrimination in the fields of education, work and property. Owing to restrictive immigration policies, Roma continue to be stigmatised and are left on the sidelines of a crisis-stricken Europe.

For all these reasons cultural production by Romnija and Roma is often regarded as mere folklore. Looking beyond ethnicised and romanticised stereotypes, the international cultural initiative "ROMANISTAN. Crossing Spaces in Europe" has been dedicated to the "de-exoticisation" of Roma artists and their work since 2011. Following initial conferences in Vienna (2011) and Barcelona (2012) ROMANISTAN will seek to explore the central question of the relationship between cultural identity and cultural production. It will take place across various locations in Berlin, opening with an international symposium, and featuring a theatre production, a music project, an exhibition on the problematic nature of the visual representation of Roma, and a closing conference in association with the "Herdelezi Roma Cultural Festival".

At the heart of this wide-ranging programme lie complex themes; the interplay between self-perception and preconceived assumptions about culture, the significance of one's own language, the opportunities and implications of cultural education, inclusion and empowerment, and the development and promotion of cultural diversity. The participating Roma artists and cultural producers do not represent the avant-garde of an ethnocentric Roma movement; rather they are protagonists in a current and relevant socio-political debate. Social mechanisms such as ethnicism, exoticism and cultural homogenisation will be examined through the filter of cultural theory and the arts – on the one hand as a contribution to the existing dialogue and in support of an alternative perspective, on the other, to provide a means towards establishing emancipation.

"ROMANISTAN. Crossing Spaces in Europe" was initiated in 2010 by the IG Kultur Österreich and will be realised as a co-operation activity as part of the Culture Programme of the European Union up until 2013 with three Roma organisations from three different countries: the Roma Kulturzentrum in Vienna, the FAGiC in Barcelona and Amaro Drom in Berlin.

Press Contact

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Sponsors

Hauptstadtkulturfonds, Allianz Kulturstiftung, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Kulturamt Neukölln, Österreichisches Kulturforum, Senatsverwaltung für Arbeit, Integration und Frauen. With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

Co-operative Partners

Amaro Drom e.V., IG Kultur Österreich, Roma Kulturzentrum Wien, FAGiC Barcelona, Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, SO36.

Artistic Direction and Organisation

Amaro Drom e.V.: Lith Bahlmann, Georgel Caldararu, André J. Raatzsch and Slaviša Marković.

Programme Details

6.4.2013, 10 am – 5 pm

CASINO So sar khana thaj khaj Dikhas? // Does what we see depend on where we look?

Interdisciplinary conference on Roma cultural protagonism vs. imposed “folklorism” and Roma cultural industrialisation

With: Rahim Burhan, director, founder of the Roma Theatre PRALIPE, Neuss; Ines Busch, sociologist, Hamburg; Georgel Caldararu, author and musician, Berlin; Prof. Ismet Jašarević, musician and managing director of CAIR (Centre for Affirmation and Integration of Roma Community), Zemun / Belgrade; Slaviša Marković, director and actor, leader of the Roma Aether Klub Theater, Berlin; Moritz Pankok, artistic director of the gallery Kai Dikhas, Berlin; André J. Raatzsch, artist and cultural theorist, Berlin and Budapest; Dotschy Reinhardt, musician and author, Berlin; Harri Stojka, musician, Vienna; Teodora Tabački, philosopher and anti-war activist, Berlin, Brussels and Paris

Welcome and Introduction: Lith Bahlmann, curator and author, Berlin
Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, Oranienstraße 25, 10999 Berlin
Event in German
Free admission

6.4.2013, 6 – 7.30 pm

Film screening “Gypsy Spirit, Harri Stojka – A Journey”

Austria/India 2010, 88 min, Dir.: Klaus Hundsbichler
Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, Oranienstraße 25, 10999 Berlin
Free admission

6.4.2013, from 9 pm

Concert “Festival of the Music of the Oppressed”

Harri Stojka and Band, Vienna; Dotschy Reinhardt Quartett, Berlin; Ansamblul Oltenilor din Berlin; Slobodan Savić and Band, Berlin
Presented by Filiz Demirova
SO36, Oranienstraße 190, 10999 Berlin
Admission 15 Euro, conc. 10 Euro

