

The project «Interconnection» realized by artists in Kronstadt, the main strategic base of the former Russian - Soviet empire, took place during a passive time in geopolitical activity in the region. Against the background of strength and maturity of the dominant geopolitical axes of New York, Peking, and Tokyo, the second terrestrial structure, the old East-Centre, (a triangle incorporating Berlin, Moscow and Baghdad) appears more local and less effective. Historically however, its internal structure is multilayered, qualitative, and fundamental, and this determines its potential for global political-economic activity. The potential of the human energy of this triangle certainly requires a stable perspective, but its compact multi-cultural dimension is a reliable guarantee for future economic growth and further evolution.

As well as any cultural substance, this territory forms its own internal structure, made up of local power centers carrying out various functions - from protective up to productive. Some of them are critically determining evolution of this area. Kronstadt should be included in this strategic category.

Kronstadt is historically the force and center of the huge East Europe area, which occupies the sixth part of terrestrial territory, concentrating critical stocks of raw material *and* power.

The city of Kronstadt always had special strategic status within European borders. Located only 30 kilometers from Saint Petersburg, (today the cultural capital of Russia with a six-million population), for 300 years this small island intensively concentrated high technologies, minds and strategic resources of the whole of Russia. In Kronstadt in 1896 the Russian engineer Alexander Popov invented the first radio; in 1912 another inventor Fedorov tested the first prototype rocket, and here also was created the first modern technological system of navigation. Kronstadt always was a peculiar elite club. Access to it has been extremely limited, in connection with its extreme privacy. This heavily-armed island, despite its small size, supervised all the territory of the Baltic Sea and the western borders of Russia.

The artists from Europe, Canada and Russia together carried out a unique programme of research in this extraordinary city, with selection of the most significant historical points, and its subsequent reanimation to an active cultural zone. Projects of the artists have been directed to the environment's re-activation and arrangement of fresh culture-logical provocatives, those stimulating growth of beneficial activity within the framework of this demarked social zone.

The experience of *Interconnection* is due some special attention by contemporary art institutions, which need to explore the relationship between different forms of culture and its influence on social changes.

*Interconnection* is a rare chance to see in action the creation of a new, actual genre in modern art, involving the matter of geopolitical resources of a society as a creative material. This is a creative attempt to investigate the social and human realities of a selected terrestrial point, together with research of its historical myth. To create this research in public as art, and have it publicly available, is in itself art.

For this purpose, many local artifacts and historical documents were used, as well as live interviews with inhabitants of Kronstadt. The material was processed *in situ*, processing and transformation into art material. St. Petersburg's Centre of Contemporary Art's art residence (the first in Russia) was the base, and the artists built a special military tent to show various installations, video-projections and objects around and within. This public activity stimulated and facilitated cultural dialogue between visitors and artists.

*Interconnection* has evoked much interest from the Russian public and local authorities, who are searching for new ways to bring about the economical and social development of Kronstadt. The project united all constructive forces, especially in the young generation, for creative activity instead of social degradation.

Together we have investigated one potential point in the central European area, and have in due time delineated a phenomenon of overlapping artistic, social and economic forces and potentials.

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