

A
special
Project
of
DOCUMENTA IX
Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

September 11, 1992

Marko Kosnik Virant
Egon March Institute
c/o Open Society Fund
FAX: 0038.61.122.130

Dear Marko,

As requested, I send you the ZDF letter giving anyone the permission to rebroadcast the Piazza Virtuale program.

Also, I would appreciate it if you would fill out the loan paper for the Panasonic Picturephone, giving the name of the responsible person, the serial number of the equipment, etc. RETURN THIS FORM TO US VIA FAX. Presently, the Picturephone is signed out on my name. I have been invited by Maret Marinicic to present a program at the Moderna Galerija in October. If this works out, I can bring the Picturephone back to Germany then.

I hope that you have received all of the necessary technical information for a smooth transmission. I hope that the conference call between Belgrade works out well. Cory has been working hard to make certain that all is clear.

Is it established, yet, the exact time and day(s) of your transmission. Let me know if there is anything else I can do.

Warmly,



Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator

✓

KATHY RAE HUFFMAN
BETHLEHEMSTRASSE 9B/1 A-4020 LINZ

FAX / Phone: 43.732.27.27.915
43-7235. 7489

Sept. 7, 1992
Monday

Marko Kosnik Vivant
96 OPEN SOCIETY FUND
FAX 003861. 122.130

Dear Marko - we sent the Pixphone today to the train station in Graz. It should be there tonight or tomorrow. It is easier to get there -- no arrangements necessary. It will be kept a few days at no charge. Then they start a small storage fee. I hope it will not be any problem, for someone to get it. All instructions are inside.

Please, FAX a short list of "credits" ie: The Open Society Fund, Radio Student, Egon March Institut (or whatever you want.) Also - any names - precise spelling is helpful...

I will be back in Kassel on Weds PM, or Thursday AM. - Mike Hentz will return on Sept 11 or 12 from Moscow. In the meantime, Cory McLeod will be here to assist you.

Your special phone numbers will be assigned the day or night before broadcast - not before. But, you should make a test of the Pixphone when you get it. We can arrange a time by phone - OK...

Warmly, Kathy Huffman.

EGON MARCH INSTITUTE, Ljubljana
Marko Kosnik Virant

September 2, 1992

VAN GOGH TV, Kassel

Huffman / Hentz

FAK: 9949 561 / 16910

Dear Kathy,

here is the concept I suggest for the live programs from Ljubljana via 3 (three) telephone lines.

1. The program should take place on september 17 round noon, ca 20 - 30 minutes.

2. Intellectuals from all over former Yugoslavia will be gathered in a public place and exposed to a live audience. The first question they will try to answer is: Do you have to tell the world anything else than the official media? (concerning the Yugoslav problem)

3. The sound will be captured by a reporter vehicle and retransmitted as a live broadcast by Radio Student. The listeners will be able to participate in the discussion via two phone lines.

4. All the conversation will be mixed and sent by phone from Radio Student to Kassel. An aditional phone line will be used for written messages with modem from the same place. Still images will be sent with Picturephone directly from the place of the event. *(closed after midnight)*

5. At the place of the event the wide screen 3SAT picture will be displayed, while the sound will be monitored back from the radio programme to avoid delay and feedback.

6. I want all the other free lines in Kassel to be open for 3SAT

audience except two for Belgrade (if so). Your team would work out the final mix of all the signals described.

7. agenda of collaborators from our side:

- concept and supervision: Egon March Institute

- intellectuals invited by: Open Society Fund - Ljubljana

- place of the event: KUD France Preseren

- technical realization: Radio Student with a little help of VETV friends

8. Till now all the collaborators support the project and agree with the concepts. However, there are problems which can only be solved after my arrival: name and address in Belgrade, situation with translators (Slovene or participants...), will be reported

Till September 3rd,

For next few days I am available on my private phone - 8 to 9 p.m.
Yours with regards

Marc Bourcier Virant

Marc Bourcier Virant

FAX FROM NOW ON : 38 61/422 430
122 130

OPEN SOCIETY FUND. > from now on ..

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VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

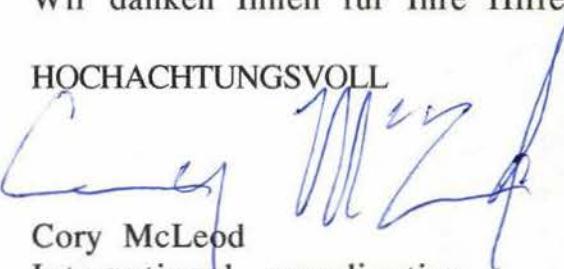
Baltische Reisebüro
Olaf Siegel
Weyerstr.37
8000 München 2
FAX 089 52 59 13

Betrifft: Rechnung für Werbung an der Piazzeta Riga Programm.

Sehr geehrte Herr Siegel,

Bitte zahlen Sie die Summe 800- US Dollar (Achthundert Dollar.) an das von Ihnen schon bekannten Konto, für Werbung an das Programm "the Riga Piazzeta" , die von 21. - 31. august dieses Jahres stattfand, ein.
Wir danken Ihnen für Ihre Hilfe, um dieses Projekt zu realisieren.

HOCHACHTUNGSVOLL


Cory McLeod
International coordination
~~VAN GOGH TV~~

Cory McLeod
assistant
VAN GOGH TV Kassel

EGON MARCH INSTITUTE, Ljubljana
Marko Kosnik Virant

1. First problem is that the Picture-Phones that were sent from Zurich, have landed on the border and have'nt made their way to us. The value of the pic-phones is estimated at 1000-DM, they ask for 10% Tax on it, which equals 100-DM.

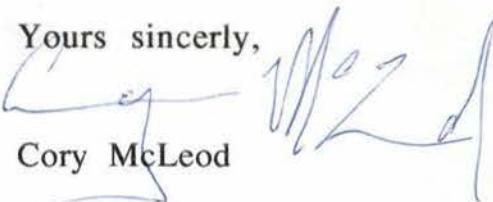
Cathy Rae Huffman wanted to come back to Kassel to pick up the phones, take them to Linz, so that they could be further transported to Ljubljana. Of course, we will be able to clear this up, and somehow get the phones to you. The moment we find out more information, I will contact you.

One problem, is that the date that you wanted to begin transmitions is out of the question for us, because we have reserved this date for the japanese Piazeta.

I personaly like your conception, and of corse you are free to do as you please. Would you like me to go over the conception with others?

If you have any other further questions, I would be glad to answer them.

Yours sincerely,


Cory McLeod

To Marko Kosnik Virant
Egon March Institute
From Cory McLeod
VAN GOGH TV Kassel
Fax: 0561-16910
Tel: 0561-16933

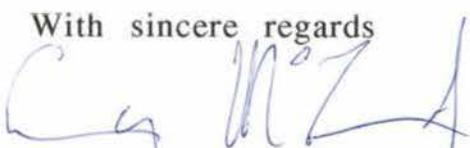
Contents: 1) Pic-phone transport 2) Press material 3) Dates of transmission. 4) Further contact.

I've tryed to reach you on the telephone, but you never seem to be home. But then again, it is always better to do things on the phone.

