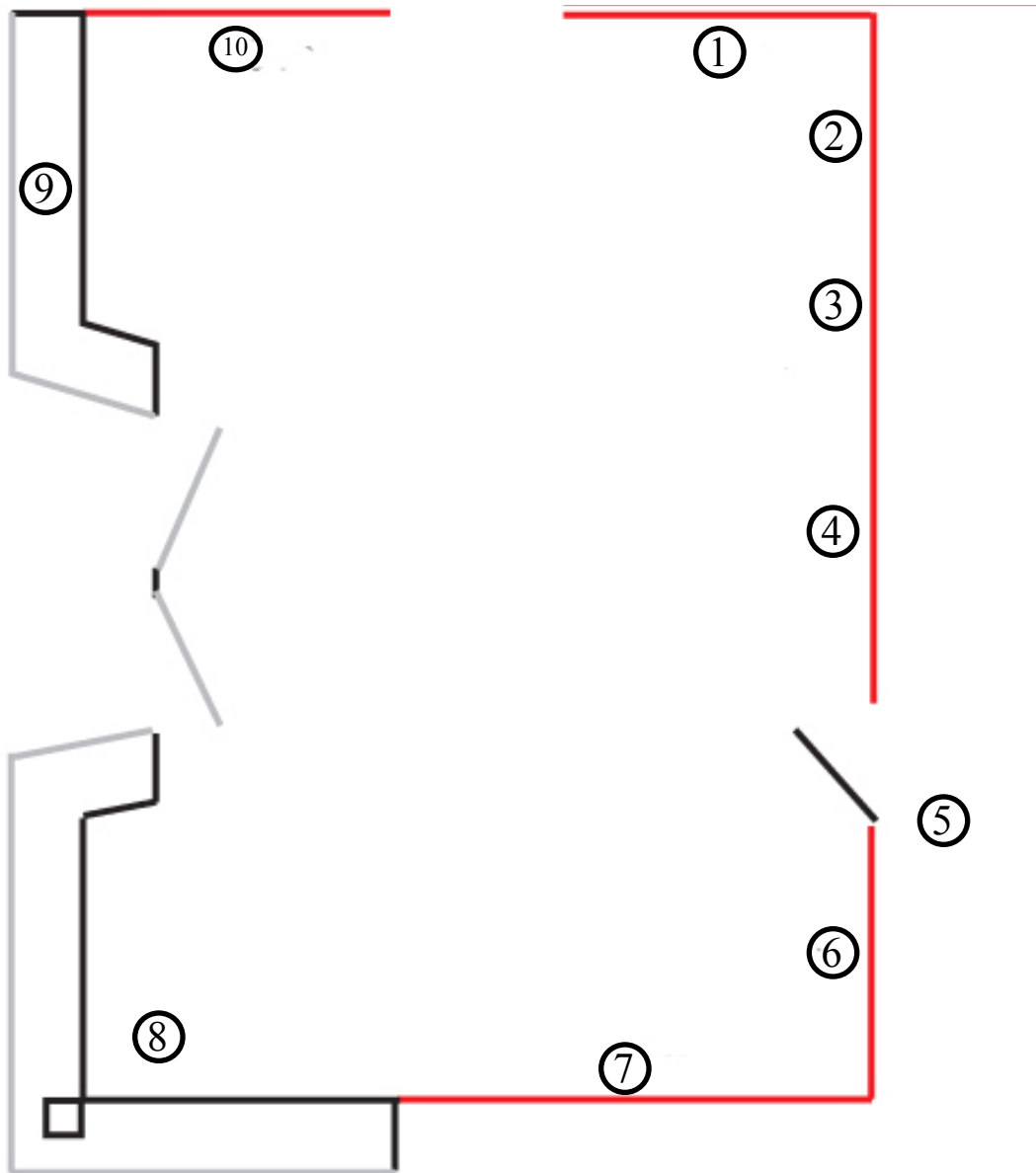


SCHENGEN Tour Guide





FEINKOST

SCHENGEN

Matei Bejenaru, Alexey Chebykin, Matteo Ghidoni,
Pablo Helguera, IRWIN/NSK.STATE.COM, Ciprian Muresan,
OMA/AMO, Hito Steyerl, REP Group

