



EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

7.9.2011 – Tatiana Fiodorova – Moldavian Land

<http://11moments.org/artists/tatiana-fiodorova-md-2/>

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INTERVIEW #8: Today we present Tatiana Fiodorova, an artist from Chisinau, Moldova, who is part of the Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival with her work "Moldavian Land".

Hi Tatiana, where are you at the moment?

Tatiana Fiodorova

Hi :-) Now I am in Moldova, Chisinau.

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You are planning a six hour performance in Chisinau at 11/11. What exactly will happen there?

Tatiana Fiodorova

This six hours of performances take different forms and overcome the existing divisions within public space. The performance locations include: bus and trolleybus stops, the railway station, the bus station, subways, trolleys, buses, maxi taxi, pedestrian crossings and the airport – all places of transition. Thus, the project involves performative practices to reveal this transitional period of contemporary Moldova. Performances inscribed in urban spaces that span the boundaries and limitations are aimed at gaining full freedom of communication and interactivity with the audience.

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Is there a special reason for the use of places of transition? What do these places mean to you?

Tatiana Fiodorova

Very often I perceive barriers and limitations in Moldova as a prison or ghetto. To go somewhere I need to prepare many documents. I believe this to be unhuman. If you are not rich and you do not have relatives abroad you have no chance to move freely about Europe. During the Soviet period there was an iron curtain around the country and we could not go to the west. Now 20 years have passed and little has changed in this regard. We are still in an enclosed space.



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Some of your former works show the difficulties of an eastern artist to become part of the western art scene. You had a lot of problems to get a visa to travel in Europe. What does it mean to be an artist in Moldova? Can you work there as an artist at all?

Tatiana Fiodorova

This project "Moldavian Land" is a metaphor of free movement. In the language of gestures, signs, and symbols, performances outside of politics may manifest individual and collective creativity through local and spontaneous transformation of the environment. Everybody can participate! The performance makes artists and spectators performers and observers at the same time.

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Are you working with other performers during your performance at 11/11? If so, who will join you and what can visitors expect?

Tatiana Fiodorova

This is a collective performance!

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Which kind of performances will happen there?

Tatiana Fiodorova

You asked me about the visa issue. It is very difficult to get one if you're an ordinary person. Let's say the average Moldovan citizen earns 150 to 400 Euros per month. It's hardly enough money to report to the embassy. I see that on the contrary that being an artist is one way off getting to go somewhere. An artist can get invitations from abroad and financial assistance conditional. But even this is not always safe. So for example a year ago I was refused a visa to England. Basically we have to show our works in the West rather than at home since we have not created an art scene here yet that could fully appreciate our gestures. In generally not for artists from Moldova itself...

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Back to your performance: Is it important for you to interact with the audience directly? You don't use a stage or any other physical barriers between you and your visitors p.e.. What other strategies do you use to communicate and interact with them?



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Tatiana Fiodorova

We have a big abyss between traditional art and contemporary art.

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How do you interact with your audience?

Tatiana Fiodorova

Of course the reaction of the audience is very important for me, feeling the absence of barriers to communication and interaction. Through performative practices such as art, poetry, theater, dance and acrobatic improvisation there can be an absence of physical barriers. The interaction between contemporary art and the environment can provide an opportunity to identify a new relationship with the surrounding reality. Urban space, filled with the freedom to provoke people into action through a creative process has the potential for society to gain a new perspective on urban space and a new understanding of everyday life.

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How do you define a radical moment in your performances? Where is the difference to a radical moment in your personal life?

Tatiana Fiodorova

Feeling physical and mental freedom through this performance without this Iron Curtain that still exists as a leftover from the Soviet era.

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Do you have a website where we can find detailed information about your project?

Tatiana Fiodorova

Yes: <http://moldavianland.wordpress.com/>

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Thank you for the interview and good luck with your preparation of the performance.

Tatiana Fiodorova

It is an open project and anybody can become a member of this performance.

Thanks :-)) and good luck!