



9th - 20th April 2012
Liège, Belgium

IN COOPERATION WITH
École Supérieure des Arts
de la Ville de Liège (ÉSAVL - Académie royale des Beaux-Arts)

Continuation of the International, Interdisciplinary Projects of
2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

interdisciplinary & international mobile university of history & arts

CROSS-BORDER NETWORK
CROSS-BORDER OF HISTORY AND ARTS

www.cross-border-network.eu

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PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

University of Applied Sciences Trier, Germany

École Supérieure des Arts de la Ville de Liège

(Académie royale des Beaux-Arts), Belgium

University of Liège, Belgium

Trier University, Germany

University College Dublin, Ireland

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Academy of Arts Kraków (ASP), Poland

Academy of Arts Gdańsk (ASP), Poland

Opole University, Institut of Arts, Poland

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VISITING UNIVERSITIES

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

State Academy of Arts, Georgia

University of Kansas, USA

Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia

Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera Milano, Italy

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

PHILOSOPHY

CROSS-BORDER NETWORK OF HISTORY AND ARTS

The network consists of several European art and design schools, universities, artists and scientists (approx. 120 persons). Every year a transboundary and interdisciplinary project is set up in a different place across Europe in a set timeframe, following the idea of a „nomadic“ university where the participating students and teachers gather to work together artistically and scientifically, with the goal of experiencing the history of these places in an unconventional and emotional manner as well as being inspired to carry out creative and scientific work.

The host country will be explored regarding its cultural, geopolitical, historical and linguistic dimensions. Artists, craftsmen, scientists and politicians of the region as well as the infrastructure of the city will be integrated into the project. This way a local project derives from a university project which is at the same time a cultural project that is operative beyond national borders.

The correlation of history with art creates varied approaches to scientific topics and initiates new methods on how to visualize history all of which benefits art and design students. Thus, new impulses of inspirational knowledge acquisition are established. On the basis of a strong emotional perception by the artists the participating future scientists are given new perspectives on how to look at history.

The interplay between history and art in an international environment allows unusual methods of thinking and working without reservations towards comprehension, acceptance and realization. Through personal experiences with similarities and differences in past and present the interest in a common Europe is supposed to be awakened. In spite of cultural and linguistic barriers, the framework conditions of the project enable an intensive exchange in which the students acquire intercultural competences through which they further contribute towards improving communication between the peoples of Europe.

At the conclusion of each project a multilingual publication and a public exhibition are developed.

PROJECT WORK

TIMEFRAME 9th to 20th April 2012

The second project from the series “European Forum of History and Arts” will take place in Liège, Belgium, in April 2012.

The venue will primarily be the École Supérieure des Arts de la Ville de Liège, Belgium. In addition local art centers and galleries will be involved as cooperation partners in the program. As artistic advisors, they will be able to professionally support the presentation and the valorization of the students’ projects.

This year’s topic is “MELTING POT – MIGRATIONS IN THE WALLOON REGION“. This topic shall be examined from various aspects of migration, such as migration for bread (economic migration), politically motivated migration or culturally determined migration (19th century until today). The main focus will be on the study of the consequences of the historical past, as well as the present situation, of the city of Liège and of the Walloon Region.

Possible approach:

- Differentiation „economic migration“ vs. „forced migration“
- Paradigm of economic migration, exemplary for the Walloon Region
- Identifying historic, social, cultural and artistic contexts
- “Melting pot“ Liège as a creative and productive force
- Scientific revision of the politically charged notion „economic refugee“

PROJECT WORK

Artistic reflection and productivity unfolds in the consciousness of society's cultural layers, in a complementary and/or an opposing way, in the mix of meetings and confrontations, of the identities and practices.

GENERAL METHODS

- Historical introduction to the topic; historically substantiated preparation for art and design students
- Lectures by guest speakers (art historians, sociologists or economists)
- Active participation of art historians, in order to help to refine and sharpen the reflexion and the relevancy of the artistic meanings
- Integration of art centers and galleries, as art advisors of the program
- Individual and group work
- Regular discussions in interdisciplinary teams
- Development of the projects with regard to presentation possibilities

HISTORICAL WORKSHOPS

PREPARATION OF THE TOPIC BEFORE THE START OF THE INTENSIVE PROGRAM (IP)

Unlike in previous projects, the historical research of the topic will take place before the beginning of the intensive program. During the winter semester 2011/2012 the professors and students of the scientific disciplines (history, sociology and political sciences) will work on the topic. One of the main educational goals for the students of the scientific fields is going to be the preparation of the historical topics as to fit later artistic practice.

The main topic “MELTING POT – MIGRATIONS IN THE WALLOON REGION” could be subdivided into further subject areas, such as:

- migration for bread (economic migration)
- politically motivated migration
- culturally determined migration

SYMPOSIUM: TOPIC PRESENTATION BEFORE THE IP

The mediation of historical contents will be conducted by the history professors in the course of a three-day symposium, which all teachers of the artistic workshops are invited to. The symposium is scheduled to take place on March 23rd 2012 in Liège.

