

1st ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ACTUAL VIDEO AND PHOTO ART
"EAST - WEST. TASHKENT CROSSROAD"

Historical review

Specific geographical position in the centre of Eurasian continent – from ancient times, developed appeared and developed the unique civilization on the territory of actual Uzbekistan. Regardless of relative distance from other (civilized centers)- led to the formation of an original culture in the middle of Caravan routes. Through this region there was an active exchange of goods and ideas between the countries of East and West, Asia and Europe.

Conglomerate of these tropes named in the 19th century as a Great Silk Road, has caused the great interest of scientists, studying different aspects of this phenomenon. There is an interest of representatives of humanitarian sciences.

Discoveries of archeologists and scientists, analytical works of historians of arts and linguists, led to understand how the ancient world, giving the feeling of deep respect for wisdom of the ancestors.

Peculiar attention to the ideas of «The Great Silk Road» and the sources of spiritual origins appears from representatives of creative sphere. Discoveries of scholars hunt the imagination of artist's composers, poets, stimulating the creation of original art works. Which in their turn increases the interest of wide public, particularly the youth for their history.

In the period of Independence of Uzbekistan thanks to the creative liberty, given to the artists and the formation of Art Academy of Uzbekistan appeared the new generation of artists, who are more and more actively participating in the cultural life inside and outside the republic.

This generation based on strong national cultural background manifests itself in all aspects of contemporary arts.

Particularity of Festival:

Annual Festival of Actual Video and Photo Art «East-West. Tashkent Crossroad» makes possible to present, compare and synthesize both of two mediums of arts.

Firstly, the increasing curiosity for ancient history, traditions and sources of spirituality of own people, grows the interest towards the different cultures of neighboring countries.

Secondly, acquaints the people of Uzbekistan with the best samples of contemporary art from abroad, to solidify the interaction of different cultures. As an example could be the archive of photo materials from House of Photography and documentary films from «Uzbekcinema» funds

one the one hand and the presentation of actual video and photo arts on the other.

The Theme of the Festival: Connections

*Photo– is purification.
Primitive society used the masks,
Bourgeois-looked at the mirrors,
But we have our images.*

Jean Baudriard, 1998

International exhibition presents Photos and Videos, installations, consolidated under the theme **Connections** includes different works of the artists from many countries of the world.

The talk is about broad consolidation. The mix of material substances in the context of exhibition reveals contradictions. There are sometimes the worlds that are opposing. Sometimes underlying idea disappoints. Together we may inspire all and to be the complement of each other and diminish contradictions. In joining of material substances in the text of the exhibition, clears up contradictions between them. Sometimes opposite Universes stand beside each other. Sometimes contexts during the dialogue disappoint. When we are together we can inspire everybody and complete each other and reduce contradictions between us.

Uzbekistan is very important in cognition of The Great Silk Road. *The Tashkent Crossroad* will help to draw the West closer to East.

Objectives of Festival:

1. The task of the Festival is to present only two mediums of contemporary art to wide public: photo and video in all aspects. Hence, creating precedent of classification and analysis of these two mediums in a framework of contemporary art.
2. Important part of creation, analysis and representation of actual photo and video art is to create the convenient conditions for their production. To achieve these goals, will serve the creation of an Art Factory on the base of the House of Photography. It becomes an actual task, to help the artists in realization of concrete production.

3. The 3rd important task is to create an Art Review with the aim of introducing the examples of world photo and video art to local artists and wider public by creating a strong platform for their representation abroad. As the Revue is planned to be spread in Eurasian continent, through the existing *artistic network*.

In the Festival will be presented photo and video art works from Azerbaijan, Germany, Greece, Georgia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Norway, The Palestine, Poland, Russia, Turkey, France, The Ukraine, Uzbekistan, South Korea and Japan.

Connections, Program 2007:

Exhibition, under the title *Bodyconnection* presented in Tashkent House of Photography. Body and material are undivided communality. Cultural and historical views find expression through corporal prism. There is a mix of manners, styles and genres in exhibition: the men and women, life and death, spiritual and physical imagination, humanity and inhumanity.

The project Bodyconnection presents artistic photography's of international artists, but as well the old and contemporary, documental and artistic photos of Uzbek artists. The project Displays documentary films from Uzbek film Archives - «The Construction of Big Fergana Channel» and «Tamarakhanum». As the metaphor of undivided unity, permanent *connections* between the past and today... The symbol of the Festival painted on asphalt in front of Tashkent House of photography is the work of students of the Institute of Arts and Design named after K. Bekhzod.

- *The Exhibition of Connections in the Central Exhibition Hall:*

There is an abstract video projected in the center of the wall. In the same rooms there are videos showing the 5 different cities of the world. The central place of the second floor exposition is taken by paradoxical paintings on the canvases made by N.Erkan, photos in the manner of the painting by B.Burmakin and other artists' works.

- *The Connections Exhibition in the Exhibition Hall of culture and art:*

there is an installation of light and photos stucked on the cubes in the framework of classical photo exhibition. You can touch, take and appraise them.

- *Video project Ultrablue on the lakes of the national park of A.Navoi:*

The video images seem to be gliding on the surface of the lakes. The works of contemporary artists projected on the screen under the bridges are presented like their *alter ego*.

- *The Exhibition on the open air, Streetconnections in Tashkent, Samarkand and Khiva:*

For the first time there are presented video art and photo works on the street billboards and video monitors instead of advertisement.

- One more item connecting past and nowadays world is the video project Trainconnection, house in the trains «Tashkent-Urgench» and «Tashkent-Samarkand». On the decorated wagons, made by students of the national institute of Art and design coexist with fixed monitors inside and presented video projects of participant artists of «East and West, Tashkent Crossroad». The participants of the festival and passengers will be shown the movie from the past epoch on their way back: "**War and Back** " *dedicated to the Day of Memory and Honor of 8 Mai*.

