

PORI
AiR

[first] five years

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE 2006-2010

Ana Rewakowicz

Born in Poland, lives and works in Montréal, Canada

Residency period

1st July – 31st December 2008



Having moved from one culture to another and lived through cultural and language adaptations, I am interested in the issue of transience and how it relates to the notions of identity, belonging, and living in a society of global and technological developments. Over the last nine years I have been working with inflatable objects exploring these concerns through clothing and habitation. In contrast to the stable mass of monumental sculpture and architecture, my costumes and structures are air-filled, mobile and concerned with places and people that activate them. Incorporating materials such as rubber latex, polyurethane, reversible foil, fans and solar panels, I harness technology to build intimate public experiences and fashion them based on function and travel. In my artwork I share the 1960s avant-garde's desire to create alternative propositions for living and a countercultural preoccupation with pop fashion and techno-enthusiasm explored in the works of such architectural groups like Archigram (UK), Hans-Rucker-Co, Coop Himmelb(l)au (Austria), as well as artists like Lygia Clark (Brazil) and Theo Botschuijver (Netherlands).



Projects during PORI AiR

The AiR program in Pori involved the exploration of the idea of “coming together” and included collaboration with Annu Wilenius, a DA student at the Department of Art and Media Pori. In different, yet similar ways both our art practices have been engaged with the concept of “a claim to a place” in public spaces in various cultural contexts. This residency provided us with the opportunity to dedicate time and efforts, and to combine our personal interests in nomadism, mobility, locality, temporality of experience, social engagement and nature, and bringing them to a fruitful collaboration. The projects undertaken during the AiR program included the travel and presentation of my works in Mongolia, conducting the Tension workshop at the Department of Art and Media Pori, organizing the “Veto – Tension” exhibition at Generaattori



Gallery, doing public presentations, producing two new bodies of work, as well as initiating the “Bare House” exhibition that took place at Pori Art Museum in 2010.

July 28 – August 6, 2008 – Art Camp, organized by Xanadu gallery, Mongolia

August 16–17, 2008 – 24h UB, walking video performance, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

August 18, 2008 – Presentation at Xanadu Gallery, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

August 25–29, 2008 – exhibition at Blue Sun Contemporary Art Gallery, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

August 31, 2008 – BVTEEL, TV program and interview with Uranchimeg Dorjsuren, 28 min, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

15–19 September and 15–17 and 20–21 October, 2008 – Tension Workshop, Pori School of Art and Media



November 7–16, 2008 – Exhibition
at Generaattori Gallery, Pori

November 26, 2008 – visit to Satakunta
Environmental Research Institute
with Mirja and Jouko Kortesharju

December 15/16, 2008 – Air Cleanser,
Rosenlew Factory, Pori

December 18, 2008 – Presentation
at 3H+K Gallery, Pori

Projects/Exhibitions

24h UB

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

From 11am on August 16 until 11am
on August 17 I walked around the city
carrying a video camera inserted in a
clear plastic bag made especially for
this performance. The camera recorded
one second every minute resulting in
a 36-minute time-lapse of the 24-hour

performance. Referencing Situationists
and their concept of psychogeography,
I wandered around without a specific
goal or direction. At night three
Mongolian artists accompanied me for
safety reasons. The 36min footage was
projected onto an inflatable spherical
video screen I made for this occasion
and was presented at Blue Sun
Contemporary Art Gallery.

Veto – Tension exhibition

Generaattori Gallery, Pori, Finland,
November 7–16, 2008

Veto – Tension exhibition was part of
the Tension Workshop and included
the participation of Antti Pedrozo,
Leena Lehti, Riikka Kiljunen, Sampo
Laaksonen, as well as Annu Wilenius
and myself.





Experimental Plant Incubator

Collaboration with Annu Wilenius

*And to me too, who loves life,
it seems that
butterflies and soap-bubbles,
and whatever is like
them among men, know most
about happiness.*

– Nietzsche, Thus Spake Zarathustra

Experimental Plant Incubator involved a hydroponic self-sustaining modular system for plant cultivation. It consisted of a series of 'bubbles', in which selected plants were inserted. A small fan sustained each "plant pod" and the infrastructure of connecting plastic tubing allowed water circulation to and from the pool underneath. The Experimental Plant Incubator was presented in the "Veto-Tension" exhibition at Generaattori Gallery in November 2008.