20.4. – 2.6.2013

Opening: 19.4.2013, 6 pm

Exhibition “The Roma Image Studio”

Critical artists’ platform on the representation and depictions of European Roma in visual media

Curated by André J. Raatzsch in collaboration with Lith Bahlmann and Emese Benkő
Participating artists: Norbert Tihanic, Nihad Nino Pušija, András Kállai, Henrik Kállai, Judit M. Horváth, György Stalter, Diana Arce and Gábor Áfrány

With contributions from: The Studio Museum Harlem, N.Y., USA; Ethnografisches Museum, Budapest; Magnum Photos; The Hulton Getty Picture Collection, getty images international; Moritz Pankok – Galerie Kai Dikhas; Péter Szuhay, Open Society Archives, Budapest.

Galerie im Saalbau Neukölln, Karl-Marx-Straße 141, 12043 Berlin

Opening hours: Tues–Sun 10 am – 8 pm

Free admission

20.4. 6 pm

Literature workshop: Reading with József Choli Daróczy and Gusztáv Nagy from *Das Buch der Ränder: Roma-Lyrik aus Ungarn* (The book of Frontiers: Roma Lyricism from Hungary)

Galerie im Saalbau Neukölln, Karl-Marx-Straße 141, 12043 Berlin

Event in German

Free admission

Within the framework of the exhibition "The Roma Image Studio"

21.4., 6 pm

Film screenings: Documentaries and short films by Norbert Tihanics and Henrik Kállai

Kállai: *Kis cigány* (The Little Rom, HU 1996, 9 min); *Disznóvágás* (Pig Slaughter, HU 2000, 14 min); *Cigánybánat* (The Roma Affliction, HU 1999 – 2000, 60 min). Norbert Tihanics: *A paraszt* (The Farmer, HU 2012, 20 min); *Epilógus* (The Epilogue, HU 2009, 5:05 min)

Galerie im Saalbau Neukölln, Karl-Marx-Straße 141, 12043 Berlin

Free admission

Within the framework of the exhibition "The Roma Image Studio"

26.4.–7.6.

Opening: 24.6., 7 pm

Roma Renaissance, an Artistic Manifesto

Presentations by the International Artists' Workshop

Galerie Kai Dikhas, Aufbau Haus am Moritzplatz, Prinzenstraße 85 D, 10969 Berlin

Opening hours: Tues–Sat 12–7 pm

Free admission

Within the framework of the exhibition "The Roma Image Studio"

30.4., 6 pm

Lecture by Diana Arce and André J. Raatzsch

Lecture on the initiative and exhibition THE ROMA IMAGE STUDIO in relation to Harlem Studio Museum N.Y., and The Arab Image Foundation, Beirut

Galerie im Saalbau Neukölln, Karl-Marx-Straße 141, 12043 Berlin

Free admission

Within the framework of the exhibition "The Roma Image Studio"

11.5.2013, from 2 pm

Herdelezi Roma Cultural Festival

Boddinstraße, 12045 Berlin

Free admission

11.5. and 31.5.2013, each 8 pm

Theatre "Marktplatzgeschichten – Geschichtenmarkt" (Marketplace Stories – Story Market)

Directed by Slaviša Marković

Roma Aether Klub Theater, Boddinstraße 5, 12045 Berlin

Admission 12 Euro, conc. 7,50 Euro

11.5.2013, 10 pm

CD Release Party with Ansamblul Oltenilor din Berlin

Roma Aether Klub Theater, Boddinstraße 5, 12045 Berlin

Free admission

11.5. and 12.5.2013

Thank you for Flying Romanistan. International closing conference

The conference will explore the question of how far EU culture projects go in bringing about meaningful changes in society and how the realities experienced in this project correlate to the targets of the EU Roma Strategy 2020.

With: Ljubomir Bratić; Pedro Aguilera; Teodora Tabački; representatives of the NGOs in Barcelona, Berlin and Vienna and other guests.

11.5.2013, 10 am to 2 pm: Roma Aether Klub Theater, Boddinstraße 5, 12045 Berlin

12.5.2013, 10 am to 6 pm: Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstraße 32, 12049 Berlin

Free admission