- 1) As you know Miss Cathy Rae Huffan has taken a pic-phone to Graz from where it will be further sent to Ljubjana. To my best knowledge you will need two pic-phones. In this case we will have to figure out how to get it there, because, it is obviously problematic to sent such things per post.
- 2) In order to make a press-release, which I am sure you desire, I will need the following things. The dates of your transmitions. A brief outline of what you plan to do in the transmitions. The people that will be participating in the transmitions and what these people do. The FAX you'd sent me, is a good basis for me to begin work on such a thing, but additional information would be helpful. Your basic conception is from the information I already have very clear and interesting per se.
- 3) As has already been mentioned, you can't begin the transimitons on the 17th of the month, because it is already reserved for the japanese Piazeta. I would suggest that we begin with it on the 16th. And please send me the dates of the other transimitons.
- 4) Prof. Mike Hentz is still in Moscow. We are expecting him back in Kassel on the evening of the tenth. I also don't know if he is planning to go to Ljubjana to assist with the first transmiton. But, as soon as I recive this news, I will contact you.

Otherwise I would be glad to clear up any questions you would like to have cleared up, wheather they be technical or with coordination.

With sincere regards



Cory McLeod
sitting in for Cathy Rae Huffman

Egon March Institute, Ljubljana

a message to
Van Gogh TV, Kassel

Huffman / Hentz

Thanks to Your support.
I already coordinated Radio Student, KUD France Prešeren and Open
Society Fond - Ljubljana

Intelectuals and academics from Serbia, Bosna, Croatia and Slovenia
will be gathered in the alternative public place with the aim to connect
VGHTV

conditions. 12. ... 19. September, 30 minutes, videophone, phone,
modem
preferences, noon termin

We could arrange videophone line with Belgrade if there is a chance
to borow another equipment... which would be very atractive, cause
there is no contacts between Ljubljana and Belgrade

I am out of reach till 31 of August will send explanation of the
concept and all the data on 2.9.92 from Ljubljana, where the
informational office with fax and phone will be established

all for this very moment
with best regards
we will make it

Marko Košnik Virant

Kranj, 28. 8. 92. 15h

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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

August 28, 1992

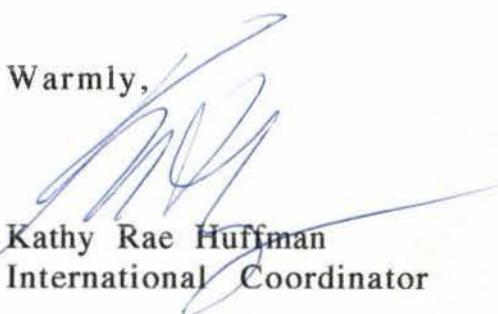
Marko Kosnik Virant
Egon March Institute
FAX: 0038.64.325.879

Dear Marko,

You can count on the equipment from us. Arrange Belgrade. We don't know yet how they will come to you or when, but we will be in touch to tell you after August 31.

Please clarify the dates, Sept. 12 (20 min OK), Sept. (unreadable on fax), and Sept. 19 (15-20 min OK) around noon time. You might want to come in late night, too. We can arrange for 2 picturephone frames to be visible at the same time. Send name of responsible person in Belgrade when you can. Perhaps we can communicate some information, too.

Warmly,


Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator

cc: Mike Hentz

Egon March Institute, Ljubljana

a message to
Van Gogh TV, Kassel

Huffman / Henfz

Thanks to Your support,
I already coordinated Radio Student, KUD France Prešeren and Open
Society Fond - Ljubljana

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Piazza Virtuale

August 28, 1992

Marko Kosnik Virant
Egon March Institute
FAX: 0038.64.325.879

Dear Marko,

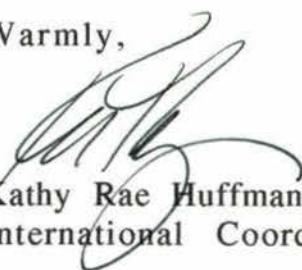
Your suggestion to participate from Ljubljana via Picturephone, utilizing Radio Student, is appreciated by all concerned at VGTV.

What we need to decide HERE, is who will come to you with the picturephone, and when. We will make these decisions in a timely manner, to enable you to organize the people on your side.

We have been told there is interest from the Soros foundation, who (from their director) has requested each of the regional offices to give translation support to Piazza Virtuale. Therefore, you should feel free to contact them directly, to let them know that you are indeed planning a participation and that you want to have translation from Slovenian to Deutsch/English made.

I am sorry that the TV Slovenia can not write a letter. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any further ideas, or needs.

Warmly,



Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator

cc: Mike Hentz

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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale



July 28, 1992

Mr. Tomaž Perovič
Studio Ljubljana
T.V Slovenia
FAX 0038.61.319.971

Dear Mr. Perovič,

Tomaž Perovič

urednik

- 262.218

To - P

TV Slovenija
Moše Pijadejeva 10
61000 Ljubljana
tel. 061/ 301-554, 311 922/22 18
fax. 061/319 971

I have tried to call you, but found that you would return from ~~only today~~ ^{tel. 301-554} only today. PLEASE let me know what is the decision of TV Slovenia. It was more than one month ago that I met with you. We have spoken several times by phone. I understand that it is a difficult decision when there are no chiefs around. BUT, you proposed a live program for the coming FRIDAY night, August 28, and have sent no subsequent information, cancellation, or otherwise.

We must begin the negotiations with Olympus satellite today for your program. We did a successful uplink from Riga, Latvia on Saturday, and are more informed about the processes of the European Space Agency requirements. We must begin the application process for Slovenia TV at once if it is to be approved on time.

I hope that you will be able to send me a status report today or tomorrow, or else we find it necessary to cancel this great possibility for "Studio Ljubljana."

Warmly,

Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator

A
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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

July 28, 1992

Mr. Tomaž Perovič
Studio Ljubljana
T.V Slovenia
FAX 0038.61.319.971

URGENT!

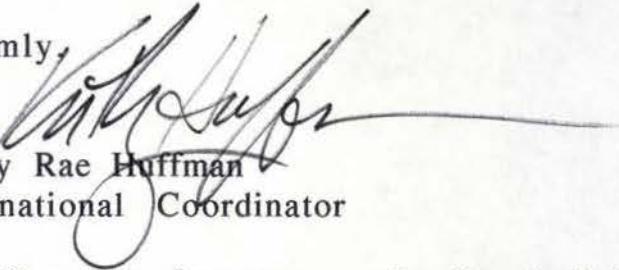
Dear Mr. Perovič,

You need to know that WTN producers in Frankfurt are quite interested to cover, as a kind of news service feature, the Van Gogh TV Slovenia Piazzetta interface with Studio Ljubljana. They suggest to send a crew to Ljubljana to cover this live interactive program - going not only to Slovenia (and surroundings) but also to all of Europe via 3sat.

I am really happy that there is major recognition of the importance of the participation of Slovenia in Piazza Virtuale. This international kind of live news coverage, on WTN (which goes to their head office in London) is a fantastic opportunity for us both.

Presently, I have said that we are awaiting the decision of TV Slovenia, and that I would confirm the date as soon as possible. I hope that you will be able to send me an affirmative status report this week.

Warmly,


Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator

PS Our daily 3sat program is altered slightly, in the mornings until August 7, due to special Olympiad events from Barcelona. If you are monitoring the program take note of the remaining schedule changes: Thursday 7-30 at 9:05-10:00; Sat. 8-1 at 9:05 to 10:00; 8-3 at 9:05-11:00; 8-5 at 9:05-11:00 and 8-7 at 9:05-11:00. Everything else remains the same.

A
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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

July 24, 1992
Friday - Kassel

Marina Grzinic
Culture Program
Ljubljana, Slovenia
c/o FAX 0038.61.215.855

Dear Marina,

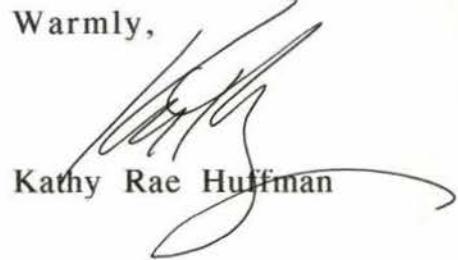
I have the information for getting you a good accomodation in Kassel.