Air Cleanser

Collaboration with Annu Wilenius,
December 15/16, 2008

Air Cleanser was installed on the roof of the Rosenlew Factory in Pori on December 15, 2008. It comprised of a geodesic dome inflated by one of the roof's ventilators. The warm (and yet toxic) air that the vent provided created a suitable temperature for



placing chosen houseplants over the period of 24 hours. Air Cleanser was inspired by NASA research about air purifying qualities of domestic plants published by B.C. Wolverton in 1989. According to this research our plants were absorbing factory pollutants and adding a small amount of "fresher" air into the environment.

Tension Workshop

15-19 September and 15-17 and
20-21 October, 2008,
Department of Art and Media Pori

Synergetics is a system of thinking that encompasses a multi-faceted approach towards life. It involves an exploration of the inter-relationship and connectivity between geometric modeling, nature and humans, and it provides a method and a philosophy for problem solving and design, and therefore has applications in all areas of human endeavor.

– Buckminster Fuller

Together with Annu Wilenius, I conducted a 2-week intensive course, in which students were introduced to a long history of portable architecture, from Mongolian yurts to the 1960's world of 'bubbles' – ephemeral spaces of human imagination, zones of transience and impermanency. Using Buckminster Fuller's concept of "synergetics" and geometric thinking, we looked at nature as an inspirational building block to create objects that grew and shrunk, bumped into rigid things, transformed, stretched, expanded and floated. Using simple materials like polyethylene or fabric, students were encouraged to design worlds of their own. The course was structured around a series of lectures, readings, exploratory site trips and technical demonstrations of pattern making and sealing. Combining the theoretical with practical, the aim was to enable students to respond and use the space of the Generaattori building as a creative platform of their final creations in the form of an exhibition that took place from November 7–16, 2008.



Bare House exhibition/ SR-HAB project

During my stay in Pori Annu Wilenius and I met with Laura Selin, the curator from the Pori Art Museum with the proposition for the “Bare House” exhibition that would present different approaches to architecture and nature within an urban environment and bring together artists from Mongolia as well as the “west”, whose work was either done and/or inspired by the Mongolian context and/or the PORI AIR program. This exhibition, in which I showed two pieces that represent different urban tactics and reference the idea of adaptability as an inherited part of ‘nomadic’ lifestyle, took place in 2010.

SleepingBagDress Prototype 2, 2004

The SleepingBagDress prototype 2 was inspired by the legacy of Archigram, a British architectural group from the 1960’s that investigated the relation between cities and new technologies, regarding fun, play and pleasure as their projects’ rationale. The SleepingBagDress prototype involves a multipurpose kimono-dress that when inflated changes into a cylindrical container inhabitable by one or two people. This prototype operates on a small computer fan powered by NiMH batteries that are charged by a solar panel incorporated into the dress itself. The SleepingBagDress prototype looks at the portability and self-sustainability of a wearable cell, comfortable as both, a dress and a temporary shelter and it was used in walking performances and public interventions in Mexico City (Mexico), Toulouse, (France), Brussels (Belgium) and, as part of the 2004 International Symposium of Electronic Art (ISEA2004), in Tallinn, Estonia.

SR-Hab (Socially Responsive Habitat), 2008–2009

SR-Hab involves the creation of a mobile bicycle unit for urban commuting and dwelling that uses solar and dynamo energy to sustain a habitat that will consist of basic living necessities such as shelter, heat, light, water, entertainment and work. A big part of existence today is mobility. Most people commute to and from work, either by walking, biking, driving or taking public transportation. With growing environmental concerns, commuters are making efforts to be more eco-friendly. My solution to this demand combines a commuter bicycle with a habitat that can sustain basic living necessities ‘off the grid’. The electricity generated by the user will power the appliances within the habitat such as lights, laptop, iPod and cooking instruments and provide basic living comfort.

