

press release

transit station Edinburgh 2006

an international *tour de force* of multi-disciplinary performing action in art coming to Edinburgh's Ocean Terminal

Twenty Scottish artists together with 20 international artists will present their art work at Edinburgh's Ocean Terminal shopping centre on 4 and 5 February, as part of **transit station**, an international art event featuring performance art, live art, music, dance, theatre, fashion and video.

transit station brings together young and emerging artists as well as established practitioners in changing international settings, providing an opportunity for local and regional artists to meet and work with fellow artists from all over Europe and beyond. The project is led by Dagmar I. Glausnitzer-Smith and is produced by Charles Ryder, curator, and Alexander Rues, technical director. In Edinburgh the local curators and organisers are Rosemary Strang and Aaron McCloskey of **TotalKunst** (part of The Forest Organisation).

Ocean Terminal has donated a huge space overlooking Leith Harbour for the event. Within the space a large site-specific sculpture of scaffolding will be erected as a reference point and armature for continuous non-stop artistic activity over two 12-hour performances during the weekend. Artists and audience will mingle freely within this dramatic space, the artworks emerging from the intersection of artist and observer, performance and space. The ambience of the space is especially challenged by its commercial location, which provides entertainment and material consumption. Not so at **transit station**. Here in Edinburgh the context changes radically, bringing Avant Garde Performance Art, Theatre, Dance to the world of retail shopping, entertainment and leisure. One step from 'the mall' into **transit station** will bring the visitor from the familiar and reassuring world of shops, cinemas and cafés into a different and strange environment. There the creative inner-world and intellectual discourse will be represented in a situation that appears to be organised chaos, a parallel world of artistic expression. Here visitors can be active or passive, contemplative or engaged with the artwork, amused, bemused, or enlightened. The non-stop action within and around the scaffolding structure defines the central question of the 'exhibition as event': Where is the Art?

Previous **transit station** events in London (2003) and Berlin (2005) established the international basis for the project, which has attracted a loyal and substantial following. The London event took place in a gallery context, and Berlin in a former industrial space. The idea may be compared to a train journey and the event becomes the station platform, where passengers, workers, trains and time intersect and overlap: personal experience becomes transitional, fluid, and indeterminate.

transit station was created and developed by Dagmar I. Glausnitzer-Smith in 2003 as the culmination of her research project during the two-year Stanley Picker Fellowship at Kingston University, London. She is currently Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at Kingston, teaching drawing and performance art workshops. She lived in England from 1992-2003, completing her BA Fine Art Degree at Goldsmiths College and her MA Fine Art Degree at the Royal College in London. Glausnitzer-Smith is working in a collaborative directorship with Charles Ryder, a museum and gallery designer and former curator of the Picker Gallery, where he established the annual Kingston Contemporary Art Open. He is a visiting lecturer at the University of Portsmouth where he teaches on the Museology MA programme, and Director of Frari, specializing in print and website design for the arts.

transit station Edinburgh 2006 takes place at Ocean Terminal, Leith, Edinburgh, from noon-midnight Saturday 4 February and noon-midnight Sunday 5 February. Ticket prices are £5 for each day or £8 for the entire weekend. For further information contact Rosemary Strang:

rosemary.strang2@virgin.net

0779 238 3473