



Irina Grabovan

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Competencies::

- Curator, founder and director of AoRTa Art Centre, orientated toward communication and social change, investigating the emergence of new cultural forms, with special interest in art of photography and moving images. Selector for national and international art and cultural exhibitions and festivals.
- Writer on Culture and Identity, Art, Gender, Media, and Society issues
- Publisher and editor of book series on contemporary art and photography
- Artist, interested in exploration of different possibilities of being and interpreting the world
- Educator, interested in the translation and exchanges of the experiences.
- Manager, combining a love of the arts, love of people and a need for business
- Analyst in art management and cultural policy issues, providing expertise and consultancy

Born in Ekaterinburg, Russia / based in Chisinau (Kishinev), Moldova

Education:

- Painting and Graphic Art Department, Fine Arts School, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (1983)
- Mass Communication Department, MA Diploma in Journalism, National University, Kishinev, Moldova, (1989, cum laude).

Relevant Qualifications & Professional Training/Development:

- 2007- Fellowship for Training for trainers in cultural policy. European Cultural Foundation (ECF), Amsterdam, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) Matra program (NL)
- 2007- "Cultural Institutions without Walls: New Models of Arts - Community Interaction", SALZGURG GLOBAL SEMINAR Session 446, Salzburg, Austria
- 2006 – “Art management in turbulent times”, Bratislava Spring Academy, (series of lectures and workshops), Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2006 – “Mobility and cultural co-operation in the age of digital spaces”, Training for trainers, ECUMEST Assosiation\On-The-Move\G2CC - Gateway to Cultural Collaboration, Bucharest
- 2003 – “Professional standards in culture and art journalism”. Danish School of Journalism/Albanian media Institute, Tirana, Albania
- 2002 – Curating in Transition course, Culturlink/ BAZA, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- 2001 – Art management course, Soros Foundation, Chisinau, Moldova.

2000 – History of World Photography, Baltic School of Photography, Sankt-Petersburg, Russia.
2000 – Management of noncommercial projects course. CCA, Kiev, Ukraine.
1999 – Multilens Photography, CCA, Chisinau, Moldova.
1999 – Camera Obscura Photography, CCA, Chisinau, Moldova
1997 – Videoart workshop, CCA, Chisinau, Moldova
1997-2000 – Apprenticeship with Prof.Nicolai Ischimji
1996 – BBC Professional Television Course, Internews School of Television Journalism, Kiev, Ukraine.

Employment History:

1999 – present - Founder and director of AoRTa Art Centre (NGO), Chisinau, Moldova.
2005 – present - “Theory and Practice of photographic Image”, Fine Arts Faculty, State Pedagogical university, Chisinau, Moldova
2007 — present - “Art management and cultural policy” course, Fine Arts Faculty, State Pedagogical university, Chisinau, Moldova
2007— present - cultural policy expert, European Cultural Foundation
1992-1999 – Editor-in-chief, Literature Fund “Axul Z”, Chisinau, Moldova.
1989-1992 – Editor, Editor-in-chief, PR and Publishing Department, State Science and Technical Centre “Intexnauka”, Chisinau, Moldova.
1983-1984 – Designer, “Vodokanal” National company, Chisinau, Moldova.
Since 1983 – Working in national and foreign mass and specialized media (press, TV) on Art, Culture and Identity issues.

Curatorial practice:

Initiator (1999) and director of Art Centre AoRTa in Chisinau, Moldova. (AoRTa is a non-profit interdisciplinary arts organization committed to the research, development, and presentation of contemporary art. It was designed to encourage and support the original, often risky creativity that produces advances in art that change the way we understand the world. It encourages exchanges within the East-West cultural field, supporting and facilitating the communication between Culture operators and artists. The institution sets up a platform for art and mediate it to a public through exhibition program, publications, artists in residency program, innovative courses in Art education)

Out of “Aorta” space(selected):

2008

International Media Art Forum, moldovan section, Cairo, Egypt

2007

Visible images from invisible country (film, video, animation and music recently made in Moldova) - Videospritz # 2, Trieste, Italia; Kulturkontakt, Austria.

2006

International Young Artists’ Biennial, “AWOL- Absent Without Leave”, Bucharest, Romania (catalogue)

2005

- “Lost in the Forest”, Alexander Tinei s solo exhibition, Artpoint gallery/Kulturkontakt, Vienna, Austria (catalogue)

- “One or two things I know about Chisinau” – Dutch artists working in Moldova, Dordrecht Center for contemporary arts, Netherlands (book)

2003

- The Last East-European Show, Moldovan section. Belgrade Museum for Contemporary art, (the best exhibition of the year 2003 in Yugoslavia, group award), (catalogue)
- AoRTa in Arti et Amicitiae, Union of Artists, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

2002

- Galeria Kazamat / HDLU Osijek, Croatia, – workshop and photo exhibition, (booklet)
- Balkan Art '02 Triennial, Moldovan section. Zlatno oko, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. (catalogue)

Art writing and publishing:

Writing on Culture and Identity, Art, Media and Society issues.

Since 1983 have been working as free-lance writer and editor in the field of culture, contemporary art.

