

PROJECT SPACE

Romania transitioned from a totalitarian system, that did not allow any critical debate, to a system in which the right to critically judge the injustices around us is willingly surrendered and in which we seem to consent to another form of domination, one accompanied by the rise of nationalism, racism and sexism (all of which also existed in more concealed forms before 1989 but which are now openly revealed and promoted). These developments took place against the background of an all-encompassing market economy that permeates every aspect of life in Romania.

The events scheduled to take place as part of the Project Space will bring forward people, attitudes, actions that overcome constraining situations; people who take responsibility and who consider that it is up to them to make a change; different initiatives that have in common their struggle against authority, their willingness to take risks, and their attempt to create the conditions necessary to think differently.

The program of the space will be structured around four modules: post-communism, feminism, education and display.

Post-communism: The events in this module will refer to ways of analysing the past and the present while constructing free spaces from where we can influence reality. It is important to clearly show what communism really meant in Romania but it is also important to be conscious of the fact that in many cases, the critique of communism is used to validate conservative, nationalist and sexist positions, and also to claim that the path Romania is on now is the only possible alternative.

Feminism: This module's events will refer to the necessity to shape and publicly declare feminist positions in a context where every aspect of daily life (the mass media, the public and private sphere, etc) is saturated, almost exclusively, by stereotypical images of women: the self-sacrificing woman; the devoted wife and mother; the sexual object; the victim. This is a reflection of a culture and society dominated by a heterosexual male view that refuses to acknowledge any other perspective.

Education: The events in this module will try to conceive a type of education that would not be based on competition but on collaboration, where the sharing of knowledge would not be hierarchical, and where learning strategies would generate new ways of perceiving and constructing our reality.

Display: The events from this module reveal ways in which dominant ideologies become manifest in the public space (in the city, in the media, in institutional organization and their public image) and also ways in which pockets of resistance to the dominant discourse are created, spaces where people can exercise their right to question and think critically, places where the possibility to choose differently remains open.

The presentations, discussions, workshops, performances scheduled to take place at Project Space will tackle at least one of these four subjects.

September	15	Opening of the project	
	16	<p>Think global, act local! 11:00 – 12:00: Food not bombs – people against war. Inițiativa Libertară (Bucuresti). 12:30 – 14:30: Workshop about mobilization against G8 –CAMAS collective (Iasi). After a short introduction of the alter-mondialist movement, there will be a discussion about the dynamics of the anti G8 mobilization from this year in Heiligendamm, Germany, about the choreography of the protest, about subjects ignored by the mainstream media. 15:00 – 17:00: People Global Action (presentation sustained by a group of activists from Greece). GA – People's Global Action –started its activity in 1998, as a structure coordinating groups and individuals having in common the same anti-capitalist and anti-authoritarian ideas and practices. PGA is the informal initiator of Intercontinental caravane in 1999, of the international days against G8 WTO, World Bank, IMF in Seattle, Genoa, and Prague. In Europe, PDA meetings take place approximately every two years. Starting with 1998, these meetings were occasions for numerous knowledge exchanges, and for creation of relationships that lead to more efficiency in common actions. 17:30 – 20:00: Screenings of independent films. Starting with 21:00: concert VARLIN - anarcho punk (France) at Punkoteca Pirat (str. Atelierului nr 14, piata matache, gara de nord) in Bucharest.</p>	<p>„Think global, act local!” is the title of a series of events realized by a group of volunteers who develop alternative social projects, promoting critical thinking and models of self-organization. This group is proposing a direct action against different forms of discrimination (sexism, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia), against authoritarianism and against hierarchical order in society.</p> <p>The workshops, screenings, actions and presentations that will take place under this title wish to propose the idea that it is up to each of us to question and change the injustices surrounding us. During the events, DIY publications will be available for the public (among them also a small collection of Romanian music fanzines), different counter cultural accessories and other free information materials.</p>

