

## Sofia

Sofia

Pl. of former Georgi-Dimitrov-Mausoleum

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## Schedule

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Our co-producers Brain Store Project with the curators Neli Mitewa & Mila Odazhieva and InterSpace Sofia with Kyd Campbell, Galia Dimitrova, Margarita Dorovska, Yana Kostova are presenting the projects in Sofia (21.-28.05.2006)

Location:

"Alexander Battenberg Square" (opposite of the National Art Gallery, at the place of the former Mausoleum)

Nearest metro-station: "Serdika"

Daily Talk Studio programme:

10-11am SOFIA THROUGH EMOTIONS: interviews

1-2pm Daily topic

3-5pm Upgrade Talks

5-7pm Artists Talks

7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours?

8-8:30pm Wide Vista (news): external observers analyze and comment on the day in a summarized way

8:30 -10pm Daily topic

Saturday, 20 May - opening party

20:00 DJ Stoned (BG) & DJ every kid on speed (MK) , VJs Po Vision

Sunday, 21 May - opening

Public art and art in public. Display in public and engagement with the public. Viewers and participants. Possible spaces outside the white cube and the black box...

LIVE STUDIO

12-12:30pm Opening speech and presentation of the Mobile Studios project / The city as a site for questions

1-3pm CREATIVE SUITE by nbsp: With the participation of Elizabeth Bardin, Crash Normal, Dejan



Garbos, Delphine Sanchez, Flora Sanz - part 1: "Repetition - General Rehearsal" (performance)  
5-6pm CIRCLES by Raycho Stanev (interactive computer installation)  
8-8:45pm 4-COURSE-MENU by brain !store project (performance-installation)  
10am-10pm Radio Territories by Radio Cult  
1am-0 pm Bluetooth Graffiti Mausoleum by Petko Dourmana & Kyd Campbell  
TALK STUDIO: coordinated by Galia Dimitrova  
10-11am "SOFIA THROUGH EMOTIONS": interviews  
11-12 am Street Musicians Interviews  
1-2pm Daily topic: ART IN PUBLIC SPACE (cultural policies) Boris Kostadinov & Angel Igov & guests  
2-3 pm Street Musicians Interviews  
3-5pm Upgrade Talks Art Today Association, Plovdiv  
6&ndash;7 pm Artists talk: Radio Cult presents Radio Territories  
7&ndash;8 pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? Marko Stamenkovic / Serbia  
8-9 pm Wide vista: Katya Atanasova & guest  
8.30-9.30 pm Daily topic: Art in public Space, part 2 with Milena Deleva & Tzvety Yossifova & Galia Dimitrova  
Monday, 22 May  
New concepts and changing contexts. New perception patterns and art forms ... new exhibition formats.  
LIVE STUDIO  
12-1pm Presentation of the interview and research results of "Sofia through emotions" by Todor Penkov, Petar Bakalov, Maria loveva (artists will lead interviews with people from 10-11am each day in the talk-studio and present the results in the live-studio)  
2-4pm CITISM (formerly "Zipp Code(d) City Re-Dis-Covered) by Antonio Dimitrov, Boris Petrovski, Elena Veljanovska, Hristijan Panev (exhibition of 3 parts and social interaction)  
5-6pm CREATIVE SUITE by nbsp: With the participation of Marianne Guarino (fire place), Laurence Vincent (mirror), Jean-Baptist Bayle (Hi-fi), (Library) - part 2: "Domexpo" (installation)  
8-9pm PLASTIC KITCHEN by Petya Yossifova and @Ima@lter (performative interactive installation)  
from 9:30pm - ... Screenings from the Mobile Studio events in Belgrade  
TALK STUDIO: coordinated by Petko Dourmana  
10-11am "SOFIA THROUGH EMOTIONS": interviews  
11am-1pm: Street Musicians Interviews  
1-2pm Daily topic: "New Exhibition Formats" by Public Art Lab  
3-5pm Vasif Kortun / Turkey: presentation in Goethe-Institut  
5-7pm Upgrade! talk: EU spaces 21, Rouse



7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? Vasif Kortun / Turkey

8-8.30pm Wide vista: Boris Kostadinov + guest

8.30-10pm: Daily topic: "New Exhibition Formats" by Public Art Lab, part 2

Tuesday, 23 May

The city - habitat and product. City and urbanness in the light of the visual. Intervention and abuse. Neglect and awareness. Acceptance and reaction.

