

“Traces in Spaces”

The Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw, member of the Association of Independent Schools of Art and Design organizes a series of artistic and theoretical events under the collective theme “Traces in Spaces”. This year’s AIAS event will be held from Nov 6th to Nov 10th in Wroclaw, Poland, and the leading theme of the meetings of representatives of students and staff members will be drawing in the contemporary world in diverse interpretations and experiments.

Drawing is the basic instrument of a non-verbal recording of thoughts, and thus – a universal carrier of ideas, the idea of development, idea of creativity, idea of freedom, idea of accomplishing the impossible, both in art and design. The drawing lies at the basis of all fields of visual activities and is an ideal medium for constructing the relations between many parts of one whole. It is a way to mark, name, delineate, thus it is a method to recognize a place – it is linked to a vital necessity to explore outskirts and peripheries.

While drawing up the programme of the lectures and workshops within “Traces in Spaces” we wished to emphasize a non-orthodox understanding of the notion ‘drawing’. However, while discovering the vanishing traces of the city’s contours and placing our own marks intended to aid social communication, we do not forget that drawing still remains a magical activity which unifies the body and the mind, a theatre of gesture, a space permeated by the unrecognized.

The project ‘Traces in Spaces’ will take place on the streets of Wroclaw. The city’s inhabitants, architecture, complex history, difficult presence will be the arena of our studies and activities. Wroclaw is the place where many cultures merge, it is a place of meeting and accepting each others’ diversity. Through the cooperation of various groups of inhabitants we want to contribute to the Beuys’s concept of social sculpture and work according to the idea of understanding and communication. This concept concerns shaping, altering and creating the world in which we live.

The Polish artistic traditions, which we want to refer to, are mostly the conceptual art of the 1970s, the phenomenon of concrete poetry, as well as the Orange Alternative movement, the activities of the Luxus group and the rich tradition of the contemporary drawing competitions in Wroclaw.

The AIAS event will comprise:

- 0. **workshops for students** from around the world entitled “**Traces in Spaces**”, culminating in an exhibition;
 - . **two-day symposium**, during which the participants of the AIAS event will be provided with eight lectures connected with the theme of the event and take part in discussions;
- 0. **drawing exhibition** organized by the Department of Drawing at the E.Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław;
- 0. **presentation of schools** – members of AIAS;
- 0. **guided tour** of the city and the Academy in Wrocław;
 - . **dialogue** with the city, its inhabitants, people from all over the world!

SCHEDULE OF THE WORKSHOPS

Workshop no 1: Flaneur. Maps of contemporary travellers

Tutor: Paweł Lisek

The topic of the workshop is the analysis of constructing systems of communication as an indicator of human needs and behaviour. The participants will try to determine these needs for urbanized areas, to define the suburbs, circulation flows, potential accumulations of random encounters – their analysis may lead to interesting drawings or images. The next stage will be learning the notion of data imaging and its creative implementation on the example of HTC – drawings made by means of the GPS or, more precisely, being a visualization of satellites’ errors.

The workshop will be carried out with focus on the creative implementation of the digital media, recording GPS data as well as getting acquainted with object software *MaxMSP/Jitter* as an instrument for a random data transcoding into images or sound compositions.

Schedule of the workshop:

- . short presentation of new possibilities in the realm of drawing (GPS) – mainly as a change of the individual way of constructing the space of the drawing, breaking up the habits of the hand movements, interactive installation (permutations), 3-D mouse as an instrument and tool for making a simplified drawing in three dimensions;
- 0. data gathering in the space of the city – division into three groups equipped with GPS facilities;
- 0. workshop involving object programming *MaxMSP/Jitter*, used for interactive tasks, explaining the notion of transcoding – data imaging;
- 0. realization of art works on the basis of the collected material in three groups working on individual concepts; the effort will be

focused on the analysis on social behaviour, order or chaos.

The aim of the workshop is proving that selective 'mapping' of the city may contain a potential of diverse artistic strategies.

Workshop no 2: Phantom outlines

Tutor: Karolina Freino

The workshop opens a dialogue with the past of the city.

Urbanized areas develop like palimpsests, their successive layers overlap, making the previous ones invisible. Sometimes it is brought about by tragic events, sometimes it is a conscious choice made mostly for the sake of modernization.

Decisions what to remember and in what way may be political. The architectural tissue of Wroclaw has recently become a stage of very dynamic changes. After World War 2 the space of the city was often utilized to achieve propaganda goals. A major part of the inherited German tenements were subject to many years of neglect. Currently, partly because of a disastrous technical condition of these buildings, partly because of changes in the city's infrastructure (e.g. increase in traffic and broadening the streets), some of these buildings are knocked down and replaced by new investments.

