
**EXHIBITION "SHRINKING CITIES - INTERVENTIONS"
IN LEIPZIG**

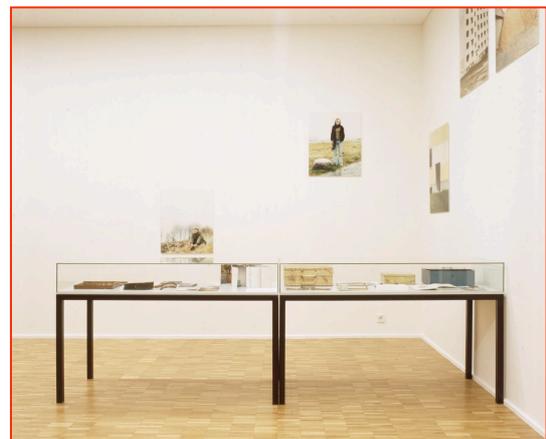
The situation is dramatic: 1.3 million apartments in eastern Germany are untenanted. In the year 2030, the figure is expected to increase to 2 million. The unemployment rate is 20 percent. More than a million residents have left the new states of the former East Germany. Young, well-educated people in particular are turning their backs on their home regions for the West in pursuit of jobs or apprenticeships, which are currently rare even there. The prognosis is that the population of eastern Germany will be halved by 2050 – also because of demographic trends.



The exhibition, "Shrinking Cities – Interventions", in the Galerie für zeitgenoessische Kunst (Gallery for Contemporary Art) in Leipzig/Germany from November 25, 2005 until January 29, 2006, presents strategies for action and interventions for shrinking cities, with a focus on eastern Germany. Along with more than 30 newly developed projects, materials on existing practices reveal

possibilities in five areas of activity: "Negotiating Inequality"; "Governing Oneself"; "Making Pictures"; "Organizing Retreat"; and "Occupying Spaces". The projects of the international artists, architects, and researchers thereby range from artistic interventions and self-empowerment projects through architectural, landscape, and media interventions to new legal regulations and utopian visions.

To initiate strategies for action, the architectural magazine "archplus" staged an idea competition, while the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation made direct commissions and the Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig awarded work stipends. The majority of the projects were developed in close cooperation with citizens, local groups, and institutions.



Among the participants are the artists and architects Kees Christiaanse, Wolfgang Engler, Anke Haarmann, Kristian Leko, Joost Meuwissen, Dan Petermann, Christoph Schäfer, Andreas Siekmann, Superflex und Heimo Zobernig.

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Accompanying Program and Publications

A broad program of events with film screenings, concerts, performances, discussions, talks with artists, workshops, city tours, and much more in Halle, Leipzig, and Dessau accompany the two exhibitions. For Exhibition 1, the publication Shrinking Cities. Volume 1: International Investigation appeared with the publishing house Verlag Hatje Cantz. The second volume, Shrinking Cities. Volume 2: Concepts for Action, will appear in German for the opening of



the exhibition at the end of November, also with Verlag Hatje Cantz.
Information on other publications of the project can be found at
www.shrinkingcities.com.

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Exhibition 2

Shrinking Cities - Interventions

Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig (GfZK)

Karl-Tauchnitz-Straße 11, 04107 Leipzig, www.gfzk.de

November 26, 2005 to January 29, 2006

Opening hours: Tues-Sat 2-7 p.m., Sun noon-7 p.m., closed on holidays

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Chief Curator ///

Philipp Oswalt (architect/journalist, Berlin)

Curatorial Team ///

Walter Prigge (Bauhaus Dessau Foundation)

Barbara Steiner (Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig)

Kyong Park (International Center for Urban Ecology, Detroit)

Nikolaus Kuhnert (magazine archplus, Berlin)

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Shrinking Cities

Shrinking Cities is an initiative project of Germany's Federal Cultural Foundation in cooperation with the project office Philipp Oswalt, the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig, the Bauhaus Foundation Dessau, and the magazine archplus. In three years of work with the participation of more than 100 artists, architects, researchers, and local initiatives, the project has investigated the worldwide phenomenon of processes of urban shrinkage and has developed suggestions for interventions.

Whether in Germany, the USA, Russia, China, South Africa, Finland, or Kazakhstan - cities are shrinking all over the world. Losses of population and jobs are convulsing the regions and contradicting the image, accustomed since the Industrial Revolution, of "boomtowns", big cities characterized by continuous economic and demographic growth. Shrinking Cities seeks to trigger a rethinking of traditional ideas of the city as well as of the future development of urbanism. The far-reaching changes caused by shrinking present not only an economic and social, but also a cultural challenge.

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For additional information on the exhibitions and the entire project, please contact:

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