LIVE STUDIO

12-1pm Presentation of the interview and research results of "Sofia through emotions" by Todor Penkov, Petar Bakalov, Maria loveva (artists will lead interviews with people from 10-11am each day in the talk-studio and present the results in the live-studio)

2-4pm Live Streaming from the Laznia Center of Contemporary Arts in Gdansk

5-7 pm CITISM (formerly "Zipp Code(d) City Re-Dis-Covered) by Antonio Dimitrov, Boris Petrovski, Elena Veljanovska, Hristijan Panev (exhibition of 3 parts and social interaction)

8-9pm CREATIVE SUITE by nbsp: With the participation of Wulien Saglio (performance), Sandrine Weissenburger (wallpaper)...- part 3: "Room With a View" (device)

10-0pm streaming Video from the Laznia Center of Contemporary Arts in Gdansk

10am-10pm Radio Territories by Radio Cult

1am-0pm Bluetooth Graffiti Mausoleum by Petko Dourmana & Kyd Campbell

TALK STUDIO: coordinated by Peter Anders

10-11am SOFIA THROUGH EMOTIONS: interviews

11am-12pm Street Musicians Interviews

1-2 pm: Daily topic: Methodology of sightseeing, Iara Boubnova

3-5pm Upgrade Talks, Center for Contemporary Art, Shumen

5-7pm Artists talk: Nedko Solakov and Ivan Moudov

7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? Mihnea Mircan / Romania

8-8.30pm Wide vista: Veronika Tzekova & Vladiya Mihailova

8:30-10pm Daily topic: Methodology of sightseeing from Dresden, part 2 Iara Boubnova

ALL STUDIOS Stream

from 10pm - ... Screenings from the Mobile Studio events in Bratislava

Wednesday, 24 May

Literature and culture &ndash; languages, environments and agents of today.

During the whole day, in the garden behind the Mobile Studios location, the artists of will conduct their project Creative Suite by nbsp: Part 4 "Garden Party" (open air activities center)

LIVE STUDIO

12-1pm Presentation of the interview and research results of "Sofia through emotions" by Todor Penkov, Petar Bakalov, Maria loveva (artists will lead interviews with people from 10:00-11:00 each

day in the talk-studio and present the results in the live-studio)

1:30-3pm DESSINE-MOI-UN MONDE by Vincent Goudard (interactively created virtual garden)

4-6pm ©OPYRIGHT.simulated by Neli Mitewa (exhibition of virtual logos on the basis of a photo-session)

7-8pm WATCHING CUBE by Svetlana Mircheva (presenting of the camera obscura shootings taken during the whole day)

TALK STUDIO: curated by Margarita Dorovska

10-11am SOFIA THROUGH EMOTIONS: interviews

1-2pm Daily topic: Alphabet & Language & City culture

Violeta Decheva, Mitko Novkov, Lora Shumkova, Boyko Penchev, moderation: Angel Igov

3-5pm Upgrade Talks: Art House, Kyrdzhali

5-7pm Artists talk: Milena Deleva & literature performance guests

7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? Chitalishta / Sofia

8.8.30pm Wide Vista: Ivaylo Dichev & guests

8:30-10pm Daily topic: Daily topic: Literature & Language & City culture

Boris Kostadionv / INTRO, Antonia Koleva / Grosni Pelikani, Emilian Nikolov / Literature club

Thursday, 25 May

Human body in history and art. The body as object, subject or means of expression.

LIVE STUDIO

12-1pm Presentation of the interview and research results of "Sofia through emotions" by Todor Penkov, Petar Bakalov, Maria loveva (artists will lead interviews with people from 10-11am each day in the talk-studio and present the results in the live-studio)

2-4pm HIDDEN OUTSIDE by X-tendo (interactive workshop)

5-7pm CITISM (formerly "Zipp Code(d) City Re-Dis-Covered) by Antonio Dimitrov, Boris Petrovski, Elena Veljanovska, Hristijan Panev (exhibition of 3 parts and social interaction)

8-9pm STREET MUSICIANS by Ivo Tashkov (screening of the video based on the research phase and the interviews held in the talk-studio and edited in the editorial studio)

10pm-...Screenings of the film "A Better Tomorrow"; the Georgi Dimitrov Mausoleum, hope and disappointment in Bulgaria, by Matthew Brunwasser

TALK STUDIO: coordinated by Greta Gancheva

10-11am "Sofia through emotions": interviews

13-2pm Daily topic: Body. History. Art. Discussion with Vera Gotzeva, Angelina Georgieva, Ani Vaseva

3-5pm Upgrade Talks Meeting Point SGHG Dauhaus Center

5-7pm Artists talk: Petko Dourmana and Rassin

7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? Ivana Ivkovic/ Croatia



8-8:30pm Wide Vista: Dimitar Kamburov & guest

8:30-10pm Daily topic: Body. History. Art, part 2. Moderation: Bovan Manchev

ALL STUDIOS

from 22:00 - ... Screenings from the Mobile Studios events in Budapest

Friday, 26 May

Private areas: family history, memory and objects. Personal identity. Identifications and projections.