The workshop will be run in such a district where the construction lines have been changed or moved, leaving spatial voids behind them.

Schedule of the workshop:

The participants will receive 2 maps of the city: one of the existing state and one of the state before the WWII. On the basis of them, with wooden strips, they will mark the differences in the buildings' contours in the space, thus creating a three-dimensional drawing. The drawing will be a special, phantom representation of the memory of this part of the city. It will also be a starting point for the workshop participants to construct their own spatial forms, developed along their own concepts, giving rise to installations which will arrange the space anew and become part of it

The intervention will have ephemeral character. It will for a short moment reveal the erased traces of the former buildings and after a while undergo annihilation itself. It will also become a kind of a footbridge between the past and the future. The spatial drawing, which will be created by the participants of the workshop, will reflect the edges of the buildings which do not exist any more, however, at the same time it can evoke a new map, delineating the new, planned architectural tissue. Moreover, the forms created by

the participants will be, if only temporary, an alternative suggestion of the place's arrangement.

Workshop no 3: Virus inside the system

Tutors: Anna Kołodziejczyk, Łukasz Paluch

The workshop will focus on the issues of the aesthetics of urban advertising and the ways in functions. The motto will be a sentence by David Ogilvy, a founder of an advertising agency Ogilvy & Mather: *I have a passion for landscape, and I have never seen one improved by a billboard.*

Nowadays it is neither architects nor city planners that shape the ultimate appearance of the public space in which we live. Outdoor advertising has got out of control, whereas public space has been stolen by it. Functional graphics orders, distinguishes and describes the world around us. It is the most universal and omnipresent art discipline, it is an indispensable factor perfecting the current standard of life. In the reality of the Polish advertising design, however, we very rarely come across such act of designing, which like the act of art at its best, would be a pure and unexpected event, resisting manipulations and programming.

The workshop will facilitate deliberations in which way design, with its remarkably broad realization possibilities, influences an individual viewer/user, his or her life, the life of smaller and bigger communities; in which way it influences the visual landscape of the cities as well as how it reacts to continuous changes in the social, economic spheres.

Schedule of the workshop:

The workshop will be held partly in a selected space in Wrocław, in which various advertising and informative carriers abound. The motto by David Ogilvy will be subject to creative transformations. Each participant will be responsible for working on one word that the sentence is made of, while the specific character of the selected public space will serve as inspiration. The form of the designed word will be absolutely free, it can be both an original typographic solution and an interpretation of solutions observed on the spot. The last stage will comprise constructing the full sentence out of the designed, drawn or printed modules and arranging them into a shape resembling a billboard.

Workshop no 4: Line – Space - Movement

Tutor: Adam Abel

The workshop concerns the problem of line, structure, material and movement in the context of space, which will be animated by means of the *stop motion* registration of changes occurring in it. The changes will concern not only the location of the five mobile screens introduced into the space of the gallery – the fronts of the screens will be covered with clay – but also the drawings and structures within the screens themselves as well as set designs by the project's participants.

Schedule of the workshop:

Two persons will be assigned to each screen. One person will be creating animations of the lines and structures within the moving screen covered with clay, the second one will be responsible for animating the location of the screen and the location of the first person in the space of the gallery. Additionally, the second person will have the possibility of introducing lines into the area of the walls and the floor.

All the occurring changes will be registered with a digital camera combined with a specialized software which will combine all images into motion sequences. Transposing the successive recorded images onto a big LCD screen will give the animators a possibility of controlling and viewing the executed changes directly.

It is assumed that the outcome of the workshop will be a pictorial animation within the animation of the space, based on the choreography of the lines, screens and figures designed by the participants of the workshop.

Workshop no 5: Art of the street

Tutors: Paweł Jarodzki, Sławek (Zbiok) Czajkowski

Art of the street is a kind of intervention into the structure of contemporary city. It is an expression of discontent with the existing situation but at the same time a live discourse about the property laws and responsibility for the public space. One can say it is a public discussion about democracy. Discussion about who has the right to decide about public space. Is it the advertising agencies and big business, or the elected authorities, or artists, or maybe all the citizens?

That is why the practical part of the workshop will be located in an area that is run-down but situated in the centre of the city. A space concealed, that is unattractive for the advertisers, whereas of remarkable significance for the inhabitants.

The sense of the common activities will be transforming the desolated structure of a yard into a vibrating space, which will provide inspiration for our successive activities. Thus the aim of the workshop is not creating a finished work of art but rather transforming the space in such a way that other people will be encouraged to creatively alter their environment. The instruments that the participants

will utilize are first of all simple signs-graphic stencils, superimposed on a given area. The shapes, aggressiveness of the colours and energy of the participants will bring about a radical make-over of this desolated and shamefully hidden space in the centre of the city.

