

UNCOOL FESTIVAL 2009 ???

The culture publicity of the Canton of Grisons – it's called graubuendenCULTURE – has issued a brochure, on the cover the heraldic animal, a male alpine ibex in a gloomy rocky landscape. This sign is choreographed in sinister visions, anticipating the demolition of culture highlight in the Grisons: FLIMS KLANG by Matthias Ziegler and now presumably UNCOOL Festival 2009 in Poschiavo... What good is culture publicity if the culture cannot take place any more because of lacking subventions and meager sponsoring? Where is the solidarity for the arts, the music, for the many culture enterprises that fill with concrete life the otherwise empty term of the “culture by itself”?

Music? Yes, music is the universal language everyone can understand. The sound is manifold, often familiar and sometimes surprising – did you know that the earth is singing in very deep tones?¹ And some of its inhabitants have researched the sound, the harmonies and disharmonies, the light and the sophisticated combinations of the acoustic materials, they have constructed instruments you don't even know their names, they have composed melodies that you never heard before. And still you reject the efforts of a minority who penetrate into rather immaterial and spiritual spheres. Why? Hard to tell, but it seems that it is the greedy ambition for the possession of a printed piece of paper that is expected to represent a more precious value than an unforgettable musical experience.

Printed matter? Money! – Banknotes are artistically designed and more or less forgery-proof, yet other kind of money is rather simply made with the letterhead of the bank and the figures that signify richness. Numbers of many digits that increase or decrease their value overnight at the gambling game of the stock market, black on white only telling a promise in form of numbers without any additional meaning – except one exchanges the numbers for a transient value as something edible, a dress, a vehicle, a roof over the head or music that let the soul swing...

How does money function? Society is an organism. Money in the context of the social organism has the same function as blood in the body. Blood nourishes all the cells – and should it not reach some of the cells, these would have great difficulty to survive... If money reaches all individuals the supply of the totality of the social organism is guaranteed – otherwise one could say that the social

¹ Read this article <http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/natur/0,1518,597648,00.html>

organism dies off where the money supply is lacking. But prior to death there are a number of deficiency signs to observe that in turn lead to excesses and are linked to feelings of discrimination, of inferiority, angst, famine, neglect, protest. Whatever the various kinds of expression might be the effect originates partly from the lacking money supply. Who has no money, cannot nourish himself/herself, cannot buy something and cannot take part in the economic and social processes. It also means the failure of money capitalism, when the economic potential is not exploited by far, when a majority only participates little or not at all in the cash flow...

The cash flow is the essence of the money, it is not allowed to be treasured up, to be concentrated in only few hands, but has to flow everywhere in order to enhance trade and production. In a closed system as the social organism is the money builds circuits, local, national and meanwhile global pecuniary circuits.

The festival gave work to many for a short time. The musicians and artists, the sound technicians, the stage workers, the hirer of instruments and technical equipment, the tent company, the electricians, the firefighters who worked as controllers, the hotels, the restaurants, the bakers, the butchers, the dairies, the souvenir shops... all profited in one way or another from the festival.

I invested my assets in the festival – I emphasize invested because the capital is now stuck in the music, in the precious historical recordings in collaboration with the Swiss Radio RSI, Lugano, it is conserved in the numerous memories in the heads and hearts of the people who listened to the music, who toured the Valposchiavo and were enchanted by its wild beauty, who will come back for another festival or just to take a walk and refresh their memories...

I need for the next UNCOOL Festival in May 2009 roughly CHF 300'000 (Euro 200'000). Financial support is ensured by the Canton of Grisons who regularly granted CHF 45'000, by the Municipality Poschiavo, the Foundation Artephila, the Pro Helvetia (in case the festival projects internationally), the Rätia Energie, the Swiss Radio RSI, the tourist authority Valposchiavo, the Swiss Post, the Rhetian Railway, the Pro Grigioni Italiano, by private donors, local businesses and by unpaid manpower. Also for a small festival 2009 there were denials valuable of CHF 35'000, but the determining cause is the fact that I am broke and cannot back up any deficit at all, additionally a well-financed substitute could not be found...

With the money that UNCOOL 2009 would cost, you can buy two minutes of the Iraq war, with this kind of money you might be able to finance one month of the municipality in Poschiavo... or you can afford a fantastic international contemporary festival with live music from all over the world. A festival that for four days enhances musical encounters with alien cultures, with musicians that take the time to play for the pupils, offer workshops and introduce in the reign of Jazz, Improvised Music and Cosmo Music. The festival inspires, stimulates one's own creativity and forms an equivalent to the southern alpine beauty of Valposchiavo.

Who is going to give me the money telling me: Well done, keep going!?! Or is the biannual festival that started off in the last year of the last millennium condemned to disappear? I need desperately help and above all sufficient financial support for another „Miracolo elvetico della piccola Poschiavo“ (Il Manifesto, 21.5.1999), Helvetian miracle of the small Poschiavo.

Cornelia Müller

Artistic and organizing direction of the UNCOOL Festivals

thekey@uncool.ch

www.uncool.ch (Festivals 1999-2007)