17	<p>Think global, act local! 11:00 – 13:30: Presentation of the vegetarian alternative (ethical, ecological and health reasons). Societatea Vegetarienilor din România. 14:00 – 15:00: The problem of migration in the countries of the former communist bloc. Simina Guga – licensed in sociology. 15:30 – 17:00: Free Software. Sindicatul – Tîrgu Mureş. Critical Mass : Sindicatul – Tîrgu Mureş. 17:30 – 18:30: Protecting your identity on the internet – interactive seminar 19:00 – 20:30: Sexualized violence in war and political crisis. Alexandra Geisler - licensed in Social Science and Human Rights, doing her PhD on Human Trafficking of minoritized groups, founder of Erinyen – anarcha-feminist collective in Berlin and the director of the german section of WILPF –International Women’s League for Peace and Freedom. 21:00-23:00: Silkscreen workshop. By any Means Distro – Bucureşti.</p>	
18	12:00 – 20:00: Space for ideas- workshop	<p>During the workshops called “Space for ideas” we will prepare the content and design of various visual materials which will be present in the city in different forms: clothes, prints, posters, etc. These materials will communicate messages related to the four themes of the program of events (post-communism, feminism, education, display) and they will be a reflection of the discussions and of the different associations and collaborations between the people and groups involved in the whole project.</p>
19	12:00 – 20:00: Space for ideas - workshop	
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21	19:00: Cafe Me, you...and who else? organized by ACCEPT Association.	The ACCEPT Association is the first non-governmental organization of human rights from Romania which protects and

22	<p>19:00: Screening of documentaries related to LGBT issues from the archive of ACCEPT Association.</p> <p>Politics of the heart Canada 2005, documentary 68 minutes Director: Nancy Nicol</p> <p>Heneini SUA 2005, documentary 62 minutes Director: Irena Fayngold</p> <p>They still smile Belarus 2002, documentary 16,47' Director: Irina Sizova</p>	<p>promotes the rights of LGBT persons at national level. The Café “Me, you... and who else?” organized by ACCEPT Association will give the opportunity for individual conversation to take place that would hopefully question the existing preconceived ideas about differences between people. Also, a public/personal archive on LGBT issues will be available.</p>
23	<p>12:00 – 20:00: Space for ideas - workshop</p>	
24	<p>12:00 – 20:00: At work... Temporary free spaces – workshops and discussions. Reni Hofmüller.</p>	<p>Reni Hofmüller, based in Graz is an artist, musician, composer, performer, organizer and activist in the fields of (new) media technology usage and of their political importance in general, engaged in the development of contemporary art and convinced that thinking makes a difference.</p> <p>The workshops, discussions and presentations that will take place over four days will include topics such as: the relation between gender and technology, the role of free software and open source in promoting the freedom of information, women as content</p>
25	<p>12:00 – 20:00: At work... Temporary free spaces – workshops and discussions. Reni Hofmüller. 20:00: Poliphonic Orchestra. Performance.</p>	
26	<p>12:00 – 20:00 At work... Temporary free spaces – workshops and discussions. Reni Hofmüller. 20:00: Appropriation as an artistic practice with political background – presentation byReni Hofmüller.</p>	

	27	<p>12:00: Walk in the city to locations with importance for an alternative history of women.</p> <p>20:00: Dinner and discussions in the garden of the Project Space.</p>	<p>producers in the field of culture and technology, etc. The contents of the workshops are not established in advance but would be decided together with the participants in a democratic, non-hierarchical situation.</p> <p>The photo documentation realized during the workshops and discussions will be used later for a symbolical appropriation of the space of the city. Locations in Bucharest that have an importance for the alternative history of women will be marked by these photos representing women in non-stereotypical situations, both in the real space of the city and on a virtual map of Bucharest, which will be hosted on the project website. (www.spatiul-public.ro)</p>
	28	12:00 – 20:00: Space for ideas - workshop	
	29	12:00 – 20:00: Space for ideas - workshop	
	30	12:00 – 20:00: Space for ideas - workshop	
Octombrie	01	12:00 – 18:00: Space for ideas - workshop in collaboration with CARE centre.	<p>The Centre for Action and Responsibility in Education (CARE), operates on the premises of the National Bilingual College George Cosbuc and it was establish in order to provide students, graduated students and teachers with a space for dialog, opportunities for scholastic improvement, talent development and community involvement.</p> <p>The workshop realized together with the members of CARE centre (students, graduated students and teachers Roxana Marin and Mihaela Ghitiu) will aim to produce a series of practical objects for everyday use (maps, stickers, bookmarks, mind maps, posters, etc), which will emphasize, through their form and content, the importance and necessity of critical thinking and the fact that each of us can make a difference. All the objects realized during the workshops will be accessible in electronic format on the project website.</p>
	02	12:00 – 18:00: Space for ideas - workshop in collaboration with CARE centre.	

