

CLIMATE CHANGE CINEMA

GRAND TEATRET 3-4. MARTS 2007

I have the great pleasure to bid you all welcome for the panel debate with the title “From Event Economy to Emergency Economy?”

I would like to thank especially the panel participants for your generous support to this conference. We have all been looking forward to listen to your statements and to meet you. The moderator, Dr. Mike Sandbothe, will – after I have finished my little welcome to you - present you to the audience.

This conference has been arranged in cooperation with the director of Grand Teatre, Kim Foss and Dr. Mike Sandbothe with the great help from Dr. Salim Abdali, visual artist Dorte Dahlin and the Iraqi biologist Noor Obaidy. We call the conference a “bottom-up” conference since everything has been arranged in high speed and great passion and on a non-profit basis. It is also an indication, that we have to react to the climate change problems very quickly – according to the latest information from the FN Climate Panel. And that the EU government leaders will meet next week – the 8th and 9th of March, deciding the main lines of European climate change policy.

We wish to express our great gratitude to Kim Foss and we have been happy cooperating with you.

The institution, which is taking care of this conference is called Nomad Academy. I am sure, that all of you will ask the following question: “what is Nomad Academy?”. It sounds so exotic.

In the beginning the Nomad Academy was rooted in a cultural exchange program between the minister of culture & Information in Sharjah, one of the 7 United Arabian Emirates, and The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. And the two leaders have been Dorte Dahlin and Else Marie Bukdahl. But later it has been developed to a broad and open network, where artists, architects, poets, musicians, colleagues from the sciences as well as the humanities are working together with colleagues and institutions in the Arabian world. And lately Dr. Mike Sandbothe and Dr. Salim Abdali have been chosen as co-directors of Nomad Academy. And I will tell you very shortly the goals of the Nomad Academy: it is dealing with transcultural politics.

Nomads in our sense are global citizens concerned about the future of Planet Earth. The academy members are working in different art and media worlds, the Sciences and Humanities, as well as creative industries and politics.

There is a strong focus on art as a special form of experience in this context.

The aim of Nomad Academy is to contribute to the solution of important global problems of our times. From 2007 to 2010 we focus on three major areas of transcultural politics:

1. World Wide Climate Change
2. European-Arabian conflicts
3. Art, Poetry and music creating new dialogues between cultures

The working strategy of Nomad Academy is based on a “pragmatist” approach. Pragmatism is a way of thinking and acting that contributes to a global reduction of cruelty and humiliation as well as the improvement of solidarity between human beings and nature (James, Dewey, Rorty).

Since the sixties there have been many fruitful links between art and ecology. The famous creator of Land Art, Robert Smithson, has given his art the name “ecological art”. The aim of his big project in the nature - for example a huge spiral island, build in a lake in the desert of New Mexico - was to visualize the respect for nature and avoiding separation between nature and culture.

The famous Noble price winner in chemistry Ilya Prigogine has, in his well known book “Order out of Chaos” created a new dialogue between man and nature. For him, as a scientist, respect for nature and attempt to preserve it, has been a very important goal. He has described this goal in the following way:

“In our society , with its wide spectrum of cognitive techniques, science occupies a peculiar position, that of a poetical interrogation of nature, in the etymological sense that the poet is a “maker” – active, manipulating, and exploring. Moreover, science is now capable of respecting the nature it investigates. Out of the dialogue with nature initiated by classical science, with its view of nature as an automaton, has grown a quite different view in which the activity of questioning nature is part of its intrinsic activity.” (p 301)

03.03.07

Else Marie Bukdahl

Dr. Phil, former Rector of The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts