

**Seminar om grenseforskning ved UiT
Grensesamtaler med Chto delat?
Chto delat? artist talk 5. mai
Samtaler 6. mai 2011**

**Seminar on Borders Research at UiT
Border Conversations with Chto delat?
Chto delat? artist talk 5 May
Discussions 6 May 2011
(presentations will be in English)**

Forskningsgruppen Border Poetics/Border Culture ved HSL-fakultetet og Kunstakademiet arrangerer internseminar om grenseforskning ved Universitetet i Tromsø. Også invitert er kunstnerkollektivet Chto delat?/What is to be done? fra St Petersburg, som er i Norge på forskningstur som del av en større prosjekt om den norsk-russiske grensen.

Vi benytter anledningen til bringe forskjellige forskere ved UiT sammen for å presentere pågående forskning omkring grenser, og dermed følge opp et tidligere møte i 2008. Chto delat?/What is to be done? vil samtidig samle kunnskaper om politiske, sosiale, kulturelle og kunstneriske sider ved grenselandskapet mellom Norge og Russland. Ved å plassere seminaret ved Kunstakademiet vil vi dessuten gjøre akademiet og andre forskningsmiljøer ved universitetet mere kjent med hverandre.

Seminaret er åpent for forskere og studenter ved UiT som er interessert i grenser.
Kontaktadresse johan.schimanski@uit.no.

The HSL research group Border Poetics/Border Culture and the Art Academy are holding a seminar on border research at the University of Tromsø. Also invited is the art collective Chto delat?/What is to be done? from St Petersburg, who are in Norway on a research trip as preparation for a large project on the Norwegian-Russian border.

We will be taking the opportunity to bring different researchers from UiT together to present their ongoing research on borders, following an earlier meeting in 2008. Chto delat?/What is to be done? will at the same time be gaining knowledge on political, social, cultural and artistic aspects of the borderscape between Norway and Russia. By holding the seminar at the Art Academy we also would like to make the Academy and other research environments at the university better known to each other.

The seminar is open to researchers and students at UiT who have an interest in borders.
Contact johan.schimanski@uit.no.

Programme

Evening Thursday May 5, Verdensteatret cinematek

20:00-23:00 Artist talk and film screening by Chto delat?/What is to be done?

Friday May 6, Kunstakademiet, Strandveien 8, inngang nord

vert: Helga-Marie Nordby, Tromsø Art Academy, helga-marie.nordby@uit.no

10:00-13:00 Presentations of ongoing research. Introductions by Gerd Bjørhovde (*Border Aesthetics*), gerd.bjorhovde@uit.no

1. Peter Ørebech, Fisheries high school (border law), peter.orebech@uit.no
2. Hanna H. Hansen, Art history, hanna.horsberg.hansen@uit.no
3. Jukka Nyysönnen, History, jukka.kalervo@uit.no
4. Jens Petter Nielsen, History (*Neighbourly Asymmetry: Norway and Russia 1814-2014*), jens.petter.nielsen@uit.no
5. Kari Myklebost, History (*Neighbourly Asymmetry: Norway and Russia 1814-2014*), kari.myklebost@uit.no
6. Ruben Moi, Litteratur (*Border Aesthetics*), ruben.moi@uit.no
7. Holger Pötzsch, Dokumentasjonsvitenskap (*Border Aesthetics*), holger.potzsch@uit.no
8. Tim Saunders, Litteratur (*Border Aesthetics*), tim.saunders@uit.no

13:00-15:00 Lunch at Tromsø kunstforening and further presentations including a presentation of activities at the Tromsø Art Academy

Chto delat?/What is to be done?'s visit to Norway is a cooperation between Pikene på broen in Kirkenes, the Art Academies of Oslo and Tromsø, and the Border Culture research group/Border Aesthetics research project at the University of Tromsø.

<http://www.kunstakademietitromso.no/>

<http://uit.no/borderpoetics>

Chto delat? / Hva må gjøres?