	<p>03 19:00:Public schools in Romania: instruments of the Church for perpetuating gender discrimination- presentation by Emil Moise.</p>	<p>The presentation entitled "Public schools in Romania: instruments of the Church for perpetuating gender discrimination" by Emil Moise, will discuss how, with the aid of the confessional teaching of religion in public schools and also with the aid of the collateral actions which rise from this fact, power relations in general and gender power relation in particular are transmitted and perpetuated.</p> <p>Emil Moise is an activist and a socio-humanist science teacher. His fields of interest are: culture and civic attitude, applied ethics, human rights, the theory of social decision, the promoting of tolerance and of respect towards all human beings and towards nature.</p>
	<p>04 18:00 – 20:00: Ofensiva generozității – discussions and presentations. Invited project – The Rahova-Uranus Community Center– architect Ruxandra Antal.</p>	<p>Ofensiva Generozității is a group of artists and volunteers working with the community from Uranus-Rahova neighbourhood in Bucharest, part of a project called "Build your community", a communitarian art and social involvement project.</p>
	<p>05 12:00: Ofensiva generozității – workshop Private map – realized together with the members of CARE centre.</p>	<p>The workshops and the discussions proposed by Ofensiva Generozității will be based on: screenings of documentaries featuring locals talking about their everyday lives and about the effects of gentrification on their community; presentation of video documentation of theatre plays written and performed together with the people from the neighbourhood; presentation of documentation material about the reconditioning of a park from the area and the organization of a "speaker's corner" where people from the area could talk about their daily problems; presentation of a project for a community centre designed by the architect Ruxandra Antal. Together with the members of CARE centre, the members of „Ofensiva Generozității” group will organize a workshop about how to make personal maps.</p>

06	<p>19:00: The construction of the masculine martial identity on the module maturity/immaturity in Romania – presentation and screening by Stefan Tiron.</p>	<p>The presentation “The construction of the masculine martial identity on the module maturity/immaturity in Romania” by Stefan Tiron will question if the image of the man before 1989, the man as the little warrior, the sempai, the coach, the master is always connected to a certain model of masculinity trained to perfection in the middle of nature or in the middle of the living room. A masculinity placed on the side of the road, next to the picnic or next to the health resorts. Models of men (bruce li, chucky chen, arnold) were posted on walls or studied directly from the pirated martial arts movies. We will see a succession of such models in a projection of images and in an action movie. Stefan Tiron is a curator and, according to his description “a paranoia double agent, information dealer, dirty data miner, info broker, shady somatic recipient and damaged cortical data retriever.”</p>
07	<p>19:00: The One Laptop Per Child in Romania initiative– presentations and discussions. Liviu Pop.</p>	<p>The presentation “The One Laptop Per Child in Romania initiative” will refer to the OLPC project initiated by Nicolas Negroponte, project that proposes a revolutionary educational alternative, destined for the third world countries but not exclusively. Even if the laptop designed by the MIT representative seems modest compared to the technical standards of the latest information technologies, still it could represent a radical improvement of the Romanian education system. The story of the initial agreement and its ultimate demise by Romanian politicians shouldn’t be the last chapter of OLPC project in this country, but rather the beginning of a serious debate about a real modernization of the education system in Romania.</p> <p>Liviu Pop is a researcher in the field of media archaeology, analogue and digital culture, the digitalisation of archives and independent media production.</p>

