

2008: Highlights

March'08

36 photos from the plain-air Dazhdovnitsa '07'' – in the Europeans Digital Library fund



7 photographers from Bulgaria together with Art movement KRUG organized a 3-day seminar in Dazhdovnitsa village. The photographers are: Maria Gangalova, Alexander Ivanov, Zheljan Nikolov, Dimitar Ermenkov, Kiril Panaiotov and Dimitar Atanasov. The aim is for the finished product (a total of about 100 selected photos from the everyday life of the people in East Rhodopi) to travel the birthplaces of the authors. After Kardzhali, the exhibition was presented in Haskovo, Kazanlak, Sandanski and Shumen in 2007.

36 of the photos were included in the European digital library fund:
<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>.

April'08

Kardzhali-Dazhdovnitsa-Utrobata destination takes part in the national contest for a unique Bulgarian tourist destination



The municipality of Kardzhali and Youth centre KRUG are taking part in the National contest for the most unique tourist destination (Destination of Excellence), proclaimed by the State tourist agency, with the support of the European commission. The contest destination is Kardzhali – Thracian cliffs above Dazhdovnitsa village – Thracian sanctuary Utrobata. Since the aim is to encourage all organizations and institutions in connection with the creation and effective management of the tourist destination through proposals which encompass material and spiritual legacy of the Thracians, combined with the means of the live art, the emphasis is on the annual celebration of the Terlik festival in Dazhdovnitsa village.

Following a call from KRUG and a group of youngsters from several European countries and with the support of the municipality of Kardzhali, a local festival started in 2006, known by that name. It is held on the first day of September (or the last day of August) as an amusing cult to the thread which resembles infinity. A tattered terlik is not to be thrown out of the house; the local women unknitted it instead and knit it anew with new combinations of threads as a symbol of the persistency of life itself. A terlik 3.5-m long was woven from 18 kg wool for the first festival. The participants for the second festival ate 4-metre cake in the shape of terlik, which weighed 300kg. Each subsequent year transformations of the terlik out of the standard are expected, accompanied by a festive programme (in terliks).

The Terlik festival popularizes Dazhdovnitsa throughout Bulgaria and puts the little village into the limelight of dozens of TV reportages, films, media publications and websites. The untraditional destination gives a chance to this region populated with unknown Thracian monuments to present itself to the world. The connection to the ancient cults and spiritual culture of the Thracians is accompanied by research, collection and presentation of local rites, traditions, beliefs and legends. The partners present in front of the European institutions also the published by KRUG catalogue in English about Dazhdovnitsa village, a colour brochure

for the activity of the Art house in the village and the book “Dedicated to Terlik: 20 art expeditions in the East Rhodopi.”

May'08

Intercultural Dialogue Days



The whole week of activities titled “The Multicultural City” is organized by Youth Centre KRUG in partnership with the municipality of Kardzhali, Horizons 07 association, Territorial State Archive, Regional library, Umer Lutfi chitalishte and the Ministry of Culture. It is the first time such a programme takes place in Kardzhali – a peculiar town in which Bulgarians, Turks, Romas, Bulgarian Mohammedans and Armenians live together. There was once a Jewish municipality as well, even synagogue. Talking about multiculturalism today is in fact an attempt to talk in advance about the future – about the creative challenges, local traditions, the different languages and ways of life. The notion of tolerance is just the beginning of the talk, although discussions often boil down to it. The topic, however, takes on new aspects, becomes more open and requires competitive products and new consideration. The Intercultural Dialogue Days were inaugurated with the exhibition “The Multicultural City”. The young Armenian artist Vergini Esmeryan was presented in the Art gallery.

During the festive days, for the first time in Kardzhali, an exhibition was established, which is dedicated to the everyday life, folklore and traditions of the Karakachani who are 50,000 in Bulgaria and 440,000 in Greece. An Alley of the Cultures will be inaugurated in the City Park, an art installation will be presented in the open air called “The Traditional Song”, literary and academic readings will be carried out with the participation of national and local cultural researcher from the Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia and Plovdiv universities, the Jewish Historical Museum in Sofia and Kardzhali Regional Museum.

May'08

YOUNG ARMENIAN ARTIST VERGINI ESMERYAN VISITS THE ART GALLERY



The visiting exhibition of the young Armenian artist Vergini Esmeryan consists of 20 water colours, fabric collages and drawings. The 32-year old artist comes from the family of an Armenian priest and works and lives in Sofia. This is her second individual exhibition. “Through my pictures, I want to touch the hearts of everyone and wish that there is more sincerity among people, that they preserve their identity, but at the same time that they respect the other, because it is the only way we can progress,” said the young author with her excitement hard to conceal. The exhibition gathered all members of the Armenian community in Kardzhali. Tyurfina Organyan, a descendent of one of the oldest families, greeted the artist with an old Armenian song.

