

### **Discover Eliava Market**

Project is carried out in the frames of the Green Art Lab Alliance (GALA) Project (project coordinator: Trans Artist (Netherlands), local partner: GeoAIR (Georgia))

### **General information**

Duration of the project: April 2014 – January 2015

Duration of the Lab part: April – July 2014

Location: Tbilisi, Georgia

Organization responsible for the activity: GeoAIR

Cooperating GALA partner: GeoAIR

### **List of participants:**

#### **Artists**

Donika Cina (Albania): artist

Izabella Rogucka (Poland): artist

Partizaning (Russia, Igor Ponosov and Anton Polsky): artists

Katharina Stadler (Austria/Georgia): artist

Giorgi Magradze (Georgia): artist

### **Project team**

Sophia Lapiashvili: local coordinator and host of international artists, GeoAIR

Tamar Janashia: project manager and host of international artists

Tamar Chirakadze: accountant

Tamuna Mchedlishvili: technical assistant

Nastasia Arabuli: PR, blog

Nini Palavandishvili: design and translation

### **Starting point**

GeoAIR participates in both activities of the GALA project: it organizes a lab and a workshop. These two modules are scheduled to take place at the following dates: 1. Artistic residency – May-July 2014, and 2. workshop including public talk and a more in-depth information exchange/discussion – late January 2015.

The project “Discover Eliava Market” sets the goal to

1. To demarginalize micro space of the street market through cultural intervention of eco projects carried out in different media: sound, video, light, performances, workshops, lectures, info desks;



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2. To contribute to the visualization of the problems connected to the negative human impact on environment;
3. To search for new creative ways for solution of the problems of waste management, use of reusable materials and renewable energies in cultural institutions;
4. To establishment collaboration between the representatives of different social and cultural layers.

During the artistic intervention on the Eliava Market project team planned to initiate series of activities in an open isolated space and introduce it to the rest of the city with the help of research of the area, mapping of the territory (ecology, social, physical, sound, smell etc.) and production of art works with the use of recycled materials found at the location. It was intention of the organizers of the project to involve in artistic production and discussion of the environmental topics workers of the Market, which formally represents a shopping area that is remembered only during the times of need for construction materials, food, smaller paraphernalia, second-hand parts of the vehicles etc. It also houses series of car repair workshops, junkyards of scrap metal, vehicle oil, food and packaging waste.

During the second part of the project artists, representatives of the cultural institutions, experts on environmental issues, businessmen will be invited to a two day workshop, which will be used for exchange of ideas about possible reduction of the environmental impact, discussion of best practices, realistic scenarios and creative approach to raising awareness about the topic. The first day will be organized as an open session for all interested persons who will have an opportunity to listen to the interactive talks by the invited experts. Selected group and a limited number of people will be invited to participate in a more in-depth workshop that will take place on the second day and involve representatives of the Julie's Bicycle and other experts.

This document includes report about the first part of the project "Discover Eliava Market" – namely the artistic residence, which already took place in Tbilisi, Georgia and is almost completed.

## **Main outcomes/Follow up**

Preparation and carrying out of the project was made possible by the project team, which included coordinator from the GeoAIR Sophia Lapiashvili, project manager Tamara Janashia from the Culture and Management Lab, project assistant Tamuna Mchedlishvili, PR manager Nastasia Arabuli.

In order to carry out artistic intervention on the Eliava Market it was decided to organize the following activities:

- Recruit, select and invite international and local artists for participation in the intervention;
- Provide artists with guidance/consultancy on the existing situation and throughout the project;



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- Provide artists with technical and otherwise help (translation, dissemination of information about the project and planned events) during production of their works;
- Create a blog and facebook page for informing and updating the public about the artists, ongoing activities and events.

Beginning of April 2014 GeoAIR published an announcement regarding open call for applications from local and international artists interested in reflecting about the issues of human impact on the environment, ways of its reduction, repeated use of available resources in the most efficient and creative way, establishment of collaboration between the representatives of different social and cultural layers. Artists were asked to organize at least one public event (presentation, lecture, exhibition, artistic talk or discussion based on the choice of the author) related to the Eliava eco project.

In parallel to the open call representative of the GeoAIR agreed on cooperation with the manager of the market, who kindly agreed to give the artists two working spaces throughout the whole duration of the project and provide them with any materials from the territory that they would use for production of their works.