08	<p>19:00: How are our heroes now? – presentation and discussion. Cristian Cercel.</p>	<p>The presentation “How are our heroes now?” will be made by Cristian Cercel. During the national-communism promoted by Ceausescu, textbooks (History and Romanian literature in particular) were presenting a heroic narrative of the history of the Romanians (n.b.: the history was of the Romanians and not of Romania). Without the existence of an authentic alternative, the monopoly for the production and the reproduction of identity was in the hands of the Communist Party, the education system was one of the main channels through which a national identity, far from being a comprehensive one, was propagated. What is the situation now, when the alternative textbooks are an everyday reality for the high school pupils? What are our brave national heroes doing now? How different is the present “Romanian narrative” compared to the one from the national-communist period?</p> <p>Cristian Cercel graduated in European Studies from the Literature department of Bucharest University and has a Master of Arts in Nationalism Studies from the Central European University, Budapest. He works as a translator.</p>
09	<p>19:00: You cannot speak about communism on a street corner – screening and discussions. Valeriu Antonovici.</p>	<p>„You cannot speak about communism on a street corner” is a film about memory realized by Valeriu Antonovic, a film that reflects on the different perspectives of relating to the communist experience, from the official discourses to the opinions of sympathizers of the former communist party, from the ideas of randomly chosen people on the streets, in parks, on the subway to the comments of sociologists, anthropologists, and political scientists. All these different points of view make place for a more nuanced analyses of the communist past.</p> <p>The screening will be followed by an informal discussion with the author.</p> <p>Valeriu Antonovic is a researcher in social sciences and a documentary filmmaker.</p>

10	<p>12:00 – 20:00: ak kraak - videoactivism and critical documenting in the context of activists' movement in Berlin and Germany since 1989</p> <p>–presentation, workshop, screenings. Katharina Koch, Marie Du Vinage, Florian Hülsey, Elizabeth Grenier.</p>	<p>Katharina Koch, Marie Du Vinage, Florian Hülsey and Elizabeth Grenier will present "ak kraak - videoactivism and critical documenting in the frame of activists' movement in Berlin and Germany since 1989". The presentation of the history and activity of the ak kraak group from Berlin in the context of the international and German anarchist movement and the workshop about alternative ways to produce documentaries will discuss ideas related to strategies of self-organization, to the concept of 'do it yourself', to the critical way of dealing with documentary/documentary filmmaking (subjective perspectives, self-reflected access, ways of working together/relationship: filmmakers-protagonists, other ways of documentary work than the corporate media style, etc). A selection of films from the ak kraak archive, films realized between 1990 and 2007, will be showed in a video lounge. An archive of posters and info material about the group will also be available.</p> <p>The registered association Videoaktiv (Videoaktiv e.V.) runs on a nonprofit basis and produces documentaries that comment ongoing politics, social concerns, art and culture with coverage of racism, anti-Semitism, labour, exploitation, migration, gentrification, gender and sexism. It documents international political and sub-cultural activities of various left-wing groups. Katharina Koch is a cultural anthropologist and filmmaker. Since 1999 she is working for Videoaktiv e.V. Berlin and realised various documentations with different social, cultural and political issues. (e.g. "Borderline – Southeast Europe" (2004) and "We are girls, but... Women artists in Romania between everyday life and visions" (2006)). Moreover she is co-organiser and co-curator of the annual festival "balkan black box" taking place in Berlin and of other independent art and culture projects in the transnational context. Her scope of functions and interests : film, documentation, art exhibition, discussion/debate.</p> <p>Marie du Vinage, is a visual communication student and videoactivist/ filmmaker since 1998, interested in all types of relationships between everything that exists or even exists not yet.</p> <p>Florian Hülsey is a screen writer and video artist from Berlin, interested in what all types of relationships between everything that exists mean.</p>
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11	<p>19:00: Presentation by Indymedia Romania.</p>	<p>“Indymedia brings together groups of media and independent journalists in order to present news in a grassroots, non-commercial manner. Indymedia is a democratic channel for the creation of a radical description of reality, rendered with accuracy but also with passion.” (indymedia.org)</p> <p>The presentation will discuss the potential of independent media as an alternative to the passive acceptance of a predominant “journalistic objectivity” subjected to dominant ideologies, a dynamics on which the traditional interaction of publics with mainstream commercial media is based on. The mission of the Indymedia Romania, as listed on their website, will be discussed: creating a platform for promoting social justice, freedom of expression and information, for democratisation of technology and expertise, for breaking the monopoly of the media and for constructing an “alternative press”, for promoting the “do it yourself” principle, for constructing networks and for cooperating.</p>
12	<p>13:00 – 16:00: Preconceived ideas- a day in the media; Antiracist strategies. Ladyfest workshops.</p> <p>17:00 – 19:00: Activism in Romanian public life. Panel discussion moderated by Marius Stoica.</p> <p>20:00: Borders of transition. Presentation of "Commonplaces of Transition," a collaborative video project between D Media (Romania), Interspace (Bulgaria), Videoaktiv (Germany) and K:SAK (Moldova) focusing on borders, labour, activism and transition. Screening of the first finished video of the project, "Border Diaries" (D Media and K:SAK, 2007), a poetic travel diary of a trip across Romania and Moldova that reflects on the meaning of revolution, post-communism, history and memory. Followed by open discussion about the meaning of transition and post-communism. Joanne Richardson.</p>	<p>Ladyfest is a non-profit festival, organized by volunteers, the large majority of which are women, for the encouragement of communication between women and for the creation of a creative space for women.</p> <p>The three days of discussions and workshops that will take place in collaboration with Spațiul Public București Public Art Bucharest 2007 project will refer to topics such as: the presence of women in the public sphere; queer identities; activism against gender violence; motherhood and its social and political implications; women as content makers on the internet; video activism and gender identities, etc.</p> <p>„Activism in the Romanian public life” will take the form of a panel discussion about the meanings of the term of “activism” in politics, mass media, in academic and artistic circles, in the civic</p>

