



www.stuttg-arttours.de
Rötestrasse 36a
70197 Stuttgart

Arttours 2011/2012

Alternative tours

In 2011 we invited a group of artists and artist collectives to devise a series of site-specific alternative city-tours in Stuttgart, concentrating on physical and often intimate experiences/interactions with the city. The result is seven unique tours/experiences, the first unofficial tourism information office, and one alternative map of the city.

Some artists chose to base their tour on their own subjective perceptions, while others encouraged participants to take on the role of the tour guide and explore the city for themselves. Each tour aimed to expand, redefine or subvert the traditional expectations towards a city-tour.

Our experiences from the past year have strengthened our viewpoint that engaging with the thematic of tourism within a local context is a valuable and worthwhile investigation, both in terms of socio-political relevance and in terms of exploring experimental approaches towards performance and contemporary interventionist practice.

Arttours 2012/2013

Archeology of the spectacle

In 2012 we would like to look more closely at the mechanism of tourism itself; it's real, virtual and political narratives. Rather than simply offer 'alternative tours', we want to offer an alternative. We are looking for projects that respond to the status quo, subverting, reinventing or highlighting existing infrastructures, communication strategies and forms of cultural consumption associated with the tourism industry, such as the city tour or the tourism information office.

We are interested in how tourism manifests itself in Stuttgart, the effects of this manifestation, and how we might be able to subvert existing hierarchies and generate dialogue surrounding the role (and potential role) of tourism and the tourist.

We are interested in how tourism reflects on social and cultural conditions, both of the destination and the place of departure, and how the tourism experience is packaged, presented, mediated and eventually consumed. The city becomes an enterprise, and the existence or experience of the city becomes (or is proclaimed) a commodity/product. How does this transformation affect our expectations and perceptions/experience?

'Archaeology of the spektakel' is about excavating, analysing, revealing and responding to the tourism industry in Stuttgart, the experience of the city as a tourist, and the set of relationships that are formed between the visitor and the city. This investigation will form the curatorial framework for the next season of Arttours.

Team

A core team of artists based in Stuttgart will be joined by a selection of international interdisciplinary artists and researchers who specialise in site-specific or interventionist practice and have experience investigating and responding to the theme of tourism.

In addition we have employed a project coordinator to develop and implement a networking, social media and fundraising strategy, and hope to employ a website developer to create a more user-friendly interface for our website.

Project initiators / Curatorial direction

Susanne Kudielka and Kaspar Wimberley work as interventionists and performance researchers specialising in site-specific and site-responsive art, while exploring alternative strategies for audience interaction and new forms of artistic collaboration.

Projects are quietly subversive, playfully readjusting the narrative and appreciation of a particular activity or a given site. The working process often involves those that live in an area, and aims to be accessible and relevant.

<http://www.treacletheatre.co.uk/portfolio>

Timeline

An initial phase of research and conceptual development will take place in May 2012, including site-visits for international artists and a workshop that brings together the core team for a period of collaboration and exchange. In June we will begin to present our work, conducting public experiments and offering a selection of new tours and participative activities. Selected pilot projects from 2011 will be adapted and offered in a more accessible and affordable manner.