LIVE STUDIO

12-1pm Presentation of the interview and research results of "Sofia through emotions" by Todor Penkov, Petar Bakalov, Maria loveva (artists will lead interviews with people from 10:00-11:00 each day in the talk-studio and present the results in the live-studio)

2-4pm HIDDEN OUTSIDE by X-tendo (interactive workshop)

5-6pm CREATIVE SUITE by nbsp: part 4 Tertiary Area (Stand)

6-8pm: "LIULIN out & in" by Stoyan Nikolov (interior installation)

8.30-9.30pm: "Double images" by Galina Borissova & Anna Collier (video)

10-12pm: The challenges of curating net art - an international web conference

This web conference is presented within the framework of the local Upgrade! -meeting in Sofia and is hosted by the Mobile Studios project ([www.mobile-studios.org](http://www.mobile-studios.org)), Eyebeam ([www.eyebeam.org](http://www.eyebeam.org)) in New York and Turbulence.org in Boston.

A panel of international artists and curators is meeting up virtually to discuss various aspects of the mediation, curation and funding of net art.

Hosts:

Ela Kagel, digital media producer and co-initiator of Mobile Studios, <http://www.mobile-studios.org>

Ursula Endlicher, NY-based media artist & initiator of the round table in New York,

<http://www.ursenal.net>

Participants in Sofia/ Bulgaria:

Susa Pop, initiator of Mobile Studios

Galia Dimtrova, curator at InterSpace Sofia ([www.i-space.org](http://www.i-space.org))

Petko Dourmana, director of InterSpace Sofia

Kyd Campbell, initiator of the Upgrade! Sofia (<http://theupgrade.net/>)

Participants in NY/ USA:

Yael Kanarek, media artist & initiator of the Upgrade! NY (<http://theupgrade.net/>)

Liz Slagus, director of education at Eyebeam NY (<http://www.eyebeam.org>)

Michele Thursz, independant curator from NY, (<http://www.michelethursz.com>)

Lauren Cornell, director of Rhizome.org (<http://www.rhizome.org>)

Anne Barlow, curator of the New Museum NY (<http://newmuseum.org/>)

Participants in Boston/ USA:



JoAnne Green, co-director of turbulence.org (<http://www.turbulence.org>) and initiator of the Upgrade! Boston

A live stream of this event will be available at <http://www.mobile-studios.org>

TALK STUDIO: coordinated by Greta Gancheva

10-11am SOFIA THROUGH EMOTIONS: interviews

1-2pm Daily topic: Private History - Family and Objects with Diana Ivanova, Kalin Janev, Tomas Zizka, Martin Janicek

3-5pm Upgrade Talks: Association Fabrikata, Gabrovo

5-7pm "Winterkinder" - Film projection at the Goethe Institut Sofia

5-7pm Artists Talk: Chamla, Trigrad, Dolen

7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? centre / periphery : Margarita Dorovska & Yurii Vulkovski

8-8:30pm Wide Vista: Kalina Wagenstein and guest

8:30-10pm Daily topic: Private History - Family and Objects, part 2

Saturday, 27 May

Audience development and mediation of art. Education. Interpretation. Interaction.

LIVE STUDIO

12-1pm Presentation of the interview and research results of "Sofia through emotions" by Todor Penkov, Petar Bakalov, Maria loveva (artists will lead interviews with people from 10:00-11:00 each day in the talk-studio and present the results in the live-studio)

5-7pm CITISM (formerly "Zipp Code(d) City Re-Dis-Covered) by Antonio Dimitrov, Boris Petrovski, Elena Veljanovska, Hristijan Panev (exhibition of 3 parts and social interaction)

6-7.30pm CREATIVE SUITE by nbsp: With the the participation of Bertran Berrenger, Jens Gebhart, Seulgi Lee, Thomas Mailaender, Olivier Waissman.- part 5: "Mobile Home" (exhibition)

8.30-9.30 "Double images" by Galina Borissova & Anna Collier (video)

from 10pm: Screenings from "on difference" #2, Sofia BG

TALK STUDIO: coordinated by Galia Dimitrova

10-11am "Sofia through emotions": interviews

1-2pm Daily topic: Strategies for mediation of art, with Iskra Dimitrova - Film Academy for Viewers / Union of Film makers, Bina Haralampieva - School for audience / Theatre Off the Channel

3-5pm Upgrade Talks: dance BG

5-7pm Artists talk: Artists talk: On Difference #2 &ndash; Galia Dimitrova, Alenka Gregoric, (Slovenia), Hajnalka Solomyi (Hungary)

7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? Biljana Tanurovska / Macedonia

8-8:30pm Wide Vista: Bogdana Zlateva & guest

8:30-10pm Daily topic: Strategies for the mediation of art, part 2



Sunday, 28 May - finissage

The European project &ndash; creation and &ldquo;consumption&rdquo;;, policies and practices. Cultural and political perspectives. Crossing borders through emigration, migration, participation.

