

## **YANE CALOVSKI & HRISTINA IVANOSKA**

### *Oskar Hansen's Museum of Modern Art*

Inspired by Oskar Hansen's Process and Art - Competition Entry for the Museum of Modern Art, Skopje, 1966

#### **Opening reception: Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 9 pm**

The artists will be present.

#### **ŽAK | BRANICKA, Lindenstr. 35, D-10969 Berlin**

Duration of the exhibition: April 5<sup>th</sup> – June 11<sup>th</sup> 2008, Tue – Sat 11 am – 6 pm

#### *Press release*

The project is a hypothetical program of a "lost museum" designed by a Polish architect Oskar Hansen in 1964. It was meant to become a symbol of the city's progress and "immortality" following the devastating earthquake on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1963. The competition for the best design of a new art institution was organized by the Polish government as a gesture of solidarity and was open exclusively to architects from Poland and other Eastern Block countries.

Oskar Hansen's proposal was based on peculiar assumptions: the museum was to consist of "a transformable exhibition space, able to fold completely and then unfold into various combinations, with hexagonal elements lifted by hydraulically-powered rotating telescopes." In this way the structure would transform in horizontal and vertical dimensions at the same time. In the proposal the architect wrote: "Art in its development is unpredictable. We have assumed that a contemporary gallery should pursue the unknown in art. It shouldn't only aim at exhibiting artworks, but also encouraging and provoking their birth." Hansen's design was not implemented. The jury finally selected a design submitted by a team of three Polish architects: W. Klyzewski, J. Mokrzyński and E. Wierzbicki.

The project by Calovski and Ivanoska is a study of multiple hypotheses surrounding reading of references of art history. It manifests a view on historical analysis involving the documentation of Hansen's proposal and of the possible exhibition and lecture programme that would have engaged artists such as Paul Thek, Mladen Stilinovic, Andrzej Szewczyk, Ana Mendieta, Ad Reinhardt, and others. The project is also a reflection on musealization of art and construction of parallel historical narrations. What would have happened if Hansen's utopian proposal had been accepted? What kind of curatorial strategies would have been enforced by the reality of a "foldaway museum"? Can we foresee any artistic reactions to the idealistic umbrella-like platforms that were, after all, supposed not only to host but also to inspire art? These are some of the questions the new work of Ivanoska and Calovski is posing while they fantasize about alternative art history which they construct on the basis of contemporary knowledge of Central and Eastern European avant-garde art.

### Exhibition:

The poster series "Oskar Hansen's Museum of Modern Art" consist of 12 original posters in limited edition. The posters design was made in close collaboration with young German designer Ariane Spanier

**The exhibition is presented in the framework of "Alphabet" (letter S is for Skopje), a curatorial project by Kronika, Bytom ([www.kronika.org.pl](http://www.kronika.org.pl)).** "Alphabet" is made possible with financial support by the Polish Institute in Berlin, Silesian Voivodeship & Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.



### Image captions (download: [www.zak-branicka.com](http://www.zak-branicka.com))

1. Yane Calovski & Hristina Ivanoska "Oskar Hansen's Museum of Modern Art", series of 12 original posters in limited edition, 70 x 100 cm, 2007. Courtesy of the artists and Kronika. Poster: Dusan Percinkov - Remains of a summer day
2. Yane Calovski & Hristina Ivanoska "Oskar Hansen's Museum of Modern Art", series of 12 original posters in limited edition, 70 x 100 cm, 2007. Courtesy of the artists and Kronika. Poster: Paul Thek - A life in which there seems to be no winning
3. Yane Calovski & Hristina Ivanoska "Oskar Hansen's Museum of Modern Art", series of 12 original posters in limited edition, 70 x 100 cm, 2007. Courtesy of the artists and Kronika. Poster: Painting is black, Sculpture is white, Architecture is Color