After the symposium, it is expected of all teachers who will conduct an artistic workshop to prepare the students on the particular historical contents before the start of the intensive program. This thematic introduction facilitates the preparation of the artistic process. Thus the art and design students will be able to reflect possible concepts and techniques before the beginning of the IP.

HISTORICAL WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE IP

Students of history, sociology and political sciences are invited to the intensive program in order to accompany the artistic workshops as a contact person and advisor in regard to historical matters.

ARTISTIC WORKSHOPS

„MIXED WE ARE, MIXED WE WILL BE“ could be the motto of the artistic workshops. This refers to the trans-european historico-political questions of migration. Attention will be drawn especially on migration and the emergence of cultures as well as subcultures in different nations. As to further this idea, the artistic workshops will be culturally and interdisciplinary mixed. It would be preferable, that all students disperse in a way that the students from one institution attend various workshops and not only the one workshop offered by the own teacher. However the students should have the freedom of choice concerning the enrolment in a workshop.

ARTISTIC WORKSHOPS

1. VIDEO / FILM / SOUND

2. PHOTOGRAPHY

3. URBAN ART

4. SCULPTURE (PAPER ART)

5. VISUAL ART

Transdisciplinary fields like graphics, painting, drawing, collage etc. staged with multimedia aid, with an accent on installation and performance

The students have the option to develop their projects either individually or in groups. The different working areas are regarded as free studios and will be accompanied by the tutors of the international pedagogic team. If necessary technical equipment will be provided. Technical sound and light equipment will also be provided in order to support the artistic projects and the exhibition. Technical staff can be consulted on site if required.

INTERVENTIONS

Selective interventions will take place in form of brief lectures, in relation to the topic of the project and in the context of contemporary art, held by invited or participating professors and experts.

ADDED VALUE

The intensive program (IP) understands itself as a platform which offers the possibility for the students' artistic and scientific works to be presented to the public in a final exhibition and in a multilingual publication.

The teachers function as counselors and supervisors, in the same way they would do at their home institutions. It is merely a shift in location. They provide support and counselling for the students during their intensive work processes. For the pedagogic staff this participation offers an intellectual input, exchange and practical values which could be of help at a later stage.

PARTICIPATION IN THE IP

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Students are generally (exceptions must be motivated) able to participate in the IP after having finished the 4th semester of their Bachelor or Master programme.

It is a prerequisite that the participating students have proficient knowledge of the English language.

The participating students have to be selected on the basis of certain selective criteria. For this purpose, every applicant needs to fill out a questionnaire, consisting essentially of a personal statement to view the personal motivation to participate.

PERFORMANCE RECORDS / ECTS

The participation in this intensive program will be integrated and accepted in the teachings of the participating universities.

Depending on the main focus and workload, ECTS-credits (a maximum of 9 ECTS) will be distributed accordingly. The project work will take place daily and on-site counseling will be offered.

Before the end of the intensive program every participant is required to hand in a digital copy of the description of one's work (in text form and in visual form). This data is made available to the professors for evaluation.

Since all participants and professors will be housed locally, an intensive workload beyond the contact time is possible. The intensive programs at Narny Castle in 2009 as well as in Kreisau in 2011 have confirmed this.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is the common examination of European history through artistic and historical workshops with students of all participating universities. In order to achieve this, an interdisciplinary and cross-border approach is an important aspect to understand the complex past on a European level and to make this past accessible for the future.

Like in the previous project the cooperation with historians will give new impulses. Sciences and arts are working together, synergistic effects will be explored and applied. For the positioning in the international job market the interdisciplinary approach gets increasingly important.

The students are meant to learn from each other and to widen their intellectual horizon, while working with their colleagues and the tutors of the different participating universities. They are also invited to test the relevance of their projects through direct application in public lectures and the final exhibition. These are important aspects of the future image of the designing / artistic professions, which often are neglected. The project will also broaden the professional competence of the participating historians.

THE VENUE - WHY LIÈGE?

The École Supérieure des Arts de la Ville de Liège in Belgium will be the host of the IP. Liège, the city that is often referred to as the “Latin City of the North”, and the Walloon Region mark the starting point for the theme of migration. The city and the region have experienced several migration flows: migration for bread, migrant workers (especially mineworkers) as well as political and economic fugitives. This way the local culture overlaps with the immigrant culture that was brought along from Southern and Eastern Europe as well as from North and Central Africa. The cultural blending of this region is very much a reality and has a long tradition that entails tensions as well as enrichments.

“Liège is one of the original centers of the coal and steel industry in continental Europe. As early as 1720 the first steam-engine on European mainland was put into service in a coal mine near Liège. From here, the industrialization spread across the entire continent. The effect of this was a flood of uncontrolled immigration from Flanders, Italy and North Africa, which is still reflected in the city’s population structure today. Most notably, the headquarters of the steel-producing enterprise Cockerill-Sambres are located near Liège.”

At the same time as the migration flows took place, art experienced, as elsewhere, an awakening of the artistic disciplines towards more interdisciplinarity throughout the 20th century. The blending of cultures through migration, the globalization of information and the development of interdisciplinary, artistic practices shape the history and art of our time.

The Forum in Liège will be dealing with these historic, social, cultural and artistic aspects.

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