I'll call you on Monday evening or late afternoon to know the days of your visit here in Kassel. I have to make the call and reserve for you.

I didn't hear from Slovenija TV yet, hopefully by Monday.

I send the transcription of the interview to VISIONS, they are interested, but I must submit it with (including introduction) only 1500 words. Its normal, but it also means lots of editing. You can be confident that I'll keep your basic words and content.

Warmly,



Kathy Rae Huffman

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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

July 20, 1992

Tomaz Perovic
Studio Ljubljana
TV Slovenia
FAX 0038.61.319.971

4 PAGES

URGENT!

Dear Tomaz,

Thank you for your support of the Piazza Virtuale project in Slovenia. I am now in Kassel, until at least the 4 of August. As per our discussion at TV Slovenia on March 14, I herein enclose the letter from the Deutsch PTT, which states their support of telephone equipment and free calls to this project. Use it if you need it.

The dates of Piazzetta participation, and the exact times of their transmission to the program, is an evolving process. Here are some key dates you may want to watch and record-.

From July 22: RIGA will send images and text, 15 minutes per day during the 11:00-12:30 broadcast, using picturephone.
(From August 21: RIGA will uplink via satellite).

July 29: Poitiers, France will send.

July 30: Lyon, France will send via ISDN

July 31: Zürich will begin sending daily, through August 19.

August 3: Bremen will begin sending daily, through Aug 22.

August 7 & 8: PRAG will send via satellite uplink. PRAG sent picturephone and FAX July 18 & 19, to practice.

August 14 & 15: Vienna will send from Freihaus via picturephone

August 21: Geneve will begin sending daily via ISDN and modem

September 3-5 and 10-12:

MOSCOW will participate as a scheduled Piazzetta.

I hope that this information is useful to you. On August 29, the proposed date of "Studio Ljubljana," our 3sat time slot begins at 1:40 am until 6:00. Let us know when you might come to Kassel. I phoned the Soros Foundation in Budapest this morning, and asked that they respond to our request for a translator for the Piazzetta program. We made a proposal last month for this. Please send word.

Warmly, Kathy Rae Huffman

VAN GOGH TV - Postfach 101 909 W-3500 Kassel
Containercity - Untere Karlstr Telefon 0561/16933 FAX 0561/16910

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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

July 19, 1992

Marko Kosnik Virant
Egon March Institute
FAX: 0038.64.325.879

Dear Marko,

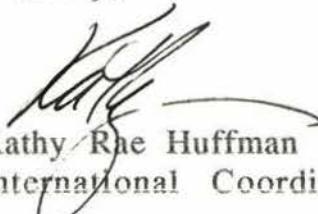
Thank you for your generous support of the efforts for a Piazzetta in Ljubljana. I hope that it all works well-it seems at the moment there is a very good chance. I will send the program information to Tomaz Perovic, as agreed, and hope that we have a positive response in the next week.

We enjoyed your audio tape, which we listened to on the way back to Linz, driving through the great countryside of Slovenia (near the Austrian border). I suggest that you should start a dialogue with Heidi Grundman, a producer for the ORF Radio in Vienna. She is a great supporter of sound sculptures, radio plays, and all types of audio art.

Heidi Grundman/Bob Adrian (her husband is an audio artist)
Wiednerhauptstr. 37/39
A 1040 Vienna
Phone: 431.650.9011 (home)
Phone at ORF: 431.50101.8277
FAX at ORF: 431.50101.8929

Please feel free to say that I gave you her numbers. I hope to see you again, soon. I'll keep in touch about how it all develops with TV Slovenija.

Warmly,



Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator

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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

June 10, 1992

Mr. Tomaz Perovic
TV Slovenija
Mose Pijadejeva 10
61000 Ljubljana

FAX 0038.61.319.971

Dear Mr. Perovic,

After you spoke with Mr. Hentz, he called and asked that I FAX you the following information;

1. The letter from 3sat, giving permission to broadcast *Piazza Virtuale*
2. Information from our press package (several pages)
3. The "Der Spiegel" article of May 21, 1992 (three pages)

I sent the Olympus application forms to TV Slovenija last week, to the attention of Mr. Tomo Bogataj, technical department. If you need another copy of these papers, perhaps we should mail a copy to you, as it is a 10 page document. Please let me know via FAX, if so.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything further I can do to provide you with information on the project or its program schedule.

Warmly,

Kathy Rae Huffman.
International Coordinator
Piazza Virtuale

Toma
FAX 319971
Info Pack-
3 SAT info + Spiegel
in
BERGANT wants to
me

Piazza Virtuale in Slovenia

CONCEPT:

There is strong interest in Ljubljana to participate in "Piazza Virtuale," from Marko Kosnik, an ex-Laibach performance member. He has asked for more information, and wants to work with the new private television in Slovenia.

They have Eurovision now in Slovenia.

CONTACTS:

Marko Kosnik Virant

Jamova 72

Ljubljana, Slovenia

EGON MARCH INSTITUTE

TEL 38.61.261.663

FAX 38.64.325.879

(61. 261. 876) - Ljubljana - Radio Student.

Marina Grzinic (KRH)

Cesnikova 12

Ljubljana 61000

TEL 38.61.556.269

FAX c/o Moderna Museum
38.61.214.120

Etbir Stefancic (private TV)

Medvedova 10

61000 Ljubljana

TEL 38.61.313.611

Tomaž Perović

TV Slovenia

MOSKE PIJADEJEVA 10

6100 LJUBLJANA

tel - 61. 311-922 12218 n 30-554

FAX. 61. 319.921

Marjeta Marinčič
moderne Galerie Ljubljana

Tomsiceva 14

61000 Ljubljana

061. 214. 092

FAX 214. 120

25-27 May - MIICE in Ljubljana

2' 11⁰⁰ AM -- please

26 12⁰⁰ newspapers + TV.

TV meetings

5⁰⁰ PM - lecture for students + artists -

11 PM - radio studentski

Sent him part of Der Spiegel article 5-20

Egon March Institute
Marko Kosnik Virant, Jamova 72, Ljubljana 61000
tel.: 061 261 663, fax.: 064 325 879

29-05 91

a fax to Kathy Huffman \ Mike Hentz
Media Lab 9949 40 240511

Hello!

This is a short report on the situation in Ljubljana after Mike's departure.
National TV station under the name "TV SLOVENIJA" wants to retransmit 3sat over longer periods AND uplink back in two or three separate one day terms.

It is very important that You send faxes to following people immediately:

Boris Bergant - international relations
Tomo Bogataj - technical department
Jaroslav Skrusny - programme director

Fax: TV Slovenija . . . 61 31 99 71

Information should include phone and fax numbers of VAN GOGH TV specialists for certain fields and activities as for the names above and description of the procedure to get all the permissions on 3sat broadcasting.

Important!

My name can only be mentioned in the sense of informational and didactic activities. Egon March Institute is in no way part of the official TV team. It could only be an adviser.

Dear Kathy,

Please send me all the numbers I can contact You personally after the first of June. For now it means separate communication with me AND TV Slovenija. You have to push this people hard this moment. RISI NOW!

Greetings, hope to meet you

June 2, 1992

Mr. Boris Bergant
International Relations
T.V Slovenia
FAX 0038.61.319.971

Dear Mr. Bergant,

Following the meeting between Mr. Mike Hentz and T.V. Slovenia last week, and the general information session coordinated by the Egon March Institute, we herein supply you with the information you requested.