LIVE STUDIO

12-1pm Complete presentation of the interview and research results of "Sofia through emotions" by Todor Penkov, Petar Bakalov, Maria loveva (artists will lead interviews with people from 10-11am each day in the talk-studio and present the results in the live-studio)

2-4pm CITISM (formerly "Zipp Code(d) City Re-Dis-Covered) by Antonio Dimitrov, Boris Petrovski, Elena Veljanovska, Hristijan Panev (exhibition of 3 parts and social interaction)

5-7pm CREATIVE SUITE by nbsp: With the participation of Rada Boukova, Aymeric Ebrard, Thomas Fontaine, Élodie Huet.- part 6: "Tertiary Area" (stand)

8-8:45 4-COURSE MENU by brain !store project (performance-installation)

TALK STUDIO: coordinated by Margarita Dorovska

10-11am SOFIA THROUGH EMOTIONS: interviews

11 am-1pm National Committee of European Cultural Foundation

3-4pm Upgrade Talks: KERA association, Varna

4-5pm Daily Topic: Making Europe? Video and audio collage, part 1

5-6pm Artists Talk: Galina Borissova and Vincent Goudard

6-7pm Daily Topic: Making Europe? Crossing borders by Georgi Tenev

7-8pm Glance through the fence: Who are our neighbours? European people living in Bulgaria

8-8:30pm Wide Vista: Dmitry Varzonovtsev & guest

8:30-10pm Public Art Lab and local partners

ALL STUDIOS Stream

from 9pm - ... CLOSING PARTY, streaming of Gdansk closing event and live streaming of our closing to them.

Events taking place OUTSIDE the LIVE-Studio:

- CT\_BT\_Graffiti by Kyd Campbell, Petko Dourmana (artists to precise day, hour and place in accordance to the programme)

- Radio.Territories by Interspace (artists to precise day, hour and place in accordance to the programme)

CREDITS

Mobile Studios is a project of Public Art Lab &ndash; Berlin

Mobile Studios in Sofia is organized by:

Goethe-Institut Sofia

Peter Anders, Greta Gancheva

InterSpace Media Art Center

Petko Dourmana, Galia Dimitrova, Margarita Dorovska, Kyd Campbell

Brain Store Project – creative concepts` store

Neli Mitewa, Mila Odazhieva, Willy Prager, Stephan A.Shtereff

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Yana Kostova

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Stoycho Stanchev, Petar Slavov, Ivailo Ivanov, Antonio Dimitrov

Graphic design:

Evgeni Vasilev

## Curatorial Statement

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Which are the components defining “identity” today? Are they: “belonging” to a place (city, country) or to someone, “continuity” – of history, “roots”, “persistency”? Or are these formerly stable values becoming flexible/ constantly transformable in the nomad way of life today, shaped by mobile homes, temporary relationships, periods of transition and history interruptions, restlessness and continuous search/ research?

Initial situation:

During its transitional period after the political reversal, in the past 15 years Sofia has gone through a rapid change on every level: Due to the redistribution of nationalized housing, the change of character of the neighborhoods, the infrastructural development, the economic differentiation, the gradual disappearance of the middle class, the constant moving of businesses, the once cohesive city has been fractured into self-sustaining zones, such as: on the one hand Mladost (Youth), Liulin, Nadezda (Hope), Drouzba (Friendship), Hladilnika (Fridge), build in the 70ies, on the other hand: Boyana, Dragalevtsi that have turned from villages into well-off quarters. Each of them is determined by the economical and social level of their inhabitants. This fragmentation of the city and the lack of orientation prepared the ground for a diversification of identification aspects. The absence of continuity also led to an interruption of the bonds with the own cultural values and to the uncritical copying of western models.

Together with the “moving” city, many artists left the country to study or to work abroad. In the recent years, though, a coming back is ascertained, either as an emotional feeling of belonging, or in a physical way. This fact is also demonstrated in the projects we received, proposed either by Bulgarian artists living abroad, or by those who returned to Bulgaria. Thus, diversification of identity is setted both in their personality and in their artistic self-determination.

