

TRANSFUSION

Contemporary art from
Georgia, Armenia and
Azerbaijan

The exhibition Transfusion is the result of a lasting collaboration between the Curators, Helen Hirsch (Switzerland) and Nino Tchogoshvili (Georgia). The first cooperation was a symposium, Grenzenlos erforschen (Research without boundaries), in the Tbilissi Goethe Institute in 2004. The desire for a joint, deep exploration of artistic strategies in the South Caucasus arose by the networking and collaboration with different representatives of the art scene in three countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Transfusion is the medical intervention in which vital components are taken from one body and transfused into an enfeebled body by intravenous transfer. The transfusion process can also be transferred onto a region like the Caucasus. On the one hand, the hope of a new market economy has been awakened by foreign investors, but on the other, the region is being deprived of important nutrients by this very intervention, for instance the BTC Track (Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan), a multinational pipeline project of BP. The gas pipeline begins at Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, and stretches across Georgian territory up to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. The entailing ecological and economical damages are enormous.

The exhibition project at the Kunsthalle Palazzo in Liestal takes up artistic items from the three neighbouring countries of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The starting position of the project is the comparison and analysis of strategies, which articulate subcutaneously the emotional and political instability of the respective countries and express them. The artists participating in the exhibition are from the middle and younger generations and are engaged in an international discourse with a strong local reference. In the categories of video, installation and photography, they conceive works with a documentary character for their first presentation in Switzerland.

The Armenian Vahram Aghasyan's works are devoted to the architectural legacy of the Soviet Union era. This architecture shapes the urban substance and has architectural scars, but also leaves behind utopian city suburbs. He puts one such suburb under the magnifying glass in Bangladesh. In an apparently spooky ghetto, people try to establish a human existence.

Sona Abgarian's photographic work, Caucasian, thematises the question of identity and belongingness of a Caucasian. The drawn figure seems to belong to a global and genderless world, and documents the schizophrenic Armenian situation, oscillating between the influence of Western pop culture and the post-Soviet past.

Irina Abjandadze, Georgia, presents photos of young people who died under mysterious circumstances during the changes in Georgia in the 1990s in the photo series Opfer (Victim). The silent interiors show private spaces of the dead and are a remembrance space for the relatives.

The video installation of Iliko Zautashvili, Georgia, Habits, Needs and..., picks up the mundane and everyday scenarios and searches for a universal language by scrutinising needs and habits with questions and answers.

The photo series Stecklinge (Saplings) of the Georgian, Guram Tsibakhashvili, portrays young people. They are, like young plants, connected with the earth and are characterised by typical physical features. Duplication of features in twins is representative for the expressive portraits.

The Azerbaijani artist Chingiz Babayev explores landscapes and the alterations in Baku generated by the presence of the multinational oil companies. His work, Dome, is a utopian architectural illustration with a claustrophobic aura.

Rashad Alekperov, Azerbaijan confronts the beholder in One point of view at two cities with a projected urban backdrop, which suggests the elements of Islamic culture and a Western city. The projected city arises by the shading of an accumulation of garbage and is the testimony of civilisation.

