



„Überwindung der Diktaturen – Dichter, Künstler und Schriftsteller in der Begegnung.“

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In „Remembrance“ of Dictatorship – Poets, Artists and Writers revisit the recent past.

Overcoming Dictatorship – An Encounter of Poets, Artists and Writers

Entitled „Overcoming Dictatorships“, a two-day international conference of poets, artists and writers began in Budapest on Friday. The event formed part of the European Union’s Culture 2000 Project. Within the framework of the project, European poets, artists and writers regularly gather to exchange their experiences about the transition from dictatorship to democracy, with special regard to countries formerly living under Communist dictatorship.

At meetings held in the various participant countries (Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Germany), the featured writers or artists show or recite their works, past and present; they also exchange their experiences about the period of dictatorship/authoritarianism and describe how the political changes have influenced their work.

The Budapest event began with a reading by Zsófia Balla, a Hungarian poet born in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, whose works had at one time been banned by Romania’s Communist authorities for her role in the activities of the democratic opposition. She eventually immigrated to Budapest. At the event she pointed out that the period of dictatorships had not ended with 20th century, as the oppression and torture continued in numerous countries, where people were denied of even the most basic requirements. The poet believed that it was the duty of art to kindle the spirit of protest in people.

On the opening day held at the Open Society Archives of the Central European University, Zsófia Balla’s public reading was followed by the Italian writer Alessandro Tamburini’s appearance, who primarily discussed the influence that fascism and World War Two exerted on Italy. The featured writers of the second day were Eduard Vacek (the Czech Republic), gabriel Chifu and Denisa Mirena Piscu (Romania), Lutz Rathenow (Germany) and Leszek Dlugosz (Poland).

The list of artists who will exhibit their works includes Harald Hauswald and Ulf Göpfert (Germany), Zbynek Benysek and Milan Knizak (Czech Republic), Silvestro Lodi and Michele Zaggia (Italy), Mirela Dauceanu and Vlad Nanca (Romania), Zbigniew Czop and Aleksander Zysko (Poland) and Sándor Pinczehelyi (Hungary).

The Budapest workshop will be the first major public event of this EU project. The result will be a literary anthology and an exhibition, the latter of which will start in Birmingham (UK) in 2008 and then tour through the participating countries.

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