February 10 to April 14, 2008
Vernissage on Saturday, February 9 from 19:00 – 21:00

OMA/AMO's proposed barcode flag for the European Union captures exactly how disconnected the components of this expanding unionization project are from becoming a whole. Schengen, the name of a small town in Luxembourg, has become the buzzword referring to the systematic breakdown of physical and virtual borders dividing countries in Europe. The Schengen Agreements ask for the establishment of information sharing networks, the harmonizing of policies ranging from immigration to transparencies of markets, and are ultimately the final step for becoming the non-entity status of "European." Considering the voracious pace at which the EU is bringing members into its club, the commonalities that push would-be and non-members on a quest for "normalization" adds a new dimension from which artists and citizens cull fascination in analyzing their own nationhood in flux. This grouping of artists, architects, and theoreticians gives a composite sketch of Schengen that promotes Europe through re-envisioning borders, disappearing locality, the creation of national palimpsests and informal markets, inspiring alternative modes of entry, exile and escape; and overall, helping make identities more flexible.

FEINKOST is pleased to inaugurate its Call-and-Answer program of solo shows alongside curated exhibitions. Also opening on Saturday, February 9 is a solo show by painter Daniel Baker entitled "**The New Gilt**". For more information please contact Aaron Moulton at the details below.

FEINKOST
BERNAUER STRASSE 71-72
13355 BERLIN
+49(0)172 184 9732
INFO@GALERIEFEINKOST.COM
WWW.GALERIEFEINKOST.COM

1. IRWIN (collective began in 1989 in Ljubljana, Slovenia)

NSK State in Time passports, 1993 - ongoing.

Installation including page from Slovenia Embassy website and letters from Nigerians asking for NSK passport.

2500 Euros for framed print.

In the early 90s Neue Slovenisches Kunst, or the NSK, gained serious momentum as they tried formalize their activities into a stateless state. Artists across Europe applied and received NSK passports as a form of tongue-in-cheek nationalism. However the project began to have actual use-value in the real world as during the war in Bosnia, Bosniaks were able to get out of the country easier with an NSK passport than with their own. Today hundreds of Nigerians continue to apply for NSK passports as a way to have more freedom of mobility throughout Africa and possibly abroad.



2. REP Group

Contraband, 2007

Edition 1/5 500 Euros

"Contraband" shows members of the REP Group inflating colorful balloons with methane gas and hot water bottles with oil, materials that are then strapped and tied to their body. The aim of the "performance" was to see whether they could successfully import insignificant quantities of fuel from the Ukraine into Poland. The video shows them crossing seamlessly through customs and out into the Polish border town. The final scene is of them absconding behind the public toilet, cutting the material free and leading the viewer to believe they go to sell their import alongside the countless others peddling vodka and cigarettes.

The commentary does not get any more direct. Done at a time when Gazprom shut off the pipes to the Ukraine, here we witness the alternative economies potentially fabled from such geostrategic manipulation of Ukraine's position by Russia. Absurd to whatever degree the gesture emulates conditions that might lead the common person to lengths of importing a material that lubricates foreign policy in the world.



3. Pablo Helguera

Conservatory of Dead Languages, 2004-ongoing
Unique wax phonograph cylinders.

500 Euro each.

The conservatory for dead languages documents languages whose speakers, due to migration and disappearing locality, are becoming increasingly few in numbers. By recording local songs, poetry or conversational speaking, Helguera obtains the very idiosyncratic details that constitute the cultural meat of a language. In a poetry of materials segments are then recorded onto wax phonograph cylinders, the oldest recording device. Due to the rarity of the phonograph today, technology prevents us from ever hearing the languages firsthand. Because of their unique production in a fragile material, if broken the language could die.