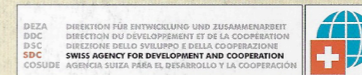
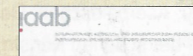
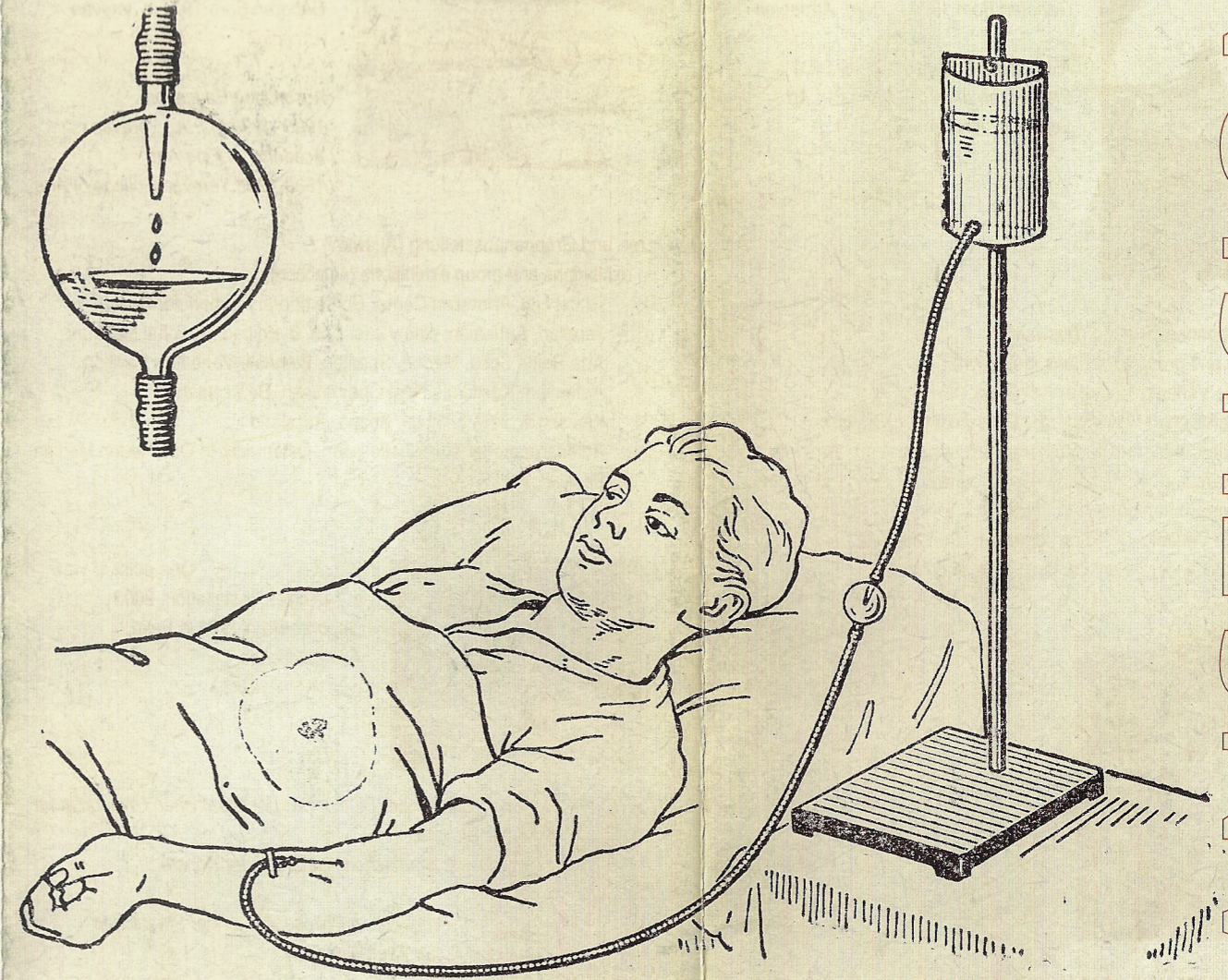
The group exhibition enables the visitor to create a kind of a cognitive map of this relatively unknown art region, which exemplifies a fascinating network of contemporary cultural identity questions and determinations of position. Thus emerge concrete and imaginary locations for experiences and discussions.

The exhibition was made possible by the generous support of the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia, the DEZA, Kulturelles Baselland, and the iaab-Ateliers, Basel

Helen Hirsch & Nino Tchogoshvili

Helen Hirsch (born in Stockholm), lives and works in Basel. Studied art history in Basel, Copenhagen and Freiburg i. Br.; postgraduate studies in cultural management in Basel. During 1997-2000, worked as scientific assistant at the Kunsthalle Basel. Works as a free-lance curator with emphasis on intercultural projects and topic-relevant exhibition projects in contemporary art (among others, «Hanoi goes New Media», Hanoi; «Research without boundaries», Tbilissi; «Speed Up», Sportmuseum Schweiz, Basel, "Röhrender Hirsch am Bergsee", Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal and Haus für Kunst Uri, Altdorf, Actual Position, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo).