As a result of the open call and collaboration with international partner organizations (Adam Mitzkewicz Institute, Artslink) three artistic teams were formed for intervention on the market. Those were: 1. Iza Rogucka (Poland) and Giorgi Magradze (Georgia); 2. Donika Cina (Albania) and Katharina Stadler (Austria/Georgia); 3. Partizaning (Russia).

Visits of the artists took place at the following dates:

Donika Cina (Albania): May 01 - June 12, 2014

Izabella Rogucka (Poland): May 27 - June 18, 2014

Partizaning (Russia): June 26 - July 10, 2014

#### **Artistic team #1: Iza Rogucka (Poland) and Giorgi Magradze (Georgia)**

Iza Rogucka arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia on May 27, 2014 and stayed here until June 18th, 2014. Immediately after her arrival she was introduced to the project team (coordinator, assistant, other participants of the project) and her Georgian colleague who she collaborated with for the next three weeks. She was given a tour to the Eliava Market and her working space.

During her stay in Georgia Iza Rogucka closely worked with the local colleague Giorgi Magradze. They produced two sculptures, which presented combination of two worlds: classical sculpture and disposal of organic waste. Reference was made to classical art that used to be an important part of an artistic life of both artists, however was not always actively used during their careers.

The working process included research of the market and available materials (kindly donated by the market administration), getting familiar with market workers and collaboration with them. Presentation of the produced works took place on June 16, 2014 at the Eliava Market



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and was attended by app. 150 persons: workers, artists, curators, general public who live in nearby houses, people interested in arts. Reports about the event were delivered by the local press and TV. Information was documented by the artists and organizers of the project and published on a special blog, on different websites and through social media (Facebook).

During the preparation of the project the artists decided to rely on two things that struck them most on Eliava market: unlimited amount of material and a man in possession of these materials who at the same time is the direct agent of the whole situation. In parallel to the stacks of goods such as car parts, building materials, elements of interior or food ordinary people try to make the ends meet through the fine trade. That's why the artists have developed a question: how to process and bring out the excess that is present at such amount in our everyday lives?

This reference to the relationship of a man and a matter brought to mind notion of a classic sculpture, which in its commonly understood form used proportions and compositions in order to transform the meaning of the beauty. Polish-Georgian artistic duo connected the idea of beauty to the abstract sculptures that were inspired by people who work in the market environment and helped to create them. Duo developed its artistic language during the three weeks and managed to gradually blend into the life of the Eliava. Silent sculptures expressed much more than just processed residues and gave them a shape that interconnected with the force of gravity. Sculptures were produced as the result of physical work of artists and workers of Eliava market.

### **Artistic team #2. Donika Cina (Abania) and Katharina Stadler (Austria/Georgia)**

Booth #156, which became a working space for two artists between May 02 and June 11, was located in the part of the market where spare and second hand parts of the cars are sold. Artists used waste material that was found on the market for production of some second hand objects: ashtrays, backgammon, broom, vases etc. Donika Cina made a conceptual video that showed typical view of the market. Artists managed to establish close contact to the workers. Katharina Stadler recorded the histories, announcements, instructions, interviews of the workers and created sound installations that were installed at different locations of the market and could be listened to in various booths.

In addition to the final presentation of the works on June 10, 2014 Donika Cina and Katharina Stadler suggested the public to witness and become part of their working process. All interested persons were welcome to visit their working space between 10am and 6pm on a daily basis (monday-friday).

### **Artistic team #3: Partizaning**

Team of two artists: Anton Polsky and Igor Ponosov, which arrived in Tbilisi from Russia conducted research on different aspects of the Eliava Market. It made interviews with the workers about their experience, social status, everyday routine, and their view on the issues of human impact on environment and its reduction, inclusion in social life of the city. On July 04, 2014 the group gave a public presentation of its work at the Museum of Literature and



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talked about its working practices, past, present and the future projects and answered the question of the audience which included artists, social activists, inhabitants of the nearby area of the Eliava Marked and general interested public.

As a result of cooperation with a representative of a local online magazine it is planned to publish the texts of the interviews and reflections of the members of the group in a form of a printed newsletter.



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