Chto delat er et kunstnerkollektiv etablert i St.Petersburg i 2003 med mål om å smelte sammen politisk teori, kunst og aktivisme. Kollektivet fører sammen kunstnere, filosofer, samfunnsforskere og aktivister - mennesker som ønsker å drive med kritisk og uavhengig forskning, publisering, kunstneriske og aktivistiske prosjekter. Kunstnergruppen er inspirert av det revolusjonære Russland i forrige århundre og ønsker å aktualisere venstreradikal teori (klassisk Marxisme, poststrukturalisme og kritisk teori)gjennom kunstneriske praksiser (situasjonisme, dokumentarisme og urbanisme). Deres undersøkelser ender i utstillinger, performance, publikasjoner og filmer. Chto delat-medlemmene Dmitri Vilensky og Olga Egorova er i Norge (Oslo, Tromsø og Kirkenes) for å samle materiale til sitt pågående prosjekt "Songspiel" som er en serie med politiske musikalere.

Chto delat/What is to be done?

The platform Chto delat/What is to be done? was founded with the goal of merging political theory, art, and activism in early 2003 in Petersburg by a workgroup of artists, critics, philosophers, and writers from Petersburg, Moscow, and Nizhny Novgorod. It originally consists of following members: [Olga Egorova/Tsaplya](#) (artist, Petersburg), [Artiom Magun](#) (philosopher, Petersburg), [Nikolai Oleinikov](#) (artist, Moscow), [Natalia Pershina/Glucklya](#)

(artist, Petersburg), [Alexei Penzin](#) (philosopher, Moscow), [David Riff](#) (art critic, Moscow), [Alexander Skidan](#) (poet, critic, Petersburg), Kirill Shuvalov (artist, Petersburg), [Oxana Timofeeva](#) (philosopher, Moscow), and [Dmitry Vilensky](#) (artist, Petersburg).

The platform Chto delat is coordinated by temporary collectives operating under the same name.

Chto delat works through collective initiatives organized by "art soviets," inspired by the councils formed in revolutionary Russia during the early 20th century. These "art soviets" want to trigger a prototypical social model of participatory democracy, translating an open system for the generation of new forms of solidarity into the realm of contemporary cultural work. The "art soviet" takes on the function of a counter-power that plans, localizes and executes projects collectively.

Usually, this process results in artistic interventions, exhibitions, or artworks (video films, radio plays, performances), which, in turn, trigger new issues of the newspaper. Most of these projects have a two-fold intent: on the one hand, we are interested in the translatability and actualization of left theory (classical Marxism, post-structuralism, post-operatism, critical theory) and artistic practice (situationism, documentalism, urbanism, realism) under post-Soviet conditions and how this relates to parallel efforts elsewhere. On the other hand, we have also often focused on actualizations of the potential of the Soviet past repressed in the course of Soviet history, floating signifiers that need to be captured and used before they are subsumed totally by the present mode of production.

To give a few examples: in 2004-2005, Chto delat carried out an artistic examination of a working class neighborhood in Petersburg, attempting to actualize the communitarian utopias of its constructivist urbanity through the community, adrift with an enactment of Debord's derive. This research into the Fordist utopia of the late 1920s and its incomplete, uneven transition to late capitalism was presented in two exhibitions and a newspaper. Another actualization of the Soviet legacy can be found in the project "Builders" (2005), in which the group restaged a classical socialist realist masterpiece from the late 1950s, which then falls apart and comes back together. In September 2006, Chto delat collaborated on a project called "Self-Educations", an international exhibition and seminars-program at the NCCA in Moscow, dedicated to alternative, community-based forms of self-learning as emancipatory practices.

All of these projects have been accompanied by newspapers. The most of newspapers are fully bilingual (English/Russian). The editorial process draws artists, critics, activists and philosophers into a heated editorial debate, which results in theoretical essays, art projects, open-source translations, questionnaires, dialogues, and comic strips. This take-away publication is distributed for free at congresses or exhibitions, social forums and rallies where it reaches a broader cultural public. A complete set of issues, as well as documentations of art projects and current information can be found on this site.
David Riff and Dmitry Vilensky

www.chtodelat.org