Contacts at Van Gogh TV-Kassel:

Mr. Benjamin Heidersberger, satellite & TV links, computer technology;
Mr. Mike Hentz or Ms. Kathy Rae Huffman, international programs; and
Ms. Christiane Klappert, public relations and general information.

With regard to 3sat, Mr. Hentz left a copy of a letter giving permission to broadcast PIAZZA VIRTUALE. There is no other procedure necessary. Olympus, which is an experimental, non-commercial satellite, is also free of charge to any television station to distribute. You must make an application, to uplink, (which I send now) but there are no charges.

The nature of the program PIAZZA VIRTUALE, is live and interactive. It is a noncommercial program. It is permitted to advertise during, before and after 3sat and Olympus downlinking your own local commercials or ID station breaks. But, we trust that you understand the nature of this unique program, and not misrepresent its intent with excess advertising.

If you have any questions regarding the satellite connections, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Heidersberger, at the Van Gogh TV studios.

The contact numbers for Van Gogh TV in Kassel are: Büro:
49.561.16933/ 16962 / and 16984. and FAX: 49.561.16910

Warmly, Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator



June 2, 1992

Mr. Tomo Bogataj
T.V. Slovenia
Technical Department
FAX 0038.61.319.971

Dear Mr. Bogataj,

Following the meeting between Mr. Mike Hentz and T.V. Slovenia last week, we herein supply you with the technical information you requested for uplink to the experimental satellite Olympus.

Your contact at Van Gogh TV-Kassel for all satellite and television links is Mr. Benjamin Heidersberger. Mr. Mike Hentz and Ms. Kathy Rae Huffman are responsible for international programs, their content and scheduling. Ms. Christiane Klappert will supply all public relations materials and provide general information.

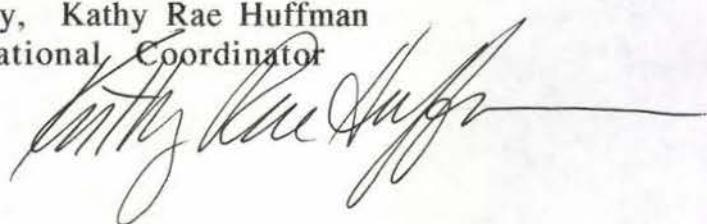
With regard to 3sat, Mr. Hentz left a copy of a letter sent to Van Gogh TV for the purpose of giving permission to any television station to broadcast PIAZZA VIRTUALE. There is no other procedure necessary. Olympus, which is an experimental, non-commercial satellite, is also free of charge to any television station to distribute.

The uplink procedure over Olympus is also free, but you must make an application, which I have included in the FAX. We are coordinating the uplink times from several sites, and would appreciate an estimate of when you plan this activity. It is also important to alert Olympus as early as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the satellite connections, or the computer user interfaces for this program, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Heidersberger, at the Van Gogh TV studios.

The contact numbers for Van Gogh TV in Kassel are: Büro:
49.561.16933/ 16962 / and 16984. and FAX: 49.561.16910

Warmly, Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator



June 2, 1992

Mr. Jaroslav Skrusny
T.V Slovenia
Program Director
FAX 0038.61.319.971

Dear Mr. Skrusny,

Following the meeting between Mr. Mike Hentz and T.V. Slovenia last week, we herein supply you with the information that you requested.

Your contact at Van Gogh TV-Kassel for all program content and scheduling will be Mr. Mike Hentz and/or Ms. Kathy Rae Huffman (myself). Ms. Christiane Klappert will supply you with all public relations materials and provide general information.

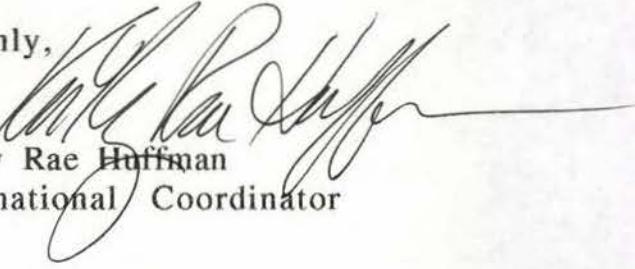
We find your idea to downlink 3sat for some periods, and to uplink in two or three separate days acceptable. We will provide you with some assistance to set up the local public access points, where citizens and artists can meet to join the international dialogue. We expect that you will have full cooperation and advise from Mr. Marko Kosnik Virant of the Egon March Institute.

It would help us greatly to know, as soon as possible, when you plan to downlink, and an estimate of dates for the uplink. Our coordination efforts are quite extensive, but it will be no problem to create a good program interface with you, given some lead time for preparation.

The contact numbers for Van Gogh TV in Kassel are: Büro:
49.561.16933/ 16962 / and 16984. and FAX: 49.561.16910

I look forward to hearing from you, soon. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions you might have.

Warmly,


Kathy Rae Huffman
International Coordinator

✓ 5-20-92

KATHY RAE HUFFMAN
BETHLEHEMSTRASSE 9B/1 A-4020 LINZ
FAX/Telephone: 43.732.272.7915

19 May, 1992
20:25

Marina Grzinic
Cesnikova 12
61000 Ljubljana
FAX: 38 61 161.105

Dear Marina

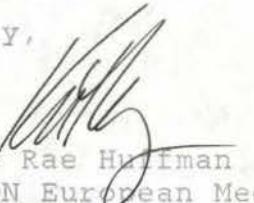
It was such a pleasure to see you in Helsinki. I received the issue of Varient, which looks good. I am in Hamburg again, working with Van Gogh TV for "Piazza Virtuale."

Regarding the NSK EMBASSY MOSCOW, unfortunately, the television project does not start from Documenta IX until June 13, and the Moscow participants are not going to be ready with their connection until the end of August. But, Mike Hentz will be in Moscow June 4-9, and will visit IRWIN (Miran Mohar) there to see what other possibilities can be made to join the project from Ljubljana.

Mike will be in Ljubljana May 26 & 27, and Marko Kosnik has set up meetings with various television representatives. The "Piazza Virtuale" program will be transmitted daily by 3SAT and OLYMPUS satellite services, and will be FREE to all television stations. At the moment, this will be offered to Slovenia as the first stage to become involved. Then, we can see how the possibilities can develop for interactive participation. I would very much like for you to meet Mike, and I hope it can be arranged with Marko. I am still in Hamburg at this time, as there is so much to do. I plan to go to Kassel on June 1.

You can reach me here, c/o PONTON in Hamburg. FAX 49 40 240.511/ phone 49 40 241.405 or 406. I'm confident that we'll find a good solution for Slovenia in "Piazza Viturale." Have you any plans to come to Kassel, for TV or ? Please let me know.

Warmly,


Kathy Rae Huffman
PONTON European Media Art Lab
Koppel 66, D-2000 Hamburg 1

FAX 49 40. 240.511
phone 241.405 / 406

Marked 4-20-92

Dear Marco,

Sorry for not writing before,i was on tour for piazza virtuale for about 6 weeks.

The project is advancing fine ,we are gonna do 100 days of interactive television.

The satelittchanell 3 SAT is broadcasting everyday from 13.April to 20th of september all over Europe.

(daily 11-12 30 and on friday and saturday from midnigth to 7 o clock in the morning).

This is a chance that slovenian television takes down the programm so it can be seen in all slovenia.

The problem is we cannot finance outside stations to connect live to the programm.Ther has to be local fundraising for transmitting and artistactivities.

The other stations (Milano,Bologna,Zuerich,Geneva,Quebec,Boston, Lyon,Paris,Riga,Prag,Moscow,Petersburg up to now) connect and transmit live image and sound (via satelitt or ISDN fiberopticdatalines) to our central in Kassel between 3 and 10 days. other connection possibilities are via telefon (for mailbox,picturephone and voicelines)

The theme of the stations is free they can interprete what they like, but they will always be in interactive dialog with phoning spectators or performers in Kassel.

