

FIELD TRIPS

Ghost-places are those classical stages haunted by the return of the displaced. Either ruins or shopping malls - ghosts have a fondness for the theatrical scenery of museum-like history just as much as for the landscape created by neoliberalistic architecture. We will go on excursions with our Warsaw colleagues into the dark forest, in the pitch black of night at places where the excluded or illegal meet, and to traumatized places, whose story is hardly tellable.

No. 1: The Forest. A Remake by Paweł Althamer

In 1993, Paweł Althamer received a diploma from the Sculpture Department of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, where he studied under Grzegorz Kowalski. For his diploma project, Althamer smoked three funny cigarettes, had strange sensations, escaped from the studio, left the academy, took a bus to the nearest forest, got undressed and ran into the woods. Join him at his remake.

Althamer is a sculptor, performance artist, creator of installations and video artist. He lives in Praga, Warsaw. Althamer knows the city very well: by walking all over town, by documenting the artistic activities of area residents, and through his projects in cooperation with neighbours. He even lived for a short while in a tree-house, erected opposite the windows of Foksal Gallery Foundation.

No. 2: The Night - A night tour through the city that alters one's state of awareness by Klaus Weber

Klaus Weber lives in Berlin. He creates installations, performances, and art in public spaces. His projects in public spaces are temporary, simulated accidents that work on social imagination. Two of his projects:

The fungoid sculpture Brutstube in Berlin is about the sidewalk mushroom, a mushroom that can generate enough power to lift asphalt pavement. Weber experimented with the cultivation of this mushroom and set up a public laboratory for 6 months, collecting, archiving, and cultivating spores and later distributing them throughout the city - with a particular emphasis on the shiny sterile new quarters of Potsdamer Platz.

The Fountain Loma Dr / W 6th St. is an one-day-only public fountain, in which a car was apparently driven into a fire hydrant in downtown Los Angeles. The hydrant was opened by remote control and ejected a vertical water jet at ten-minute intervals. Two retired police officers were hired to direct passers-by and traffic, as if there had been a real accident.

Klaus Weber will also give a talk (28. August 6 p.m.) and presentation on his projects.

No. 3: Jarmark Europa 1 & Sir Maniek (a self-declared fantasy architect) by Mikołaj Długosz

'Jarmark Europa' is a huge market-place located in the national stadium of Warsaw. According to CBI (Centralne Biuro Śledcze, the Polish secret service for internal affairs) there is a turnover of over 12 billion zlotis (ca. 3.13 billion euros) every year, and there are 20 thousand people either buying or selling things in the market. The traders come from several countries including Lithuania, the Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Georgia, Pakistan and Senegal. The stadium was built in 1955, from the debris left over from the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. In the 1960s and 1970s it was used by the communist regime for several propaganda mass events. In 1989 the market was established there by the Damis corporation. *Mikołaj Długosz, photographer, especially interested in discovering the area in which he was born and still lives - Warsaw.*

No. 4: Jarmark Europa 2: Trip to Asia by Anna Gajewska and Joanna Warsza

Many of the traders at Jarmark Europa are Vietnamese: immigrants who are almost invisible in the daily life of Warsaw. This tour will take us to their world, starting at the Powisle tram station where you will be given a map, an mp3 player with instructions to follow, and a big plastic bag filled with underwear to be delivered to one of the bazaar's stalls. A series of meetings, talks, situations, and misunderstandings will occur, and the excursion will end up in a Buddhist temple around the corner. A trip to Asia is aimed at showing up our lack of knowledge about the local Vietnamese presence.

Anna Gajewska, actress, film director and author of *Warszawiacy (Warsawers)*, a documentary about the Vietnamese community in Warsaw. Joanna Warsza, dance critic, performance curator, producer of the Akcje events in TR Warszawa (2005/06).

No. 5: The Warsaw Ghetto by Piotr Rypson

The Warsaw Ghetto was the largest of the Jewish ghettos established by Nazi Germany in the General Gouvernement during World War II. In the three years of its existence, starvation, disease and deportations to concentration camps and extermination camps decimated the population of the ghetto from an estimated 450,000 to 37,000. The Warsaw Ghetto was the scene of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, one of the first mass uprisings against Nazi occupation in Europe.

Piotr Rypson is an author, curator, and art critic who lives in Warsaw. His publications include sound cassette editions of Polish Futurist Poetry and documentary film scenarios on the history of human signs and visual language. His books include Pyramids, Suns, Labyrinths: Polish Baroque Visual Poetry, Warsaw, 2000; Books and Pages: Avantgarde and Artists' Books in Poland in the 20th Century, Warsaw, 2000; Krzysztof Wodiczko: Public Art, Warsaw, 1995. He also hosts a TV program on the visual arts, and curates of numerous exhibitions in Poland and abroad.

No. 6: Memory Places by Łukasz Gorczyca

Having been virtually annihilated in the middle of the 20th century, the city of Warsaw was reborn in a totally different, modern guise. We take a walk here to hidden places, cold-war shelters, and the ghost-inhabited spaces of pre-war Warsaw in the middle of the city.

Łukasz Gorczyca lives in Warsaw. He is an art critic and, together with Michał Kaczyński, runs the Raster Gallery, an independent art space established in 2001, exhibiting and representing emerging artists from Poland and abroad. Raster's program is based not merely on visual art but also on screenings, discussions, literature events, concerts, and informal meetings focused on the local community.

No. 7: Warsaw's Height by Bogna Świątkowska

Warsaw, why are you the way you are? Maybe Warsaw is situated on a 'water vein'? Water veins have a documented influence on all levels of local stress. To find out more about this possible epicentre of bad energy through the city of Warsaw, we take a tour at sunrise to its highest points: the tops of buildings, big objects, rooftops, high bridges and the one and only Warsaw hill, Kopiec Czerniakowski (120 meters high), which was artificially built after World War II. After locating these points on a Warsaw city map, we will then head out to photographically document our research.

Bogna Świątkowska, journalist, curator, publisher and cultural activist. Since 1985 she has worked at several radio (Radio PiN, RMF FM, RADIO JAZZ) and TV stations (Polish Public TVP1 & TVP2, Warsaw TV Center WOT) as well as for different newspapers (Przekrój Weekly, Machina Monthly, brulion cultural quarterly). In 2002 she became the founder of the Bang Change New Culture Foundation.