Concerning the contemporary performing, visual, new media arts, their distinctive feature is the

diversity of “marks”, the attempt of creating their own ones, as well as the lot of energy, enthusiasm and the struggle to make one’s impact on the established structures. Most of the existing artistic communities are dependent on program subsidies and not on the market, a fact that determines their temporary, non-persistent character. There are already strong attempts to break through the closing into confined circles and to initiate collaborations and exchanges with other artists on national and international level.

#### Curatorial statement

The choice of the suggested program, is based on the intention to present projects, in which the artists contextualize the theme of the diverse identity, constantly re-defining itself.

The accents in the selected projects are themes like the relations of the artists to the urban environment, their reference to private and public space, and the active engaging of the visitors. The hybrid feature of the projects is demonstrated in their interdisciplinarity and co-authorship: different artistic practices, such as: media art, net-art, installations, performances, interventions etc. merge to create a unique expression. The artists are questioning the stereotypes of the completed form and set on the idea of the “game”: the interaction of the visitors is an important issue of the artistic approach. The visibility of the process of research and creation is another component of the selected projects.

Sofia has turned into a point of attraction for foreign artists with a nomadic lifestyle. Their attention is focused by the possibility of participating in the developing of the artistic and cultural framework, the forthcoming EU-membership, the affordable economic environment for work development and production. Such artists have also submitted projects for the MOBILE STUDIOS platform.

Comparing them to those of the Bulgarian artists, we found out that the projects are dealing more with universal categories, like: urbanity, mobility, networking and pursue an universal artistic language by a diversity of approaches.

We expect that MOBILE STUDIOS SOFIA will become a point of departure for establishing of new artistic positions and for encouraging the reflexion and debate on our own relations to culture.

#### About Sofia

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Sofia (Bulgarian: София) is the capital and biggest city of the Republic of Bulgaria, with a population of 1,208,930 (2003). It is located in the western part of Bulgaria, at the foot of the mountain massif Vitoshka, and is the administrative, cultural, and industrial center of the country.

There are 16 universities in the city, among them Sofia University, founded in 1889. It is the see of an Eastern Orthodox metropolitan and of a Roman Catholic diocese. On a site inhabited as early as the 8th century BC, Sofia is the second oldest capital city in Europe. It has been given several names throughout the course of history, and the remnants of the old cities can still be seen today.



The historical location of the Mobile Studios in Sofia:

Alexander Battenberg Square

The place we have chosen for the placing of the Mobile Studios in Sofia - the "Alexander Battenberg Square" has been the scene of many historical events, so it has gone through various changes of symbolic significance, reflecting disparate cultural and political periods in our past.

After the Liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman Empire at the end of the 19th century the building of the previous residence of the Ottoman District Governor has been transformed during the reign of Prince Alexander Battenberg into a neo-Baroque royal palace. During the reign of the two Bulgarian kings of the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha dynasty the palace became the centre of the active social life of Sofia. During World War II heavy bombardments destroyed many of the beautiful buildings near Alexander square. Later the communist regime destroyed the fence and the fountains of the palace's gardens to open view of the newly constructed Communist Party House, removed from the façade all the symbols of royal power and turned the building into a National Art Gallery.

After the death of the communist leader Georgi Dimitrov in 1949 immediately opposite the former palace building the army constructed in six days his Mausoleum where his embalmed body has been exposed, similar to that of Lenin in Moscow. The mausoleum was a white cuboid neo-classical style building, designed by a famous Bulgarian architect in just one night while he was jailed by the Party as a "representative of the hostile bourgeoisie." With the mausoleum the Alexander Battenberg square became the centre of all compulsory official parades during the regime. After the transition from dictatorship to democracy the mausoleum has been abandoned and became prey to graffiti artists and later demolished in 2000. Now the place where it stood is part of the city garden and is called "The Gardens of the United Nations".

So, Alexander Battenberg square has witnessed the forth of the monarchy, the communist propaganda, the mass rioting at the beginning of democracy, not only witnessed, but even symbolized them. Now it is a common part of the city center and with the renovated buildings of the former palace and the crowded city garden is a perfect place for a cultural happening.

Some links about Sofia:

- [City of Sofia](#)
- [Sofia City Council](#)
- [Article about Sofia](#)
- [Sofia Life Travel Guide](#)
- [Sofia Photo Gallery](#)
- [Pictures from Sofia](#)
- [Cultural Guide](#)
- [Brief Information on Sofia](#)
- [Sofia Photo Gallery](#)



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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sofia>

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