We give 3/4 of the screen and 3/4 of the sound to outsidestations.

The videotape is only a demonstration of technical possibilities.

The financial costs for an outsidestation are between 10 and 100 000DM depending on the level of involved people and of the transmission possibilities.

Sponsors can be involved on the level of Logoadvertising and publication and productplacement in the liveprogramm.

There is no video everything is live..

Kathie Huffman (my assistent in the international coordination)
has talked to somebody of the slovenian ministry - culture.

Maria Grzun

i will be back in Hamburg from 6.-20th of may.

End of may i will tour around be in Italy and jump over to Lubyjana.

So lets get in contact as soon as possible.

Try to find out TV possibilities/Sponsors/Satellitconnection
and what artists could get involved.

Best greetings

M. Hentz

Mike Hentz and Kathy Huffman

Kathy Huffman

PS: Messages to Media Lab /Christiane Klappert 241404/Fax240511
Academy :29843231

Bruno Štraz, Inv.
PTT - podjetje
62101 Maribor - SLO

Am 2. Juni 1992

Sehr geehrter Herr Hentz!

Es tut mir leid; soviel ich mich erinnere, habe ich Ihnen im Zug nicht die richtige Erklärung gegeben (vergleichen?). Die Sache ist nämlich folgende: das ISDN-System gibt es in unseren Telefonanlagen und in dem Netz noch nicht (es ist nur bereit für den Einschluß). Zur Zeit verfügen wir nur über das ENSD-System.

Ich glaube, das war nur ein Missverständnis. Entschuldigen Sie, bitte! Ich bedauere den Vorfall außerordentlich.

Genehmigen Sie den Ausdruck meiner vorzüglichen Hochachtung!

Bruno Štraz

EGON MARCH INSTITUTE

kontakt: Marko Košnik Virant, Jamova 72, Ljubljana, Slowenien

Tel. 061 261 663

Fax. 061 325 879

Sehrgeehrte Herren!

Der Name EGON MARCH INSTITUTE vereint uns als eine Gruppe von Künstlern und Fachleuten, die auf dem Gebiet der multimedialen Kunst vor allem mit elektronischer Technologie tätig sind.

Mit dem Performance DAS DING werden wir uns am 14.12.1991 an der Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg vorstellen, womit wir Slowenien an das Weltkommunikationsnetz der Hi-tech Kunst anschliessen.

Mit diesem Projekt laden wir Sie zur profitbringenden Mitarbeit ein.

Wir bieten Ihnen die Vorstellung Ihres Unternehmens in einer Fernsehsendung über das Performance, die in unserer Produktion entsteht und im Programm des Slowenischen Fernsehns gesendet und als Video-Film auch an allen bedeutenden Multimedia-Festivals vorgeführt werden wird. Der Name und das Markenzeichen Ihres Unternehmens wird auf allen Druckmaterialien, die das Projekt begleiten, abgedruckt und die Firma wird auch bei der Pressekonferenz in Ljubljana vorgestellt. In Ljubljana findet das Performance im Januar 1992 in Cankarjev dom statt.

Wir sind an einer langzeitigen Zusammenarbeit, die beiderseitigen Nutzen bringt, interessiert.

Ljubljana, 27.11.91

Marko Košnik Virant

Marko Košnik Virant

Bei dem Performance DAS DING wirken mit:

Marko Košnik Virant

Idee, Konzept, Stimmen der Platten und
Oszillatoren

Etbin Stefančič

Design, Requisite

Andrej Trobentar

Initiation der Vokale

Die oben angeführten Mitarbeiter sind auch Betätiger der Klangplatten
bzw. Sonorostate.

Silvo Zupančič

Entwicklung und Realisation der Mikro-
elektronik, technischer Ingenieur

Smiljan Šiška

Beleuchtung der Sonorostate, Diaprojektion

Spela Košnik Virant

Text, Kontext

Pavel Okorn

Chauffeur, Deus ex machina

*Andrej Kregar

simultane Videoübertragung und Aufnahme

*(Beteiligung wird nachträglich bestätigt)

2. Synopsis des Performances DAS DING

Im Rahmen des Performances wird zum ersten mal das SONOROSTAT vorgestellt werden. Es handelt sich um einen besonderen resonanten Klangkörper auf dem Prinzip des Lautsprechers, der in eine biegbare Resonansplatte eingebaut ist. Mit dem Änderen der Form und Position können resonante, interferente und differente Töne in der Beziehung zur Akustik des konkreten Raumes erzielt und kontrolliert werden. Die drei Sonorostat-Betätiger sind mit tragbarer Elektronik ausgerüstet, die ihnen freie Beweglichkeit ermöglicht, als auch das Tönen und Belichten des Sonorostat auf der Grundlage eines, an Ort und Stelle vorbestimmten Raumnetzes. Die Klangquellen sind drei Korg MS 20 Synthesizer, der Ton wird durch Funk auf die Platten übertragen. Von einem drehbaren Gestell verläuft die Projektion von Licht und Diapositiven aus zwei Kodack Carouselen auf die Platten, die sich durch den ganzen Raum bewegen. Der Video-Widescreen Projektor mit dergleichen Aufgabe hat eine fixe Position. Das Sprachmaterial sind visuell und audio representiert.

3. Wir bitten um telefonischen Kontakt bis 11.11.1991 - wenn wir den zweiten Teil des Faxes senden werden, so dass wir die Technischen Bedingungen, die Zeit und den Raum für DAS DING definieren.

Ljubljana, Radio Student, 9.11.91 Marko Košnik Virant

EGON MARCH INSTITUTE - Ljubljana

DAS DING - Fax Teil 2

Hochschule für bildende Künste

Prof. Mike A. Hentz

Fax.: 40-298 43 241

3. Räumliche und sonstige Bedingungen für die Ausführung des Performances

Die idealen Maße des für den Auftritt benötigten Raumes: 10x15x6 m;
je näher dem Verhältnis 4:5:2. Minimum: 8x10x4 m, Maximum: 14x20x8 m;
bei geschlossenen Eingängen und Fenstern, relativ Schachtförmig,
ohne Säulen. Besucherzahl begrenzt auf 1/4 des länglichen Grundrisses.

Das Performance beginnt in völliger Dunkelheit, zu dem Zeitpunkt
brauchen wir auch ein Seil mit Ständern oder eine andere schnell
entfernbare Barriere, die den Zuschauer abgrenzt; später steht den
Zuschauern der ganze Raum frei. Für die Vorbereitungen und Installation
brauchen wir einen ganzen Tag vor dem Tag, an welchem am Abend der
Auftritt stattfindet. Zu der Zeit sollte der Raum leer und relativ
leise sein. Die Generalprobe findet am Tag des Auftrittes um 15 Uhr
statt, möglich auch bei Tageslicht. Die ganze Zeit, auch während der
Nacht, bis zum Auftritt, muss der Raum abgesichert sein, da darin
eine Ausrüstung im Wert von 25 000 DEM installiert sein wird. Im
äußersten Fall brauchen wir ein sicheres Depot.