For decades people with different ethnic background have lived together. The town is one of the cosmopolitan centres of the country, similar to Plovdiv and Ruse. The resources of this cultural diversity are awaiting their transformation into new artistic products – the works of the modernity.

May'08

ART INSTALLATION “THE FOLK SONG”



The third day of the Intercultural Dialogue week was dedicated to crafting artistic open air installations with a working title “The Folk Song”. The idea was to “read” anew the abandoned from socialist times monument in the centre of the town (the monument of Georgi Dimitrov) as a response to the public debate which the local administration was holding with the citizens on the topic of “What could be constructed in that place, if the monument is taken down?” Painters and young people from the town “packed” the monument with huge works of art and texts from folk songs, written in 5 different languages – Hebrew, Turkish, Armenian, Bulgarian and Roman. In this way the black marble from the time of the Communist regime was hidden under the cosmopolitan mixture of the languages.

May

Children and Youth Works



Words such as friendship, peace, happiness, childhood, brothers, heart, song – written in Bulgarian, Hebrew, Turkish, Armenian and Roman intertwined in the rays of a sun “shining” on the asphalt in the City park. 60 children wrote those words also on balloons which flew into the sky above the town. The little pupils of the kindergarten in Rani list village also took part in the initiative.

May'08

“THE MULTICULTURAL TOWN” ROUND TABLE



An attempt to define the notions of multiculturalism and interculturalism was made in the presentation of PhD Yordanka Bibina from the Institute of Balkan Studies, part of the Bulgarian Academy of Science (BAS). PhD Bozhidar Aleksiev from the Folklore Institute, part of BAS, PhD Vladimir Paunovski – director of the Jewish Historical Museum in Sofia, PhD Goar Hankanosyan from the Erevan University – a researcher of the everyday life and culture of the Armenians in Bulgaria and Cemile Ahmed from the Plovdiv university also read their reports at the round table. The Balkans is a territory where the coexistence of the various cultures has reached a certain stage of development different from the European model of interculturalism. Despite the discrepancies, there is a clear tendency of a transition from multiculturalism to interculturalism, a characteristic of Europe and the world, emphasized in her analysis PhD Bibina.

PhD Bozhidar Aleksiev from the Folklore Institute, part of BAS, also made an interesting statement. He said that mutual penetration is observable in the folklore of the different ethnic groups, without the presence of assimilation of the cultures.

May'08

KRUG MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES AN INVITATION FOR A NATIONAL YOUTH HAIKU CONTEST



Kardzhali has gathered 30 young authors from the country at the age of 14-35 to participate in a literary evening dedicated to the Terlik. Four of them – 16-year old Dimitar Dobrikov from Pazardzhik, 17-year old Zlatomira Ognyanova from Gorna Oryahovitsa, Magdalena Borisova, 28 from Elena Town and Albena Genowa, 25, from Ruse – received the award of the first National Literary Contest for Short Poetical Form (haiku) dedicated to the Terlik. The contest is an attempt to launch on a local level a literary tradition targeted at the youngest authors in the country. 50 authors with a total of 223 haiku took part in the contest. The Municipality of Kardzhali awarded two first and two second places, and KRUG magazine – four encouraging awards.

In the CV of Magdalena Borissova, next to the first award from here is also the award from the International Haiku Contest in Croatia, 2007. The second place winner here, Dimitar Dobrikov, after two days received the big award from the National Contest for Literature in the name of Petia Dubarova. He greeted the citizens of Kardzhali with his three-line verse about the Terlik:

The terliks are kissing.
Colourful fleece –
Amorous whisper.

June'08

“MY VILLAGE” – AT AN EXHIBITION!



66 works created by the children and youth from the villages of Kardzhali region are presented in the Art gallery. The focal point of the exhibition is the new approach to the theme of “My Village” based on a free and artistic interpretation of traditional artefacts. The materials used come from the nature, everyday life, folklore and festivals of the local communities. The works feature traditional costumes, rugs, pots, adornments, river sand and pebbles, tiles, dry sticks, wool, tobacco leaves and even blue beads against ill luck.

The works of art were selected during a series of workshops organised by KRUG with children and youth from the villages of Dazhdovnitsa, Rani list, Ostrovitsa, Shiroko pole, Nenkovo and Bolyarsko. The exposition has an “open code” and will continue to be completed by the end of the summer with works from the villages of Opalchensko, Povet, Gluhar and others.

