

**EXPERT BARCELONA WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**Macba's Auditorium**  
**Barcelona, 9th, 10th and 11th May 2007**

The 9th at 8pm it was held the welcome dinner with all the participants at the Pati Manning (CERC, Barcelona), we were 32 of us.

The list of participants at the workshop:

**European Guests**

Gábor Altorjay (Hungary)  
László Beke (Budapest, Hungary)  
Klaus Groh (Edeweicht, Germany)  
Cordelia Martens (Berlin, Germany)  
Ricardo Nicolau (Porto, Portugal)  
Zoltan Szegedy-Maszak (Hungary)  
Annamària Szöke (Budapest, Hungary)  
Anne Thurmann-Jajes (Bremen, Germany)

**Latin American Guests**

Graciela Carnevale (Rosario, Argentina)  
Fernando Davis (La Plata, Argentina)  
Cristina Freire (Sao Paulo, Brazil)  
Ana Longoni (Buenos Aires, Argentina)  
Miguel López (Lima, Peru)  
Emilio Tarazona (Lima, Peru)

**Spanish Guests**

Joaquín Barriendos (Barcelona - México)  
Jorge Blasco (Barcelona)  
Jesús Carrillo (Madrid)  
Iván Orellana (Barcelona)  
Pilar Parcerisas (Barcelona)  
Valentín Roma (Barcelona)

**Special Guests**

Carme Ortíz (Espais magazine, Girona, Spain)  
Daria Pyrkina (Moscow, Russia)  
Jorge Ribalta (MACBA)  
Rachel Weiss (Chicago, USA)

**Co organizers**

Iris Dressler (WKV, Stuttgart)  
Miklos Peternak (C3, Budapest)

**Organization Team**

Pilar Duran (reporter)  
Eva Carbó (reporter)  
Valerie Rubinstein (project management)  
Ares Cerveró (research)

Inés Carles (research)  
Cilia Willem (plenary chairperson)  
Antoni Mercader (project director)

This people ask for apologizes because they couldn't come:

Daniel García Andújar  
Simón Marchán  
Narcis Selles  
Antoni Muntadas  
Andrzej Turoswki (Polonia)  
Miguel von Haffe Pérez (Portugal)  
Soledad Novoa (Chile)

### First day

It was inaugurate a participative exhibition, with:

- Basic information about the project
  - Approximation to a possible synergy project way
  - Contribution to think about geopolitical issues of the project
  - Selection of study examples with the original documentation included
  - Presentation of the web site (work in progress version)
  - Visualization of the animated, interactive and provisional thesaurus items
- (See link at the web site)

It was been offered simultaneous translation between English and Spanish.

### Morning session

According to the program the three Key Notes have been presented in the order:

Lazlo Beke  
Ana Longoni  
Valentí Roma

(See link at the web site)

A debate has been carried out after them about:

- To establish comparisons and to join questions all together the generations that the investigation group VRM is made out
- To be aware of the pluricentrism and of the different censorships to under pressure the artwork was submitted during the 60 and 70's
- To consider the non-materialization (absence of material) and the non-object and to decline to use conceptual art or conceptualism...
- The need to check the categories and the analysis structure of the project
- To value the interlocution role that the web site should offer
- To specify work methodologies

### Evening session

The experts presented the papers:

Klaus Groh

Miguel López y Emilio Tarazona

Cristina Freire

Fernando Davis

Pilar Parcerisas ask for apologies because she couldn't come

(See papers on the web site)

The mediators were:

Miklos Peternak

Anne Thurmann-Jajes

Valentín Roma

It has been debated how to clarify and create a discussion device (tool) in order to focus of the most relevant issues and how to consider the needs of analyze the most representative study cases.

It has decided to create two different committees:

1. Conceptual issues: reconstruction / 'memory' vs. 'history' / conceptual art in present times - conceptual art today?
2. The research tool: methodology / weblog / wiki / key examples / artists / case studies / etc. starting from basic questions on common elements.

The group was not split into two committees; instead, it has been decided to work in plenary session with the translator service. The morning session would be for the first subject and the evening for the second one.

After 6pm:

FIRST OPEN SEMINAR SESSION

'Re-writing Conceptual Art' chaired by Ana Longoni

Rachel Weiss gave a lecture on the subject

Subsequent debate with Klaus Groh and Jesús Carrillo as guests.