Nino Tchogoshvili (Born in Tbilissi), lives and works in Tbilissi. Studied art history at the Academy of Art, Tbilissi, and as a guest student at Basel University. Postgraduate studies in Tbilissi, DAAD in Bonn, and iaab in Basel. Since July 2005, head of the department of public and international relations at the Tbilissi State Academy of Arts. Since 1999, works as scientific assistant at the Tbilissi State University. Works as free-lance curator in intercultural and regional projects (among others, "Georgian Modernism 1910-1930", Tbilissi History Museum, 2005, "Research without boundaries", 2004, "Tbilissi in the Works of Georgian and Foreign Artists 1850-1940", Tbilissi History Museum, 2004, "Die Kraft der Stille, Georgische Musik- und Kulturtag in Basel", 2003)



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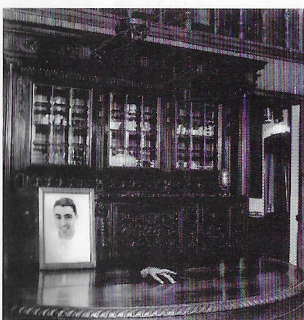
Sona Abgaryan - Caucasian, Fotoserie, 2004

Geboren/Born 1979 in Berd, Armenien

Ausbildung/Education: 1995-2000
Studium an der P. Terlemezian Art
School in Jerevan, Armenien

**Einzel- und Gruppenausstellung (Auswahl) /
Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions (selection)**

- 2005 Biennale Venedig - Pavillon Armenien;
- 2004 Armenian Center Contemporary Experimental Art, Yerevan
- 2003 Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art, Yerevan;
Adieu Parajanov Kunsthalle Wien, Österreich
- 2002 Armenian Contemporary Art, Teheran, Iran
- 2001 Biennale Venedig - Pavillon Armenien; Gründung der
Rockband "Incest" - mit Tzomak, Nara und Nata



Irina Abjandadze - Victim, Fotoserie, 2003

Geboren/Born 1967 in Tbilisi,
Georgien

Ausbildung/Education: Studium am
Polytechnischen Institut Georgien
1996 - 2001 Fotojournalistin für
zahlreiche Zeitungen und Magazine

**Einzel- und Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) /
Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions (selection)**

- 2005 Utopia, zum dokumentarischen in der kaukasischen Fotografie, IfA,
Berlin und Stuttgart, Deutschland; Ecotopia, Gruppenausstellung,
Tbilisi State Museum, Georgien
- 2004 Opfer im Rahmen des Kunstprojektes Menschenrechte als Teil
georgischen Kultur, Alte Galerie Tbilisi
- 2002 Die Falle, Galerie Moderne Kunst Jerevan, Armenien
- 2001 Kollage, Kunstgalerie von Adzharia, Batumi, Georgien



Vahram Aghasyan - Bangladesh,
Videostill, 2003

Geboren/Born 1974 in Jerevan,
Armenien

Ausbildung/Education:
1993 -1999 M.F.A., Yerevan
Academy of Fine Arts
1989-1993 Yerevan College of Arts

**Einzel- und Gruppenausstellung (Auswahl) /
Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions (selection)**

- 2005 Ghost city, Armenian Center Contemporary Experimental Art,
Jerevan, Armenien; cine y casi cine, 6. Edition, National Museum
Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spanien; Biennale Venedig - Pavillon
Armenien; Kurzfilmfestival Oberhausen, Deutschland
- 2004 Kinoshock, Film-Festival, Anapa, Russland
- 2003 Adieu Parajanov, Kunsthalle Wien, Österreich; In Out, Neuen Medien
Festival, Prag



Rashad Alekperov - One point of view
at two cities, Installation, 2003

Geboren/Born 1979 in Baku,
Aserbaidschan

Ausbildung/Education: 1995 - 1999 Studium an der Staatlichen Universität für
Kunst und Kultur Aserbaidschan
1999 - 2001 Studium an der Staatlichen Akademie der Künste,
Aserbaidschan
2001 - 2004 Promotion im Fachbereich Philosophie an der Staatlichen
Universität für Kunst und Kultur, Aserbaidschan

**Einzel- und Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) /
Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions (selection)**