Since the spring of 2008 the KRUG team has been gathering a fund with the working title “InterCulture” which is kept at the Art House in Dazhdovnitsa and will be used for presentations and when preparing advertising materials for the region. The State Agency for Youth and Sport supports the realization of this project.

July'08

CULTURAL REGENERATION AND YOUTH INITIATIVE



The third of a series of seminars, connecting the cultural diversity of Kardzhali region with the youth creativity and initiative, was dedicated to the cultural regeneration of the small towns and villages and took place in the Art House in Dazhdovnitsa. Organizer: Youth Centre KRUG; partners: the municipalities of Rani list, Dazhdovnitsa and Enchets villages.

Models for cultural regeneration were presented from cultural centres such as London, San Francisco, Shanghai, Rotterdam, Liverpool as well as concepts for local development, launched in various rural municipalities in Australia, Germany and Hungary. The possibilities for development were discussed for the people living in villages in such types of regions as Kardzhali – on the border between Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. The youth discussed the need for new forms of cooperation between the local communities, the media and the investors, the need for an integral, not fragmented, policy for the local development through education, tourism and alternative agriculture. Small working groups presented their projects-dreams for the development of particular villages in the municipality. Two girls, Nurhan Ali and Tsvetislava Borisova, made a multimedia presentation of a project-dream for the production and export of roses from the region.

Summer Art Saloon



A Summer Art Saloon opened KRUG in July and August with an author's performance „The Motherland is me” of a 33-year-old visual artists Boryana Rossa and Oleg Mavromatti. Both of them work in the field of the photography, video-art, the theatre and by a combination of all these arts. Boryana Rossa is a doctoral student in USA on the problems of the feminism and minorities and also she is a creator of the group for new kinds of art “UltraFuturo” and she is a member of the cinema union SUPERNOVA that has been established by Oleg Mavromatti (Russia). She has graduated National Academy of Fine Arts (Sofia, Bulgaria) and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (New York) with MA in Electronic Arts. She is an author of 10 own art exhibitions. She has taken part in many international media art and video-art festivals and among them are these in Novi Sad, Liverpool and Cairo.

Her last projects – the clips “Spookybots”, “RoboSapiens”, “Roboriada” “The Robot – Citizen” have been made in partnership with Oleg Mavromatti and are devoted to the integration of the free Robots in the modern society.

Her last works (video clips) have been presented in Moscow, Liverpool, Montreal, Berlin, Shanghai, Thailand and Sofia. Both of the artists will present in the Krug Art Gallery a mosaic of their European projects and will organize a first summer class on techno-ethics, presenting the symbiosis between the men/machine/art and it will be adapted for children and youth from the local Dazhdovnitza municipality.

August'08

**A MONUMENT OF THE TERLIK MAKES WISHES COME TRUE IN
DAZHDOVNITSA**



For the third year Art Movement KRUG and the municipality of Kardzhali organize the Terlik festival on 31th August in the village of Dazhdovnitsa. This year hundreds of guests came from the neighbouring municipalities. The municipality mayor, engineer Hasan Azis opened the festival and emphasised the importance of such events for the development of the villages. This year the attraction is the monument raised in honour of the Terlik, whose empty construction the local people have been filling for some days with small coins and wishes for good health. The children line up with their coin in their fist and with closed eyes think of a wish that the monument (as to make come true. A rumour is going around the village that it is good luck to throw a coin in the monument. The project for the monument was discussed by KRUG with artists from the French group for alternative arts "A suivre" from Bordo at the festival last year. The authors of the idea are Giiom Ilarriet and Julien Martin (France), An Hiredikis (Greece), Radost Nikolaeva and Galina Dimova (Bulgaria). Local builders helped raise the monument. The monument stands on a platform, it is 1.80m tall and 2.56m long.

It is also the first time that a Miss and Mister Terlik contest has been organised. 40 Bulgarian and foreign children and youth passed in their terlitsi in front of the spectators and received gifts from local companies. A group of students from Educational Centre "MeDia", Sofia, were also among the guest and who had participated in a week-long Summer Creative Writing course.

September'08

"MADAME FIGARO" IN DAZHDOVNITSA



Representatives of the Bulgarian edition of the best sold fashion magazine in France “Madame Figaro” visited the Art House in Duzhdownitsa. The magazine has a twenty years old history and its target group has been the active women who have its own opinion on the events in the fashion and culture life and have been seeking new destinations.

The representation of the Art House is a part of the policy of the magazine to launch attractive culture centers from the country.