1. Zoque, Te' Kamayu Une'Is Letze (88,000 speakers)

The Zoque are an indigenous people of Mexico. Their language is also called Zoque, and has several branches and dialects. They are believed to be descendants of the Olmec who emigrated to Chiapas and Oaxaca. The Zoque languages are spoken in the northern Chiapas and far eastern Chiapas around Chimalapa, and in Ayapa Tabasco altogether by around 88,000 indigenous Zoque people. The Zoques call their language O'de püt.

2. Totonaco, Aktsu Tsamat Chamakxkuu (410,000 speakers)

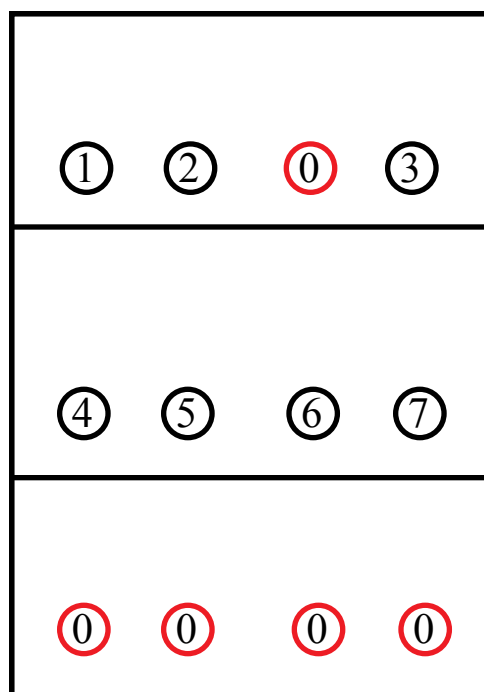
Like many American Indian languages, the Totonacan languages are highly agglutinative and polysynthetic. Furthermore, they exhibit many features of the Mesoamerican areal type, such as a preference for verb-initial order, head-marking, and extensive use of body part roots in metaphorical and locative constructions.

3. Nahuatl, Xicochi Xicochi (2,650,000 speakers)

Nahuatl is a group of related languages and dialects of the Aztec, or Nahuatl, branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family. It is indigenous to Mesoamerica and is spoken by ca 1.5 million Nahua people, mostly in Central Mexico. Nahuatl has been spoken in Central Mexico at least since 600 AD and at the time of the Spanish conquest of Mexico it was the language of the Aztecs, who dominated central Mexico.

4. Zapoteco, Pora Gule Bichu Huini (785,000 speakers)

Zapoteco language(s) describes a group of closely-related indigenous Mesoamerican languages spoken by the Zapotec people from Mexico's southwestern-central highlands region. Present-day numbers of native speakers are estimated at over half a million, with the majority inhabiting the state of Oaxaca. Zapotec-speaking communities are also found in the neigh-



bouring states of Puebla, and Guerrero. Emigration has also resulted in a number of native Zapotec-speakers residing in the United States, particularly in the state of California.

