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**EXHIBITIONS ON THE THEME "SHRINKING CITIES" IN HALLE AND LEIPZIG**  
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Exhibitions address the worldwide phenomenon of processes of urban shrinkage / More than 100 participating international artists, architects, and researchers / The first exhibition in 2004 in Berlin drew worldwide attention / The exhibitions are the conclusion of the three-year project of Germany's Federal Cultural Foundation

Halle/Leipzig, November 29, 2005 - With two exhibitions in Germany - in Halle (Saale) and Leipzig - the results of the initiative project of the Federal Cultural Foundation on the phenomenon of processes of urban shrinkage will have their concluding presentation in one of the studied regions. The region Halle/Leipzig, where zones of growth, shrinkage and stagnation are direct neighbors, is a typical example of the spatial polarization processes happening all over the world.

In Halle (Saale), the exhibition 1 "Shrinking Cities - International Investigation" will be on view in the Zentrum fuer zeitgenoessische Kultur (Center for Contemporary Culture) in Halle-Neustadt train station from November 19, 2005 to January 29, 2006. The exhibition examines the phenomenon of shrinking cities from an international perspective. Processes of shrinking are shown in the examples of four cities and regions: Detroit, USA; Manchester/Liverpool, United Kingdom; Ivanovo, Russia; and Halle/Leipzig, Germany. Artists, architects, filmmakers, journalists, and cultural and social researchers present the changed reality in these regions in exhibition contributions. The topics range from neglect and the appropriation of spaces through changed forms of work to the development of innovative subcultures and criticism of existing planning cultures.

After the projects "Hotel Neustadt" and "International Summer School Halle 2005", for the first time an international exhibition - "Shrinking Cities - International Investigation" - will be held in the Halle-Neustadt railway terminal, which was shut down in 2003. Another impetus for a Zentrum fuer zeitgenoessische Kultur in Halle (Saale). A first version of the exhibition won worldwide respect when it was shown in Fall 2004 at the KW - Institute for Contemporary Arts, Berlin.

The second exhibition, "Shrinking Cities - Interventions", in the Galerie fuer zeitgenoessische Kunst (Gallery for Contemporary Art) in Leipzig from November 25, 2005 until January 29, 2006, will present 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.

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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 will 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](http://www.shrinkingcities.com).

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**Exhibition 1**

**Shrinking Cities - International Investigation**

Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kultur (Zfzk), Halle-Neustadt train station  
Albert-Einstein-Straße 41, 06112 Halle (Saale), [www.zfzk.net](http://www.zfzk.net)

November 19, 2005 to January 29, 2006

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closed on holidays

Sponsor: Governing Mayor of the City of Halle (Saale), Ingrid Häußler

**Exhibition 2**

**Shrinking Cities - Interventions**

**Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig (GfZK)**

Karl-Tauchnitz-Straße 11, 04107 Leipzig, [www.gfzk.de](http://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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*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:

Achim Klapp // Press Office and Public Relations  
Schrumpfende Städte - Shrinking Cities  
Eisenacher Straße 74, 10823 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (30) 81 82 19-06  
[press@shrinkingcities.com](mailto:press@shrinkingcities.com), [www.shrinkingcities.com](http://www.shrinkingcities.com)