Schedule of the workshop:

On the first day the participants will view the most important works of street art created in Wrocław (such as: Remed, Dem, Jiem, Sickboy, M-City, Blu, Zbk). The presentation will finish with a discussion.

The second day will be devoted to realizing projects in a selected space in the centre of the city, mostly with the use of simple stencils.

Workshop no 6: Traces of presence – a drawing workshop

Tutors: Janusz Merkel, Jarosław Grulkowski

Cities all possess their own history. The stories of the cities are impressed on their walls, they are imprinted in the networks of the streets. In the less representative parts of the city it is possible to discover the most important traces of the vanishing and transformation processes as a result of people's activities and forces of nature. For the average citizen these will most often be embarrassing traces of neglect, witnesses of the laxness of municipal services. However, for the artist they may become a unique inspiration. The scratched walls, peeling layers of paint on old gates, remains of old signboards, traces of buildings that are not there any longer visible – all of them appeal to imagination, especially as they are also a recording of historical, often very dramatic, events.

The workshop will start from looking for motifs. On an area marked on the map the participants will be looking for places that might interest them. The traces found and recorded in the sketchbook or with the camera will be used to execute drawing works in the Studio BWA. The realizations will be preceded by a joint analysis of the uncovered historical layers, an attempt at pointing out forces that facilitate changes exerted on the city's countenance day after day. The effects of the drawing activities of the workshop's participants will be displayed on the final show.

The workshop is aimed at searching for the exceptional beauty hidden in the places that are passed by with indifference or aversion. The search will be realized by means of appropriate drawing techniques. The workshop will run also in the afternoons (optionally).

Workshop no 7: 'Hares and hounds'

Tutors: Magda Grzybowska, Mariusz Gorzelak

The activity makes use of the format of a 'game' in which the participants, divided into two groups, take part in a sort of a cross-country run within a set area. During the game one of the groups runs away and marks its route with traces of various kinds so that the second group is able to follow them. The task of both groups is to wander in the district adjacent to Studio BWA, in the so-called 'District of Four Temples'.

Schedule of the workshop:

Each of the groups equipped with simple materials such as string, chalk or sheets of paper as well as photo cameras will choose its own route within the yards, streets and buildings in the district. The groups are acting independently of each other whereas their activities are based on cooperation between members of the groups. The groups are leaving marks, traces, pieces of information, documents selected spots. This part of the activity lasts about one and a half hour. Afterwards both groups meet in a pre-agreed place and start the second part of the game – they follow the traces left by the other group. This stage is about finding the traces which have been left behind and responding to them through such instruments as performance, drawing, object, photography, film – all of that in the frames of the simple, basic materials and equipment mentioned before. The second stage lasts another hour and a half.

The whole activity will be documented.

Afterwards short discussion and critique will take place.

The effects of the workshop will be objects, notes, photo and film documentation. They will be displayed during the final exhibition.

The aim of the activity is getting to know the place through the observation of the existing 'landscape'. The learning process is facilitated by wandering. Another aim is leaving one's own trace, marking one's own territory, and then recognizing marks of the other group and responding to them.

The participants of the workshop will be the students and the kids who live in the district. It is planned to invite the kids from the association of handicapped people in the neighbourhood.

Workshop no 8: CityRemix

Tutors: Marek Grzyb, Paweł Lisek

The workshop is a dialogue with the recorded views of the city whose images are kept in memories or preserved in photos, videos or

sketches and drawings. The images of the city do not only include architecture and its rhythm, but also people (their specific behaviour, language, diverse ways of communication), traffic, social and cultural events. In order to create our own image of the city out of the recorded elements, we have to pick essential elements from the collected material and transform them in an individual way. Digitally recorded images are exceptionally easy to modify, manipulate and exchange.

Schedule of the workshop:

The workshop will be carried out in the form of a *live* realization. The participants will be able to create their own image of Wrocław, its atmosphere and people, out of the recorded fragments (video films, animations, photographs, prints). It will be an attempt to express the participants' own opinion in the shape of a visual form generated *live*.

The workshop will utilize a programme which will combine pre-prepared *samples* (video) with a manual drawing created on a tablet. The images can be drawn over, commented upon (text) and deleted (one of the colours will be transparent), new situations can be added. Deleting will uncover new layers (video loops) which will create a sort of an individually recognized city and an attempt at weaving one's individual image into its tissue. The interventions into the initial material will display the traces left by the participants' stay in our city.

The workshop will be joined by the kids and young people from the art schools as well as the passers-by. The number of participants' is not limited. The workshop will be held after dusk (about 7 p.m.)

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