4. Technische Ausführung

a) Eigene Ausrüstung

- 3 x tragbare Aluminiumplatten (1 x 2 m) mit eingebautem Lautsprecher 30 W und Miniaturelektronik: 25 W Verstärker, Kompressor, UKV Empfänger.
- 1 x statische Platte aus rostfreiem Stahl mit gleicher Elektronik, eingebaut in einen Rahmen
- 4 selbständige UKV Sender
- 4 Kopfhörer mit Mikrofon
- (1 Hi - 8 Videokamera)*
- 4 Gürtel mit Akkumulatoren
- 4 tragbare Halogenscheinwerfer
- 2 x Alesis Quadraverb Multi-Effekt Prozessor

- b) Die vom Veranstalter vorbereitete Ausrüstung
- 3 x KORG MS 20
 - 2 x Kodak Caroussel Diaprojektor (S-AV 2000) + Mischpult
 - 1 x Video Wide Screen Projektor mit erforderlichen Anschlüssen, und Adapter für Simultanübertragung
 - 220 V Anschlüsse, Verlängerungskabel und Verteiler für Geräte unter b) + 2 für Geräte unter a) + 4 für Akumulatorfüllung
 - 2 Video 8 Kameras für die Zeit der Auftrittsvorbereitungen + 2 talentierte Kamermänner/frauen für die Zeit des Auftritts
 - 1 VHS Video player -
Die Komplette angeführte Ausrüstung muss die ganze Zeit der Vorbereitungen zur Verfügung stehen.

6. Organisatorisches

- a) Im Zusammenhang mit einem Korg MS 20 und dem Video beam Projektor kontaktieren sie bitte Uli Rehberg - Walter Ulbricht Schallfolien
Einen eigenen Korg können wir wegen der Überlastung des Kombiwagens nicht mitführen. Wenn es anders nicht geht, ersetzen wir ihn mit einem eigenem Synth Modul KAWAI K4. In diesem Fall brauchen wir noch AMIGA 500 1M oder 2000.
- b) Die Liste der Sponsoren ist noch nicht vollständig und abgeschlossen.
Bitte auf dem Plakat anführen: SLOWENISCHES KULTURNETZWERK, LJUBLJANA - MÄZEN DER KULTUR
- c) Wir wären dankbar für das Organisieren von Übernachtungsmöglichkeiten von 12. bis einschliesslich 17.12.1991
- d) Adresse SLOWENISCHES KULTURNETZWERK: Alenka Barber - Kersovan
Ahornweg 154
2083 Halstenber
Tel. 04101/44 8 40

7. Wichtig: Mike, wir bitten dich, diesen Text, einschliesslich Teil 1, zu korrigieren und eine Fotokopie an Alenka zu schicken, so schnell wie möglich bitte bitte

*Ich warte heute nach 22h Uhr auf deinen Anruf.-

Mike Kosnik Vitaut

Mögliche zusätzliche Veranstaltungen:

AUSSTELLUNG

ANDREJ TROBENTAR, geboren am 22.11.1951 in Podtabor pri Grosupljem. Nach der Hauptschule besuchte er zunächst die Schule für Design und dann die Akademie für bildende Kunst in Ljubljana, wo er 1978 die Spezialisierung für abstrakte Malerei absolvierte. Arbeitet auch als Porträtiast und Buchillustrator, wofür er im Jahr 1987 auch den, in Slowenien bedeutenden, Levstik-Preis verliehen bekam.

TITEL DER AUSSTELLUNG: ATTRAKTOR, ANDREJ TROBENTAR, Nov.1991. Tusche und Tempera auf Papier, Format 100 x 70 cm. Für die Realisation der Ausstellung werden 40 Glasscheiben (je 2 für 20 Gemälde) gebraucht.

AUSSTELLUNG UND MULTIVISION

SMILJAN SISKA, geboren am 12.7.1952 in Ljubljana, und BORUT SRAJ, geboren am 6.7.1952 in Ljubljana. Beide studierten Photographie in Ljubljana, sind freie Photographen seit 1975 und sind Mitarbeiter zahlreicher Zeitschriften, wie z.B. National Geographic. Die Ausstellung und die Multivision sind das Resultat Jahrelanger Forschung und Kommunikation mit unterschiedlichen spirituellen Formationen, besonders mit einer der wichtigsten Wüstengruppen, den NAGA BABA ORDER. Ausstellung: 25 Photographien, Format 55 x 65. Für die Realisation der Ausstellung werden 50 Glasscheiben 60 x 70 cm gebraucht, für die Multivision: zwei Kodack Caroussel Diaprojektoren (S-AV 2000) und ein Kodack Caroussel Mischpult.

A
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DOCUMENTA IX
Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

To Milos Varic and Peter Lukovic
At "Vreme"
FAX 657.454

Dear sirs,

In conjunction with the absence of an answer as to my fax from... I am sending you a follow up fax, in hope of an answer. I myself have only minimal knowledge to the overall situation in Belgrade, therefore I am avoiding whatever assumption.

Our project is connected with the Documenta IX in Kassel, which is an inter-active television project.

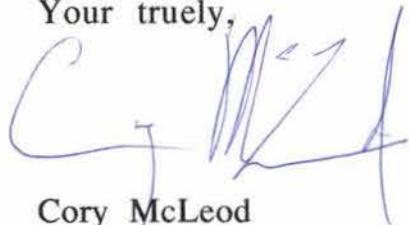
We are working with a group of intellectuals and artists in Ljubljana. These artists we are working with are connected to the "Open Society Fund" (i.e. Soros Foundation). With these artists we are making an interactive television project. This project is connected to the USA, Japan and ten countries in eastern and western Europe.

On Saturday night we will be transmitting from Ljubljana, two times, each time a half an hour. We are inviting you to talk, per telephone, to artists and intellectuals in Ljubljana and exiles from Bosnien. The language you can use is either english or serbian, which will be translated. The theme of these programm is the present situation in Yugoslavia, in which you can express your opinions, statements or difficulties.

On Friday evening we will give you a precise conformation as to the times of the transmission. This will be transmitted on 3 Sat, which broadcasts from the Astra satellite. Saturday evening is also the last evening of our transmissions.

Please call me here in Kassel if I do not reach you myself.

Your truly,



Cory McLeod
International relations

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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

Cory McLeod
International coordination

Zusin Levlik
Radio Student

Dear Zusin,

I've tried to call all the people that you wanted me to call. The obvious problem is that none of these people are to be reached in the weekend. I've left my name and coordinates with all these people, but I'm not a hundred procent sure that they will all call back. So, I think we'll have to try this all around again on Monday. The atmosphere in Kassel is a bit hectical in the weekends, so I think it will be easier on Monday top do everything.

I'm making a press release on the Slovenian programm, so if there is anything that you would want me to put into it, which you have'nt already sent me, then send it to me on a fax by tomorrow morning, because the press release has to be out by Monday.

Other wise I hope that everything is going well with the project and I hope to see you soon.

Yours truly,

Cory



Egon March Institute, Ljubljana
Marko Košnik Virant

Van Gogh TV, Kassel
Kathy Rae Huffman

september 13, 1992

Important changes in the concept of our "one moment Piazzetta" have been made.

Firstly, we confirm the date and the time of the live transmission: september 16, with the beginning at the noon, 30 minutes (till 12.30 p.m.).

We are glad to announce that CHANNEL - A TV station (the first and only Slovene comercial TV station, also a kind of opposition to the national TV) will retransmit 3sat picture during that period over Slovenia.

Consider the following changes to the first version of the concept (see our fax : september 2, the concept):

a) separated messages: phoneconference of the intellectuals from the former Yugoslavia will be held as described, but participants will be limited to the voices (phone) only.

