

Press Release /// June 13, 2006

"Shrinking Cities" Tours the World, 2006 to 2008

Following the great success of the exhibitions "Shrinking Cities I + II" in Berlin, Halle, and Leipzig, the German Federal Cultural Foundation is now sending the exhibitions to ten additional international sites. For two years, a selection of the exhibition contributions will be on view in the United States, Britain, Japan, Russia, and other places.

In four years of work, the initiative project of the cultural foundation has investigated the worldwide phenomenon of urban shrinkage on the basis of numerous examples in Germany, Britain, Russia, the U.S.A., and elsewhere. Since 2002, more than 100 artists, architects, scientists, and local initiatives have taken part in the project Shrinking Cities. The results have been shown in two exhibitions, several books, digital publications, and numerous public events.

The success of the exhibitions in Berlin, Halle on the Saale, and Leipzig exceeded all expectations: "Shrinking Cities" was among the best-attended exhibitions of each of the venues. The first 5,000 copies of the first book were sold out within a few weeks.

In the German and in the international debate, the project established the expression "Schrumpfende Staedte / Shrinking Cities" and made a crucial contribution to the public discussion conducted in recent years.

From Fall 2006 to Spring 2008, the project Shrinking Cities will now present the results of its global investigation and its proposed concepts for action in a worldwide context. The tour focuses on some of the countries facing massive processes of urban shrinking - the United States, Britain, Russia, Japan, and Germany. Since the 1990s, 25% of the world's big cities are losing population, and the tendency is increasing. The project Shrinking Cities is thus initiating an international exchange of experience with this until now neglected urban phenomenon, which has become a crucial issue of urban development all over the world in recent decades, in parallel to the rapid processes of urbanization.

The concept of the exhibition will be individually adapted and updated for each of the sites. Planned are also common activities and events with the respective local partners.

The international stations are ///

Italy, Venice, Biennale di Venezia: a contribution to the 10th International Biennial of Architecture, Venice, from September 10 to November 19, 2006.

Japan, Tokyo: University of Tokyo with AkiDeCo Museum, Fall 2006.

USA, New York: Pratt Manhattan Gallery / Van Alen Institute, November 2006 to February 2007.

USA, Detroit: Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills / Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD), February / March 2007.

Britain, Liverpool: a foundation, Greenland Street, Summer 2007.

Germany, Saarbrücken: E-Werk, Fall 2007.

Germany, Ruhr Valley: probably Dortmund, Fall 2007.

Germany, Frankfurt am Main: German Architecture Museum in Frankfurt (DAM), November 2007 to January 2008.

Russian Federation, St. Petersburg: Pro Arte Institute in cooperation with the State Museum of History St Petersburg, Spring 2008.

Also in planning /// Austria, Eisenerz and Bulgaria, Rousse, both Fall 2006.

Preview /// The bilingual "Atlas der schrumpfenden Staedte/Atlas of Shrinking Cities", describing and analyzing for the first time the phenomenon globally in maps, diagrams, texts, and portraits of cities, will be published in August. Review copies can already be ordered now.

Current press images ///

<http://www.shrinkingcities.com/fotos.0.html>

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Shrinking Cities is an initiative project of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) in cooperation with the Project Office Philipp Oswald, the Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and the magazine archplus.