5. Zapoteco, La Tortuga (785,000 speakers)

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=pTatHrXOUi4>

6. Nahuatl, Huecanias (2,563,000 speakers)

7. Zapoteco, Gazi si nana (785,000 speakers)

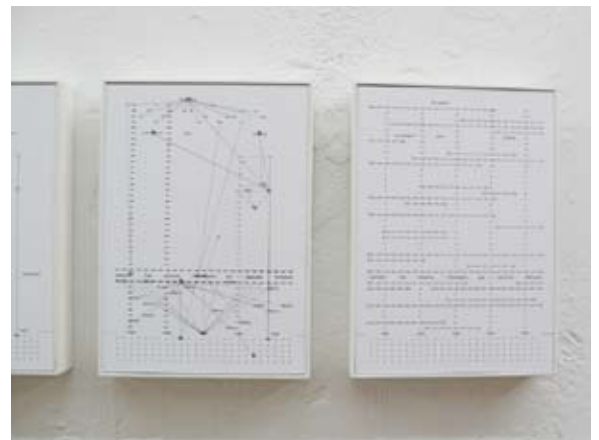
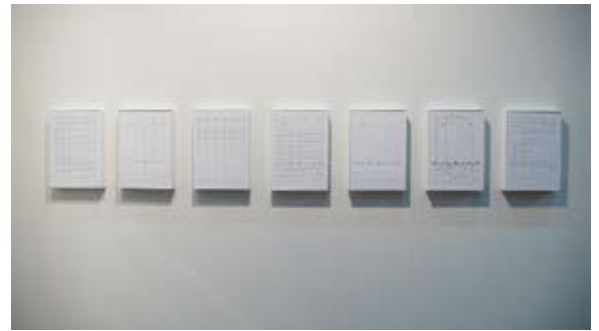
4. Matteo Ghidoni

High Rise, 2007.

Edition number 2 of 5.

1500 Euro

JG Ballard's book "High Rise" was an antidote to the ambitious social utopias being projected by architects in the 70s. The book tells of the largest apartment block of its generation, one housing several thousand apartments complete with every needed amenity for survival within. Beginning the book the moment the last dwelling is occupied, Ballard takes the reader through a snowballing collapse of social order turning the residents into territorial savages. Here Matteo Ghidoni has treated the book as an architectural study, providing seven angles on the social and demographic details including a breakdown of the order as it gradually disintegrates to chaos.



5. Hito Steyerl

Mini-Europe, 2004

Video installation, 4 minute loop

NFS

Hito Steyerl's "Mini-Europe" gives a sample from the Brussels theme park of the same name. Here Berlin is depicted via a Brandenburg Gate frozen in time. Spectators are able to activate a switch that bulldozes the Berlin Wall, a gesture sending history in motion. Seconds later the machine resets itself and the wall pops back up, a palimpsestuous frontier awaiting the next collapse.



6. Hito Steyerl

Universal Embassy, 2004, 4 min

NFS

Universal Embassy is a telling documentary about a group of sans papier occupying the former Somali embassy. Coalescing into a formal organization, adopting the language and vocabulary such as flag and passport and becoming a reference point for assistance and direction, the participants came to be known as the Universal Embassy – a place where those without papers could find help within their statelessness.



9. OMA/AMO

AMO Barcode for European Union, 2006

NFS

Are twelve stars enough? How does one make a single flag that properly represents 27 very individual nations? AMO, Office for Metropolitan Architecture's think-tank counterpart, has created this easily update-able brand for a 21st-Century EU.



10. Alexey Chebykin

Olympic Security Style (Torino), 2006

Edition 1/5

2200 Euros

Coming from Russia's westernmost oblast Kaliningrad, a 60-year old exclave with an eponymous center that sits 400 kilometers from the mainland's border, Alexey Chebykin's homeland is a trove for anthropological archaeologists in search of the pre-war Koenigsberg, home to Immanuel Kant. Surrounded by Europe, NATO, and the Baltic, there is no easy way in or out. At one point a passageway briefly connected Kaliningrad to Berlin after the war giving commercial access. And recently ideas for a high-speed non-stop train between Kaliningrad and Russia have been considered.

Integrating and assimilating value systems on governmental and social levels is a trajectory that Chebykin exaggerates in his varied hyperboles of alternative presents and possible futures. In his recent series of work "Olympic Security Style" he funnels the rhetoric of the War on Terror and the hyper-paranoia of America's semaphore states of security by creating an offspring of discomfoting proportions. Using the Olympic Games as a flash point for caricatured globalization, armored diplomacy and militarized urbanism, Chebykin pre-empts a state of mind and aesthetics that is not too far-fetched or far off.