- 2005 Utopia, zum dokumentarischen in der kaukasischen Fotografie, IfA,
Berlin und Stuttgart; Deutschland
- 2003 7+7, Museum Center, Baku, Aserbaidschan; Der Kaukasische
Zufall. Festival im Museum der schönen Künste, Batumi, Georgien
- 2002 Orientalismus von innen und außen, Ausstellungshalle Sattar
Bahlulzadeh, Baku, Aserbaidschan



Chingiz Babayev - Dome,
Fotografie, 2005
Geboren/Born 1964 in Baku,
Aserbaidschan

Ausbildung/Education: 1979-
1983 Azerbaijan State Art
College, Baku, Aserbaidschan
1983-1984 Azerbaijan State

University of Arts, Baku, Aserbaidschan
1986-1991 M.F.A., Azerbaijan State University of Arts, Baku, Aserbaidschan
Seit 1996 Gründungsdirektor Arts etc. Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kultur,
Baku, Aserbaidschan

**Einzel- und Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) /
Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions (selection)**

- 2005 Ecotopia, Gruppenausstellung, Tbilisi State Museum, Georgien,
Border Dialogues, Barents Kunst Triennale, Neiden, Kirkenes,
Norwegen und Murmansk, Russland, The Tile project, Kunst im
öffentlichen Raum, USA und Aserbaidschan
- 2004 Ripustus, Gallery, Finnland
- 2003 Action Plastic carpet, für die Firma Long Forest, Guba,
Aserbaidschan
- 2002 Aspects of contemporary Photography of Southern Caucasus,
Museum of Photography, Thessaloniki, Einzelausstellung an der
Universität Marc Block, Strassburg, Frankreich

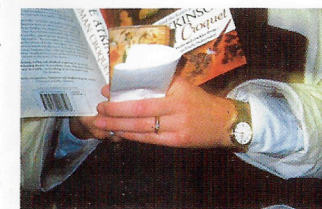


Guram Tsbakhashvili - Saplings,
Fotoserie, 2000-2005
Geboren/Born 1960 in Tbilisi, Georgien

Ausbildung/Education: 1982 Diplom in
Chemie, Tbilisi State University. Seit
2001 - Professor beim Kaukasischen
Institut für Fotografie und Neue
Medien, Tbilisi. Seit 1998 arbeitet er für
zahlreiche Zeitungen und Magazine

**Einzel- und Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) /
Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions (selection)**

- 2003 Culturescapes, Georgien-Festival Basel; Appendix 2, Tbilisi;
- 2002 Contemporary Art Centre, Odessa, Ukraine
- 2001 Gruppenausstellung, Bristol, England
- 2000 Einzelausstellung. Galerie Anita Neugebauer, Basel



Iliko Zautashvili - Habits, Needs
and... Installation, 2005
Geboren/Born 1952 in Tbilisi,
Georgien

Ausbildung/Education: 1974 Studium
an der Kunstakademie Tbilisi

1974-1976 Organisation von inoffiziellen Ausstellungen, Tbilisi, Moskau.
1978 Nachdiplom in Kunsttheorie, TSAA.

**Einzel- und Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) /
Solo exhibitions and group exhibitions (selection)**

- 2005 In the Shadow of Heroes, 2nd Bishkek Internationale
zeitgenössische Kunstausstellung, Kirgistan; Georgische Kunst in
Australien, Shepparton Gallery, Australien
- 2004 Aspects de la photographie contemporaine du Caucase du Sud,
Centre d'Art Contemporain. Bruxelles; Double Bottom", Club 22,
Goethe Institut, Tbilisi, Georgien
- 2003 Something about Love, Casino-Luxembourg, Luxembourg;
7+7, Baku, Aserbaidschan
- 2002 Aspects of contemporary Photography of Southern Caucasus,
Museum of Photography, Thessaloniki, Griechenland;
Schwarzmeer, nt-areal, Basel, Schweiz
- 2001 International Art Dinner, Bristol, England, The Great Atrophy,
Hay-Art Cultural Center, Yerevan, Armenien

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Öffnungszeiten der Ausstellung /
exhibition, opening hours:
Di bis Fr 14 -18 Uhr, Sa / So 13 -17
Uhr

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