13	<p>10:00 – 19:00 Vegan baking; Women and technology; Queer identities; Discussion/workshop about non-hierarchical, feminist communication, about non-violence and self-organization; Motherhood and its social and political implications; A collective text about fear; Radical reading. Ladyfest workshops.</p> <p>20:00: Women's work. Presentation of two videos that were part of a collaboration between DMedia and Candida TV (Italy): "Made in Italy" (2006, 42") about the delocalization of Italian companies to Romania and the migration of Romanians to Italy, and "Eden" (2006, 18") about female workers in Italian firms in Arad, followed by an introduction to D Media's next project on women's work and precarity with Videoaktiv, and an open discussion about the changes in women's work from 1989 to the present. Joanne Richardson.</p>	<p>society and in the alternative social communities. We will discuss the sense of activism from multiple points of view and also we will reflect on the shortcomings that the usage - and over usage - of the term can cause in the Romanian context, especially in the mass media.</p> <p>Marius Stoica studied philosophy at the Babeş Bolyai University in Cluj and since 2004 is a member of D Media group. In the framework of the group, he organized meetings and film screenings on the topic of video activism in Arad and Timisoara and was also involved in a few of the recent video projects of the group. He is concerned with the problems that an activist attitude addresses (globalization, pollution, human rights, etc) and with the alternative contemporary culture (the open source movement, the psychedelic culture, post-left anarchism, etc).</p>
14	<p>10:00 – 16:00: Gender and wikipedia/the presence of the women on the internet; Workshop/forum/panel about prostitution and sex-trafficking; Video activism; Our bodies. Ladyfest workshops.</p> <p>19:00: Precarious lives. Presentation of three short videos from a DVD magazine "Precarity" compiled by Candida TV (2005), which documents campaigns around the world against precarious work. Videos by Chainworkers (Italy), Intermitants du Spectacle (France) and Precarias a la Derivas (Spain). A discussion will follow addressing the theoretical background of the discourse of precarity and recent feminist critiques. Joanne Richardson.</p>	<p>Joanne Richardson proposes three series of film screenings followed by presentations and discussions on the topics of borders, activism, transition, post-communism, women's work, precarity.</p> <p>Joanne Richardson is founder of D Media in Cluj (an NGO working in the intersection of new technologies and activist art), editor of two books on media theory, and author of essays on art, software, copyleft, video activism, immaterial labour, post-communism, and of videos on globalization, migration and borders.</p>
15	Closing of the project.	