Published essay books on the works of

- Ron Sluik, “This is my house. The cruel Paradise”, (AoRTA, 2003)
- Ulay, “We emerge”, (AoRTA, 2004).
- Ron Sluik, “Moldovan Blue...and other colours” (AoRTa, 2005)
- Bertien van Manen, “In Moldova”. (AoRTa, 2005),
- Essay and interview on the works of Alexander Tinei”Lost in The Forest”. (AoRTa, Chisinau\ Kulturkontakt, Vienna, 2005),
- “Moldova in a Dutch light” (AoRTa, 2005). (Texts together with Herrit Willems)
- Toto Frima, “Moldovan Journeys”, (AoRTa, 2006)

The photo series books “Made in Moldova” explore social and intimate environment of changing Moldovan everyday life. Books, published in Russian, English, Romanian, represent an effort to analyze the post-soviet identity and photography as media.

Articles on Theory, Practice and Mediation of Contemporary Culture have been published in Moldovan, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Croatian, Serbian, Dutch, Spanish, Slovakian media and catalogues.

Films

1996 - Script and directing of the documentary film “Boris Mikhailov. Retrospective”, 22min, “Internews”, Kiev, Ukraine.

Art practice

Works in the field of photography. Focus on visual research and archive on post-soviet transitional Identity.

Participant of several photo art projects and contemporary art exhibitions:

2006

- Molodvaski Aist, Arti et Amicitiae\Amsterdam Union of Artists, group exhibition Netherlands
- Shumen Biennial for contemporary art, Shumen, Bulgaria (catalogue)
- “Global Fusion Close Up 2006”, Palais Porcia, Vienna, Austria
- European month of photography, Vienna, (catalogue)

2005

- “Artists curate artists – my space”, (together with Ron Sluik), Ottakring festival, Basement galerie. Vienna, Austria

- “Global Fusion Close Up 2005”, (together with Claudia Buchegger) Basement gallery, Vienna, Austria, Maroondahartgallery, Melbourne, Australia

2004

- 44th Annual(theme *Sexy*), group exhibition, Porec, Croatia (catalogue)
- Solo exhibition, AoRTa, Chisinau, Moldova

2003

- Arti et Amicitiae Amsterdam, (NL), group exhibition.
- “Kazan”, Mediasojuz, Moscow/Kazan, Tatarstan

Design and illustrations:

- AoRTa book series (2003-present)
- Visual identity for the Festival of young choreographers (photography for poster, postcards,...) Den Haag, Netherlands, 2006
- Rudolf Olshevski. *Odisea leitenanta Ripli*. (2 volumes. Cover design). 2000. Literature Fund “Axul Z”, Chisinau, Moldova
- Boris Marian “Tiuremnaja tetradi” poetry book (cover, ill.), 1999, Chisinau, Moldova
- “Lyricos” – world poetry book series (12 volumes, 4 covers\boxes), 1998. Literature Fund “Axul Z”, Chisinau, Moldova
- «Modest» music band tour to Germany, poster design, 1990

Teaching experience:

2005 – present - course in “Theory and practice of Photographic image” at the Art Faculty, State Pedagogical University, Chisinau, Moldova. Professor. Competence and responsibilities: analyze training requirements, design training program, design and develop media and learning environments, deliver and evaluate training program in art of photography.

2007 – present - “Art management and cultural policy” course, Art Faculty, State Pedagogical University, Chisinau, Moldova. Professor, Initiator of the program. Competence and responsibilities: analyze training requirements, design training program, design and develop media and learning environments, deliver and evaluate training program.

Lectures and workshops on Contemporary Art and Culture, Experimental Photography:

- Croatian Union of artists, Osijek, Croatia
- Mikrokinofest, Belgrad, Yugoslavia
- National Library, Belgrad, Yugoslavia
- Culture Centre, Pancevo, Yugoslavia
 - Kulturkontakt, Vienna, Austria.
 - Academia Fundamenta, Cyprus, Nicosia

Awards

2007- Fellowship for Training for trainers in cultural policy. European Cultural Foundation, the German Marshall Fund, Matra program (NL)

2007- Fellowship for Session 446, "Cultural Institutions without Walls: New Models of Arts - Community Interaction", SALZGURG GLOBAL SEMINAR, The Edward T.Cone Foundation.

2006 – Fellowship for “Art management in turbulent times”, European Cultural Foundation, Bratislava Academy, Slovakia

2006 – Fellowship for “Mobility and cultural co-operation in the age of digital spaces”, Training for trainers, ECUMEST Assosiation\On-The-Move\G2CC - Gateway to Cultural Collaboration, Bucharest

2003- the best exhibition of the year 2003 in Yugoslavia for The Last East-European Show, Belgrade Museum for Contemporary art, (group award)

2003 – Fellowship “Professional standards in culture and art journalism”. Danish School of Journalism/Albanian media Institute, Tirana, Albania

2002 – Fellowship for “Curating in Transition”. Art-management course, Culturlink/ BAZA, Belgrade, Yugoslavia

2001 – Fellowship for “Art management” course, Soros Foundation, Chisinau, Moldova.

2000 – Fellowship “Management of non-commercial projects” course. CCA, Kiev, Ukraine.

1996 – Fellowship for BBC Professional Television Course, Internews School of Television Journalism, Kiev, Ukraine.

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