Picturephone line will be reserved for the Slovenian performers (subculture, independent) who will perform live from KUD France Prešeren - Trnovo, Ljubljana. They will try to react and to improvise visually to the phone conversations.

b) connections and their functions

1. Local

Radio Student gets respond of the invited intellectuals via two phone lines (p1, p2) and possible reactions of audience through the third line (p3). Live sound (FM, Hi-Fi, closed

who is moderating the radio transmission, and of course the audio line from 3sat is manually controled by a technician to catch the voices coming from the phone lines which are going directly to Kassel (p5, p6) from the rest of Yugoslavia, but they stay out of the mix which is going to Kassel, called a.L.. Picturephone line from the place of the event direct to Kassel is named p.L. and there is the third line from Ljubljana, radio student modem line m.L. If necessary, we can arrange the second modem for the transiation.

Lines for the monitoring apart, these are the vital lines to realize the project:

Radio Student - Ljubljana

p1	phone	intellectuals
p2	phone	- " -
p3	phone	audience
p4	FM	performers

~~061 263 583~~
~~061 271 081~~

.....
from vehicle 338822

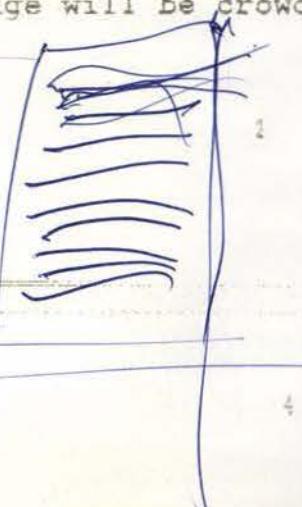
Van Gogh TV, Kassel

p5	phone	intellectuals	0561 719 074
p6	phone	- " -	0561 719 075
p.L.	pic.ph	place of event
a.L.	phone	radio mix
m.L.	modem	from radio
??	modem	translation

M 2

We consider these lines as lines for the fixed purpose. We suggest program with no other phone calls, cause Ljubljana - Kassel - Belgrade bridge will be crowded anyway.

pic p 338822



Retransmitting of the 38at program for Slovenia:

Kanal A

Concept and organization:

Institut Egon March



Phone for today 12 - 16h: 061 33 22 88 (KUD France Preseren), after 18h: 061 261 663.

All the fax messages from now on to:

Radio Student 061 261 876.

Hello to Everybody

Mario Kosnik Virant
Mario Kosnik Virant

- ① Confirm the translation.
- ② It's important to know that there will be another line. You want Salvatore to explain who will translate the other line.

SENDEBERICHT

KENNUNG

SEQ61101097

DATUM-UHRZEIT

16.09.92 17:53

DAUER

00:49

BETRIEBSART

01

SEITE N

GUT

BEMERKUNG



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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

To Marko Kosnik Viriant

Please give him this at once

Please call me as soon as possible to confirm the times of tommorows programm. You wanted to begin at twelve o'clock, but the people here want it at eleven o'clock for fourtyfive minutes. I told them that this would be difficult for you. Please call me to conform your times.

Carsten Wenzel

VAN GOGH TV - Postfach 101 909 W-3500 Kassel
Containercity - Untere Karlstr Telefon 0561/16933 FAX 0561/16910

A
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Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

To Mrs. Vessna
in Belgrad
Fax 0038.11.184576

Dear

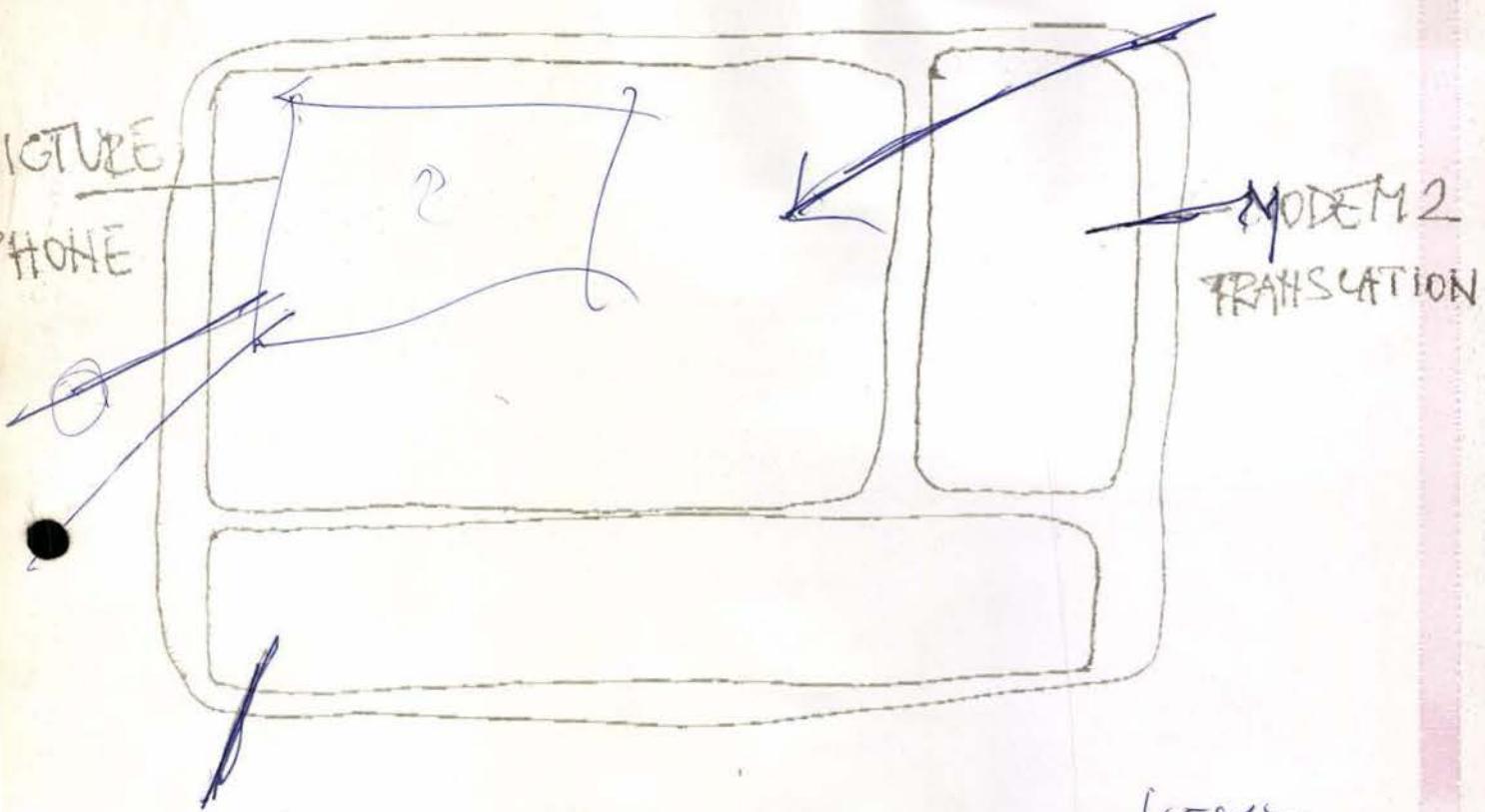
The basic conception of Piazza Virtuale is interactive television. Interactivity is punctuated by the recipients participation in the programms form. The technial possibilities which allow the recipient to form the programm are telephone, modems, ISDN, picture phones and FAX. It is brodcasted on 3 Sat from 11:00 till 12:30, on Olympus from 21:00 till 23:00 on FAB from 23:00 till 24:00 and in the weekends from 1:00 till 6:00 on 3Sat.

On the 16th and 18th of september we will be transmiting from Slovenia. We are inviting people like you from all over Yugoslavia to call Van Gogh TV durring the transmition, with prepared, questions, comments, statements etc on the telephone lines 0561-719071 or 0561 719075. Parell to this telephone conference, there will be another telephone line from Slovenia and a picture phone, which will interpret the conference and fulfill it into a performance.

