

**Andreas Fogarasi**

## **Kultur und Freizeit** (Culture and Leisure)

Dr. Zsolt Petrányi – Commissioner  
Katalin Timár – Curator

Giardini di Castello, Venice, 10 June – 21 November

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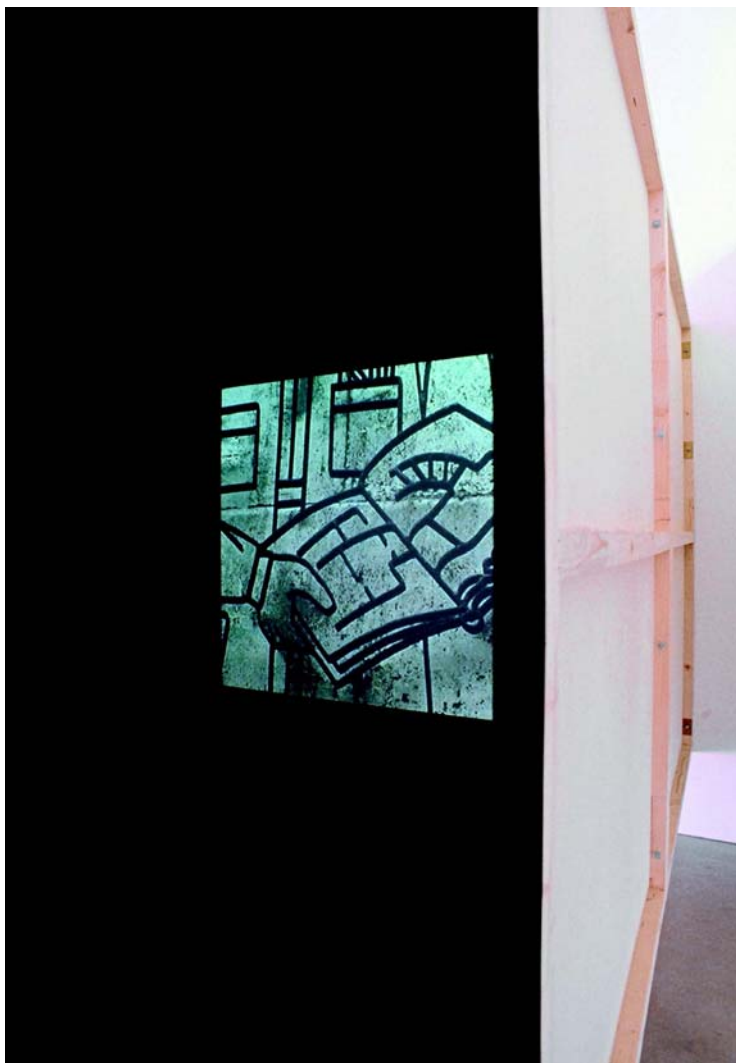
**Andreas Fogarasi,**  
*A Machine for*, 2006, video, 8 min, videostill

**From June to November 2007 the Hungarian Pavilion of the 52nd Venice Biennale showcases Andreas Fogarasi's project *Kultur und Freizeit* (Culture and Leisure) curated by Katalin Timár. The project focuses on cultural peripheries and the changing locations of popular culture, a phenomenon affecting and concerning nowadays all Europe.**

Andreas Fogarasi (b. 1977, Vienna), who has already successfully participated in many leading international exhibitions and art institutions (Manifesta Frankfurt am Main, Palais de Tokyo Paris, Kunstverein Graz, etc.), shows his single-channel video series about the present state of cultural centres in Budapest. The videos are presented in separate black boxes designed exclusively for the Hungarian Pavilion of the Venice Biennale. Entering these sculptural micro-cinemas, the viewers can sit down and watch 6 videofilms about cultural centres in Budapest, 5 to 10 minutes long each.

Rather than being straightforward documentaries these short films focus on the global phenomenon of the changing status of cultural institutions and public spaces on the peripheries of high culture.

Fogarasi's images, slow-motion, emphatically subjective, loitering on architectural details and urban surroundings, research the situation of these cultural sites which have slowly become the islands of subcultures, alternative satellite cultures recently. Through their history and role these cultural centres were at once locations of the democratization of culture centrally controlled and supervised in Hungary and thus connect to the past political system of the country, though they date back to the 19th century conception of workers' associations and clubs. In the shadow of the recent proliferation of consumer culture and cultural eventism they have been more and more pressed to the social and cultural periphery.



The catalogue which accompanies the exhibition, apart from providing an analysis of the work itself highlights its social, political and economic aspects as well. See e.g. Sergio Bologna's contribution on the history of the relationship between work and leisure or Jochen Becker's on the changing situation of cultural centres in the post-communist era. Equally important in this respect is the question of cultural memory (Péter György) or the transformations of the concept of culture (Zsolt K. Horváth). Self-organization in today's society is a politically and culturally charged issue (Anthony Davies, Stephan Dilleuth, Jakob Jakobsen). The active role the viewer plays in reception has become a focal point of interest for art theory lately (Barbara Steiner). The English version of the 176 p catalogue is edited by Katalin Timár and published by the Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Cologne.

Some of Andreas Fogarasi's videos about cultural centres in Budapest have already been presented in exhibitions in Budapest, Vienna and Cologne, see the press clippings below:

*"His art is a continuous investigation into existing relations. His works are not invention but analysis: of architecture and the social, political, cultural and economic problems related to it. (...) Imprints of past and present, melting in Fogarasi's work into a didactic, still poetic documentation."*(Die Presse)

*"The audience's experience of Kultur und Freizeit is very precisely dictated: projecting out from the gallery wall is a large, black cube housing a bench and a wooden viewing funnel; once seated inside this peepshow-like milieu, the viewer's position and gaze are fixed. This elegant construction feels like a scaled-down version of the many theatrical arenas featured in Fogarasi's film."* (Frieze)

**Andreas Fogarasi**  
Kultur und Freizeit  
Video installation, 2006-2007, Courtesy Georg Kargl Fine Arts,  
Vienna, Photo: Lisa Rastl

For further information please visit the following websites:

[www.biennale07.hu](http://www.biennale07.hu)  
[www.mucsarnok.hu](http://www.mucsarnok.hu)  
[www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)

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