The guests made gift for the collection of the Art House: black and white copies of “star pictures” of the celebrated designer Karl Lagerfeld with Isabelle Adjani, who have been posed in front of the camera of the legend of the fashion business.

October'08

ART AS POLEMICS



The well-known and popular Turkish caricaturists Muhittin Köroglu and Burhanettin Ardagil from Istanbul are guests at the Art gallery in Kardzhali with a total of 59 works. A big part of the presented caricatures are in colour – full of a new kind of graphic and visual techniques, suitable to present in a contemporary media space and easy to turn into posters, brochures and other type of advertisements. Both painters have received awards from almost all European capitals and have published in some of the biggest international print media. They work often in a team, applying the “double vision” onto the same topic and achieving in this way amusing polemics in the issues of global warming, world politics, sports, the modern dispute over spheres of influence or over the typology of the political leaders. The exhibition features caricatures of Margaret Thatcher, Todor Zhivkov, Osama bin Laden, Charles Chaplin, etc.

Burhanedin Ardagil was born in Kardzhali and worked in the town as a painter until 1989 when he is one of the victims of the forceful expatriating policy of the Socialist regime, so called the “Revival process”.

He left for the fund of the Art gallery a donation of 33 works to be available for foreign guests and young artists.

<http://caricaturque.blogspot.com/2008/10/burhanettin-ardagil-cartoon-exhibition.html>

November'08

TERLIK AT A WORLD FAIR



From 20 to 26 November Art Movement KRUG presented to hundreds of visitors in the huge fair and conference centre ExCeL in London the exhibition “The Balkans: dedicated to the Terlik”. In the centre of the Bulgarian fair stand was the enormous terlik, woven for the first festival in Dazhdovnitsa, together with unique objects from the everyday life of the families living in the rural municipalities of Kardzhali region. The team presented a special advertising catalogue for the village in English, a photo archive and information for the ethnic groups in Eastern Rhodopi. The Terlik, a common symbol of the family life of the Balkan people, became an attraction which posed for a picture together with visitors from Japan, India, Iraq, Albania, etc. Contacts with artists from the whole world were established.

December'08

DRAW SOMETHING FOR ME FROM THE AMAZON



For the first time in Bulgaria 40 works of children from Peru and photos of the unique everyday life in the jungle has been exhibited in the Art gallery. It is a joint initiative of Art Movement KRUG, KRUG magazine and the girl that the media called Mila from the Amazon or “the Bulgarian missionary in the jungle.”

The 26-year old Mila Bankova lives in Bulgaria for seven years now, and the last time she has spent as a missionary in Peru. It is one of the least developed countries in the world, its index of human development being 0.773. After Haiti, it is last in the scale of educated and literate people in the entire South America. Seeing the low quality education and total lack of information, Mila started conducting Amazon culture courses in the same quarter Las Lomas in Puerto Maldonado in the Amazon where she started living. In the local schools the children study history of colonisation, facts from the First and Second World Wars, but they don't study anything about the phenomena given rise by the ethnic diversity in the Amazon – in Peru alone there are 65 ethnic groups. Our Bulgarian girl is one of the people who also fights the disappearing and scattering of the local culture. She teaches 70 of the poorest Peruvian children to study their folklore and mythology, to express the uniqueness of their

civilization by means of art, to address the world with messages of saving the nature, the rain and the earth's climate.

Mila encourages them to write or draw local stories, to act them out (with the help of Gina Galan, a street actress who graduated drama pedagogy). The children whom Mila teaches are the successors of the Incas and the Amazon tribes. During their long history in the jungle they have learnt to distinguish its many riches and dangers, animals and spirits, the curves of the rivers, each sound from the forest and the music of the rain. The children are fluent in *kechua* – the language of the Incas. During the missionary work with the children they awaken their inspiration to prepare their drawings and stories aimed at the other children in the world, for the mysteries and the invisible charm of the jungle. With the encouraged curiosity of explorers and unlocked talents the children start recreating the magic of the Amazon and their work is a testimony to this. The objects and people in the drawings and texts that Mila is presenting in Bulgaria are free to transform into birds, spirits, animals, and the sincerity with which they do it is a message to the world to conserve the beauty of the living nature. In fact, Peru has a big role in the global climate. Meteorological European teams are now searching for an answer to the climate enigma: why the climate here becomes colder while everywhere else it is becoming hotter.

The visuals presented at the exhibition “Draw Me Something from the Amazon” are part of the ready for print manuscript of Mila “A Letter to You from the Amazon”, that KRUG will publish. The book has just been finished in the Art House in Dazhdovnitsa – under the raindrops of Eastern Rhodopi.