Participants and organizers of the Festival:

Photographers: Babi Badalov, Olga Martinova, Mirnaib Hasanoglu (Azerbaijan), Birgit Betselt (Germany), Danae Stratou, Venia Bechrakis, Tina Kotsi (Greece), Niko Tsetskhladze, Archil Turmanidze, Guram Tsibakhashvili, Koka Ramishvili (Georgia), Khaled Khafez (Egypt), Oksana Shatalova (Kazakhstan), Irene Paskali (Republic of Macedonia), Przemko Wojciechowski (Poland), Vladislav Efimov (Russia), Gul Ilgaz, Kadir Aktay, Nadir Ede, Nazan Azeri, Nurretin Erkan, Sitki Kosemen, Murat German, Denizhan Ozer, (Turkey), Ernest Kurtveliev, Tursun Ali, Marina Bogatireva, Aleksandr Shishov & Lyubov Tiora, Railya Khanipova, Anzor Salidjanov, Rustam Shagaev & Sergey Abaturov, Evgeniy Olevskiy, Dmitriy Akhunbabaev, Pavel Kim, Natalya Nesterova, Anastasia Shadieva, Hamdam Shorahmedov, Vladimir Jirnov (Uzbekistan), Anton Solomukha, Irina Lesinska, Glib Vysheslavski (Ukraine), Jacques Crenn, Gisele Didi, Bruno Fournier, Thomas Zoritchak, Alexandre Yterce, Florence Gonot, Flore-Ael Surun, Eduard de Pazzi, Lorraine Alexandre, Colombe Marcasiano, Emmanuelle Fevre, Johanne Helard (France).

Photographers from archives of 19th- 20th centuries: Alexandre Roinashvili (Georgia), M.Penson, I.Panov, G. Zelma, K.Rozikov, V.Mazur, V.Kojevnikov, V.Fomichev, N.Klyuchnev, G.Glauberzon, G.Boyko, R.Shiyapov, V.An, R.Shagaev, A.Mirzadjanov, O.Gubenko, U.Igumnov, Gazeev, Shteingart, O.Lander, P.Kapustyanskiy, V.Lein, L.Porter, V.Tarasevich, G.Ger, R.Shamsutdinov, A.Kim, A.Gorogrik, V.Leyzerovich, R.Djumaniyazov etc.(Uzbekistan).

Video artists: Tamila Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan), Danae Stratou, Tina Kotsi (Greece), Koka Ramishvili (Georgia), Oksana Shatalova (Kazakhstan), Astrid Johannessen (Norway), Irene Paskali (Republic of Macedonia), Marta Deskur, Kuba Bakovski (Poland), Natalya Lyakh (Russia), Gul Ilgaz (Turkey), Ernest Kurtveliev, Gairat Ibragimov (Uzbekistan), Francois Daireaux, Anna Ventura, Philippe Colette + Valérie Folliot (abyme+production), Yann Minh, Arno Contreras (France), Yun Aiyong (South Korea), Midori Sakurai (Japan).

The movies from archives of Uzbekistan cinema funds:

«Fergana Channel», «War...rear» (Uzbekistan)

Initiative group of the Festival: Matthias Meyer (Germany), Jean Digne, Jean-Bernard Harth, Shalva Khakhanashvili (France), Eric Vinassac (Swiss), Denizhan Ozer, Sitki Kosemen, (Turkey), Daphne Zoumboulakis, Danae Stratou (Greece), Leonid Bajanov (Russia), Tursunali Kuziev, Shahnoza Karimbabaeva (Uzbekistan).

Participants of Conference: Oksana Shatalova (Kazakhstan), Darya Pirkina, Vladislav Efimov (Russia), Denishan Ozer, Gul Ilgaz, Nazan Azeri, Nurretin Erkan, Sitki Kosemen (Turkey), Kamola Akilova, Sadik Safaev, Hurshid Dustmuhammedov, Alisher Shayhov, Yulduz Yarmuhamedova, Lyudmila Kodzaeva (Uzbekistan), Jean Digne, Francois Daireaux, Johanne Helard (France);

Supported by: Ministry of Cultural and Sports Affair of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent City Khokiniyat, Samarkand City Khokimiyat, Khokimiyat region of Khoresm , Ministry of High

and special Education, Television and Broadcasting Company of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan airways, Uzbekistan Railways, National Company "Uzbektourism", "Uzbekkino" National Cinema Agency, Embassy of Germany in Uzbekistan, Embassy of Turkey in Uzbekistan, Museum of Montparnasse, Bernard Krief Capitol (France), Zoumboulakis Galleries (Greece), Karsi Sanat Association (Turkey).

Sponsors: NIKON, SYTECO

Media support:

Magazines: *Stradda, A 360 Productions (France), Fotograf dergisi, Photo Digital (Turkey) DJ photographer (Ukraine), Bella Terra, «Jannatmakon»(Uzbekistan)* **newspapers:** «*Narodnoye slovo*», «*Vecherniy Tashkent*», «*Novosti Uzbekistana*», «*Darakchi*», «*Humo*», «*Tasvir*», **radio station:** «*Terra*», «*Maxima*» «*Poytaht*», «*Vodiy sadosi*», TV «*Markaz*», www.afisha.uz

Festival Curators: Shalva Khakhanashvili (Paris)

Shahnoza Karimbabaeva (Tashkent)

Coordinators of the Festival: Yuriy Potporenko

Ulugbek Israilov

Tashkent, Samarkand & Khiva, May 2007

Tashkent House of Photography

Ahunbabaev str.4, 70047, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Tel: 99871-133-51-68

Faks: 99871-133-98-57

e-mail: fotouz2006@rambler.ru