

SHrinking Cities

Exhibition, September 4 until November 7, 2004

KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Auguststr. 69, 10117 Berlin-Mitte

Opening hours: Tu-Su noon until 7 p.m., Th until 9 p.m., Mo closed

Price: 7 Euro, 4 Euro (discount)

Shrinking Cities

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.

Eastern Germany is not a unique case. Along with several shrinking regions in western Germany, all over the world there are about 400 cities with populations over 100,000 that have lastingly shrunk in the last fifty years. The population in the old industrial states is beginning to decline; the process of urbanization has reached or past its zenith; the economy is still growing slightly, but employment has steadily fallen for quite some time. It is the end of a 200-year epoch in which the industrial countries' population, economy, affluence, and cities grew almost continuously and usually rapidly.

The Exhibition *Shrinking Cities* of the initiative project of Germany's Federal Cultural Foundation, the Kulturstiftung des Bundes, explores for the first time from an international perspective an urban development that has long since become a global phenomenon. Since Fall 2002, local teams have been commissioned in the four shrinking cities Detroit (USA), Manchester/Liverpool (Britain), Ivanovo (Russia), and Halle/Leipzig (Germany) to investigate and document processes of urban shrinking. In more than sixty exhibition contributions, artists, architects, filmmakers, journalists, culture experts, and social scientists reveal the changed reality of these cities. The topics the teams address range from the neglect and appropriation of spaces through changed practices of everyday life and new forms of work to the development of innovative subcultures and criticism of established planning cultures.

Exhibition contributions by:

A: Sofie Thorsen; **CAN:** Eleanor Bond, Christopher McNamara; **D:** Michael Baute, Nikolaus Brade, Manfred Butzmann, Axel Doßmann, Antje Ehmann, Johannes Ehmann, Harun Farocki, Laura Horelli, Konrad Knebel, Anne König, Pia Lanzinger, Ines Lasch, Netzwerk e. V. Südwest, niko.31 (Jens Fischer, Katja Heinecke, Reinhard Krehl, Silke Steets) with Nils Emde, Project office Philipp Oswald (Elke Beyer, Anke Hagemann, Doreen Mende, Tim Rieniets), Raumtaktik (Friedrich von Borries, Matthias Böttger), Albrecht Schäfer, Christoph Schäfer, Nicole Schuck, Stadtbüro Hunger, Heidi Stecker, Ingo Vetter, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Annette Weisser, Jan Wenzel, Rochus Wiedemer, Kathrin Wildner, Tobias Zielony; **GB:** John Davies, Leo Fitzmaurice, Neville Gabie, G.L.A.S. (Glasgow Letters on Architecture & Space), Ken Grant, Dave Haslam, Kath Healy, Tom Jefferies, Newbetter (Joshua Bolchover, Shumon Basar), Aidan O'Rourke, public works (Kathrin Böhm, Andreas Lang), Paul Rooney, Imogen Stidworthy, Neil Swanson, Lee Thompson, Kevin Ward, Dominic Wilkinson, Tom Wood; **NL:** Bas Princen; **RUS:** Vladimir Archipov, Sergei Bratkov, Olga Filatova, Alexei Kononenko, Yuri Leiderman, Savva Miturich, Sergei Miturich, Elena Samorodova, Vera Samorodova, Sergei Sitar, Boris Spiridonov, Alexander Sverdlov; **USA:** Robert Andersen, Mitch Cope, Mark Dancey, DGDC (Dan Pitera, Christopher Lee), Andrew Dosunmu, Tammy Lynn Evans, John Ganis, Derrick Gilbert, Tyree Guyton, Aurora Harris, Benjamin Miguel Hernandez, Scott Hocking, Jody Huellmantel, iGUE/Kyong Park, Jeff Karolski, Toni Mocerri, Kelly Parker, Clinton Snider, Chris Turner, Peter Williams, Andrew Zago

Visitor Service:

Overview tours: Sa/Su, 3 p.m., price: 4 Euro per person.

Group tours (max. 15 persons) in German or English are available on request. Standard tour

(general overview, 1 hour) 60 Euro; discount 50 Euro.

Contact: Arthur Berlin, Fon 030/81 79 87 40, Fax 030/81 79 87 41, visit@shrinkingcities.com

Accompanying Program:

Shrinking Cities Music (Palast der Republik, September 23 until September 25, 2004)

Shrinking Cities Film (Zeughauskino, October 14 until October 17, 2004)

Shrinking Cities Literature (Roter Salon, September 28, 2004)

Late Cinema (Palast der Republik, Tuesdays 11 p.m.)

Talks with artists (KW, Wednesdays 8 p.m.)

Exhibition discussions (KW, Fridays 4 until 7 p.m.)

Podium discussions (October 5, October 29, November 5, 2004)

Further information at www.shrinkingcities.com

Chief Curator: Philipp Oswald (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)

Local Curators: Detroit: Mitch Cope (artist/curator, Detroit), Kyong Park (artist/curator, New York) with Dan Pitera/DGDC (architect, Detroit); Ivanovo: Sergei Sitar (architect/journalist, Moscow), Alexander Sverdlov (architect, Moscow/Rotterdam); Liverpool/Manchester: Joshua Bolchover (architect, Manchester), Paul Domela (curator, Liverpool), Philipp Misselwitz (architect, Berlin/Tel Aviv)

Exhibition design: Meyer Voggenreiter Projekte, Cologne with Sebastian Hauser and Claudia Hoffmann; **Exhibition graphic:** 1kilo, Berlin; **Graphic:** Stephan Müller and Tanja Wesse, Berlin

Shrinking Cities is a project of the **kulturstiftung des bundes** (*German Federal Cultural Foundation*) in cooperation with the *Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig*, the *Bauhaus Dessau Foundation*, and the magazine *archplus*.

Project office Philipp Oswald, management director: Florian Bolenius, Eisenacher Straße 74, D-10823 Berlin, mail@shrinkingcities.com, www.shrinkingcities.com

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