

Post for Kyrgyzstan

«Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts»
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NEWS

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КЫРГЫЗСКИЙ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ МУЗЕЙ
ИЗОБРАЗИТЕЛЬНЫХ ИСКУССТВ им. Г. АЙТИЕВА

Post for Kyrgyzstan

Exhibition project with art works about the "Utopia of space"

Bishkek, 12.12.07

How does one bring international art into a country which does not have the financial means required to organise an international exhibition?

Lätitia Norkeit and Maxim Neroda, two artists from Germany, who currently live and work in Bishkek, meet this challenge by creating a project in cooperation with the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, giving it the provocative title "Post for Kyrgyzstan".

The endless search for sponsors seemed to be tedious and unprofitable. They therefore decided to call on artists worldwide via e-mail and website www.paeckchen.org to send their work on the subject "Utopia of space" in a parcel or letter to the distant Kyrgyz capital city Bishkek, thus making it be a part of an exhibition. With this action they want to draw attention to a country which is widely unknown, while at the same time enriching local cultural activity. There is great interest in international art, but few offers, and for the majority of the Kyrgyz people travelling is still unaffordable.

The project will lead to the opening of an exhibition of all the contributions in the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts in Bishkek on the 29 March 2008. The aim of the exhibition is to give visitors access to a wide variety of contemporary art, and also to show that art does not necessarily involve expensive material and immense effort.

In the summer of 2007 the Kyrgyz National Museum for Fine Arts staged an exhibition with the title "The whole city" in cooperation with the German embassy and the ifa. It showed photographs by six artists, who live and work in Germany. In 2006 there was an exhibition with works from Wols. Both shows were very well-attended and encouraged the director in her wish to bring more European contemporary art to Kyrgyzstan.

The organizers are very much looking forward to the arrival of the parcels, which must be posted by the 15th February 2008, and hope for lively participation. You can find the application form and the exact terms of participation as well as more information about the exhibition on the website www.paeckchen.org under "Concept"!

Cultural history in Kyrgyzstan

For over 100 years the Kyrgyz underwent permanent social and cultural changes. For a time being, the land Kyrgyzstan was integrated into the Russian tsardom and 1919 into the Soviet Union. Under Stalin most of the inhabitants, who until then had lived as nomads, were forced to settle down. The Soviets tried to suppress old Kyrgyz traditions and turned them into good Soviet citizens, who believed in progress. Because of these pressures from outside and the altered circumstances, the old traditions did in fact disappear eventually and people's way of thinking changed. An artistic perception evolved, which was mainly influenced by Soviet realism.

When the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, most of the Kyrgyz people were not at all prepared for another change. The newly gained autonomy, leading away from a controlled and ideologically shaped life, into a free-market economy and an -at least basically- democratic existence, gave them more freedom but less security. In the realm of art, the reorientation has just begun.

Further background information and personal experiences on: www.paeckchen.org
Lätitia Norkeit, Maxim Neroda (paeckchen.org) / Kadicha Mambetalieva (Kyrgyz Nationalmuseum)

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