(See link for more information)

## **Second day**

### **Morning session**

**Conceptual issues:** reconstruction / 'memory' vs. 'history' / conceptual art in present times - conceptual art today?

Topic leader: Anne Thurmann

-The issue of **freedom** (what did 'freedom' mean in each context), kinds of **oppression**, kinds of **resistance**

- Quantity versus quality of **information** and **communication** (then - now) - example: mail art as a communication strategy

- **Knowledge** sharing - collective **action** - strategies for creating **communities**

- Modes of **view of history** (role of archives, re-construction, re-creation...), **imagery** of 'locality', political aspects of archives: keeping 'records' as a political act/fact (?), **artists' texts**
  - What kind of 'objects', 'non-objects'? How to **exhibit/publish** the archives/ works?
  - Authorship/ originality?
- Conceptual art today: needs to be studied in the context of **global capitalism** (90s versus 60s -> 'state' capitalism), relationship between the early works and its 'effects' on contemporary (conceptual) art and society, need to reactivate/connect critical practices, **artivism**
- The importance of a **network** (as opposed to local/national historiographies):
  - Study **similarities/differences/specificities** in the different geographical contexts
  - Sharing information about and 'connecting' (linking on the web) existing **archives**, existing **research** and (future) **exhibitions**, using key words
  - Creating a common **taxonomy/classification**

### Morning conclusions

1. Continuity: new episode(s)? New funding projects that involve Latin America?
  - New projects - continuity within present consortium.
2. Web: revision and critical evaluation by the experts. Starting the web with the aim it was thought: to become the meeting point and a useful tool. The experts' contribution who did their short presentation the previous evening day. (The coordinator will collect this information by the 30th June: Fernando Davis)
3. 'Connect': existing archives and research on the web: suggestions for a 'starting point' (summaries, introductions, 'maps', comments on archives/research...) (The coordinator will collect this information by the 30th June Eva Carbó)

### Evening session

The research tool: methodology / weblog / wiki / key examples / artists / case studies / etc...

Starting from basic questions on common elements

Topic leader: Ana Longoni

This session got the aim to trace out the categories to help in the classification of the artworks, or at least to be a starting point to organize the information. Some directions were taken and it was decided to relate the particular cases, trying to preserve the importance of each one –or for more than one- inside of the project.

- Basis: specific examples - common difficulties/common features.

### LIST OF EXAMPLES

- Cristina Freire introduced **Artur Barrio** (BR) '**projects**' (installations,

performance, description of..., documentation on...) **as opposed to the 'object'** - methodology: interviewing the artists is a possible complementary methodology

- Fernando Davis talked about **Carlos Ginzburg** (AR): 'letter bomb' - **political radicalisation** as a watermark in the art practice - **shows the relationship between the 'institution' and the 'circuit'**.
- Graciela Carnevale and **Eduardo Favario**: - issues of **self-organised spaces** - what is the role of the art(ist) in social change? -The art work as a political/revolutionary *act* in itself (as opposed to political *content*) -invitation of the public as participants
- Anne Thurmann-(DE) and the **mail art**: postcards and letters were sent from Western Germany to Eastern Germany - interaction within the same country before the fall of the iron curtain
- Klaus example about false marriage advertisement of "Anna Blume". A thousand of photographs of possible husbands candidates were sent from East Germany.

These three cases lead us to think of:

- **state power, censorship, imprisonment**
- László Beke and **mail art**: Robert Rehfeld (also relationship with Latin-America; this would be an '**international' case**)
- Emilio Tarazona and Miguel López talked about Rafael Hastings, Emilio Hernández Saavedra, and the main critic Juan Acha. Exhibits/critiques the art institutions themselves (the 'gallery', the 'museum', the 'art critic'...). Dismantling the art institution -> how does this happen in different contexts/countries?
- Valentín Roma and the Grup de Treball project "Anunciamos". Advertisements on a conservative newspaper "La Vanguardia"
- Daria Pyrkina (Moscow, Russia) at these days in Russia didn't exist galleries. In these days the displays of non-official art were displayed into flats. This example asks us to review: About the relationship between public space and private space and about the distribution of art
- Iris Dressler and the artists 'in between' Rumania. L. Beke: parallel, 'underground' archive of Rumanian art Gábor Altorjay introduced as example his own work

Some questions to think about:

- artistic practices 'neglected' by the establishment
- specificity of each local context

### Conclusions evening session

- our register data base records should be *complementary* to existing and advanced research, containing 'practical' information (e.g. where to find the 'object'), the database as a residual index, a kind of 'navigator';
- the wiki tool will permit us to add reflexions about the artwork.
- need for dissemination of the body of ongoing theoretical work and experiences on the website - our task as 'documentalists'  
(Ana Longoni coordinates and collect Spanish papers and will prepare a list of concepts to increase the thesaurus)
- need for an 'administrative' structure of the web, editors (possible Jorge Blasco + Ana Longoni + Miklos Peternak)
- We will fill these needs: open a mail list, activate a blog as a place were to debate and clarifies the improvements been at the web and to ensure the bilingualism (Spanish and English) at the web site.

### After 6pm

#### SECOND OPEN SEMINAR

'The present time of the conceptual debate' chaired by Valentín Roma  
László Beke gave the conference about.  
Further discussion board with also Daria Pyrkina and Emilio Tarazona.  
(See link for more information)