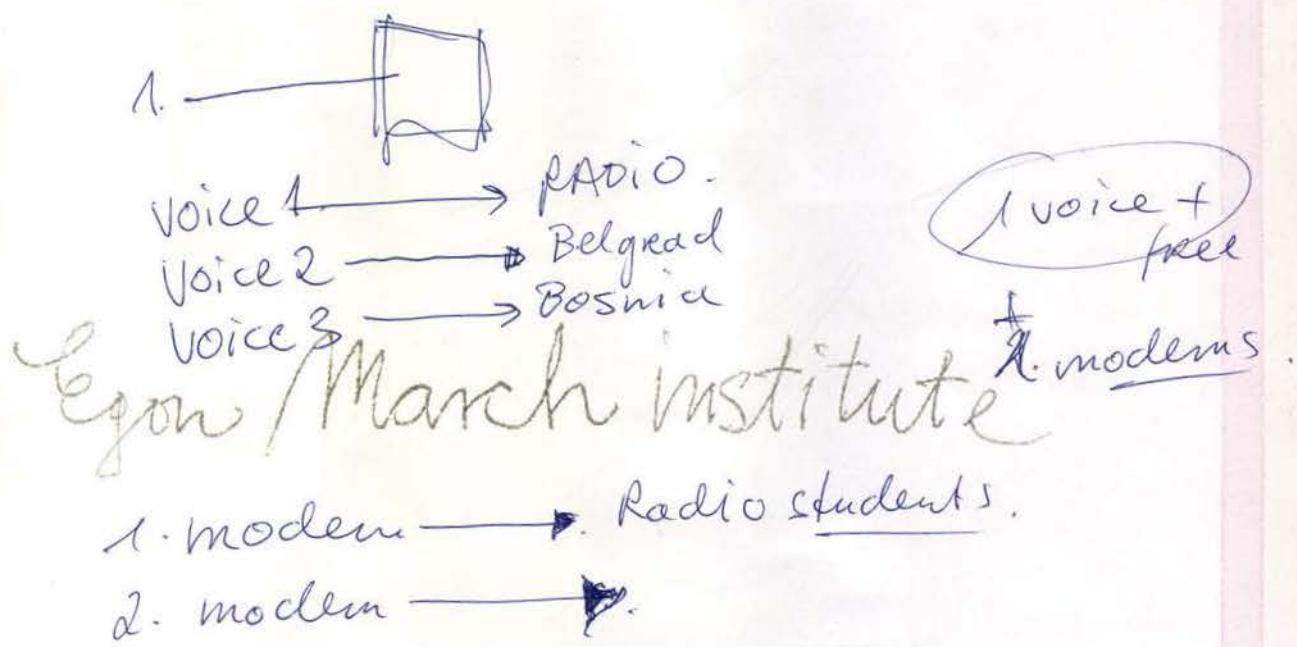
If you need any more information, I would be glad to answer all your questions.

(to Copy)

THE PICTURE AS WE IMAGINE



MODEM 1 - FREE TEXT

45 min.

To Marko Kosnik Virant
Radio Student
Fax 0038-61-261.876

Contents: 1. Surface of the screen. 2. Begin of programm. 3. Tests.
4. Telephone line from Germany. 5. Titles 6. Renamed lines.

- 1) The surface of the screen is the following.
 - i Picture phone is approximately one fourth of the screen, taking up the upper right part of it, for the picture phone from Ljubljana.
 - ii The lower half of the screen is for modem lines. Each line consists of seventeen spaces. One of these modem lines will be coming from Ljubljana and the other is free from Germany. This open line from Germany I do not consider a problem, because if the other modem lines are reserved for other purposes, then there can't arise a dialog in this level of communication. Therefore, these will be statements from someone.
 - iii The upper right part of the screen, is for the mailbox translation line. The mailbox consists of thirteen spaces a line. The lines are broken up automatically.
Therefore it is approximately that which you sent to me.
- 2) The begin of the programm is at twelve o'clock until twelve thirty.
- 3) You will have to begin calling in at least twenty minutes before hand. At twelve o'clock I will confirm to on which lines I will call you and which lines you will call us.
- 4) The obvious problem we have is the open line from Germany. The directors are still at a meeting and therefore can't be reached at this moment. I will talk with them about this open line and suggest them to cut it. If they are not willing to cut it, then I will tell them to call you. The problem I didn't understand was of the translation back into Slovenian. When we do translations then they are done by one person,

both ways. Therefore, I didn't see much of a problem in an open German line, if it could be translated back.
A definite conformation of whether the lines will or will not be cut, will be given to you at twelve o'clock.

5) Titles of your messages are been written up. They can't cover the entire screen but only the picture phone.

6) The technician who sent the fax has his own terminology, so I will put it into yours.

PicPhone=p.L

VoiceLine 1 = a.L.

VoiceLine 2 = p.5 Where he gave the wrong number, it will remain as planed 0561/719071

VoiceLine 3= p.6

Modem 1 =m.L.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory McLeod".

Cory McLeod

A
special
Project
of
Documenta 9
Kassel

VAN GOGH TV

Piazza Virtuale

FAX TO:

Pages:

FAX FROM:

To Marko Kosnik Virant
0038.61.261.876.

VAN GOGH TV - Postfach 101 909 W-3500 Kassel

Containercity - Untere Karlstr Telefon 0561/16933 FAX 0561/16910

Dear Marko,

I'll go through the the different lines now, to clear everything up:

Line number	line type	Purpose	number
1.	telephone	intellectuals	0561-719 071
2.	"	"	0561-719 075
3.	"	Radio student	0561-719 076
4.	Pic-picture	"	0561-719 050
5.	modem	"	0561-719 077
6.	telephone	Hotline Van Gogh	0561-719 078

We could try a modem test tomorrow evening. The picture phone test came through well.

I'm still trying to get through to all the people in Belgrad and other parts of Yugoslavia. I hope that we will be able to set up a conference this evening.

If there are any other questions, please call me and I will try and clear them up as soon as possible.

AE Belgrade
Unit 25402
APO AE 09213-5070
January 11, 1992

Dear Kathy and Walt,

Our address has been changed a little bit, but we're still in the same place. It doesn't make much sense to call it Yugoslavia anymore, so I guess you can say we're in Serbia. We've been here close to six months, and during that time things have gone from bad to worse for the people who live here. The Serbian government has used the army to grab land from Croatia and is now trying to take over Bosnia. The Croatian government has terrified the Serbs who live there, encouraging them to believe the propaganda from Belgrade about World War Two repeating itself, and has also decided it wants to take part of Bosnia, too. The Albanians and Muslims in Serbia have been deprived of all political rights, and the Montenegrins are ready to start fighting among themselves over the question of whether they're really Serbs or not.

The federal government ground to a halt a long time ago and the Serbs have now taken it over, while pretending that it still speaks for "Yugoslavia." In the absence of any civilian political authority, the "Yugoslav People's Army" declared a mobilization of reservists and went off to war against part of its own country, using its artillery/planes/warships/etc to flatten towns, destroying churches and museums, ignoring atrocities by Serb "volunteers."

The Belgrade media--with a couple of honorable exceptions--peddle the government line, claiming that the war was caused by the Germans because they want to create a fourth reich with a port on the Adriatic, by the Vatican which wants to drive Orthodox Christianity out of the Mediterranean region, and Islamic fundamentalists who want to use Kosovo and Bosnia as a base in the Balkans from which to conduct a jihad against Europe. Finally, of course, there are the ustasha, the Croatian fascists who collaborated with the Nazis during World War Two and now have reappeared and want to commit genocide against Serbdom. You think I'm exaggerating, but I'm not. It makes watching the tv news, listening to the radio, and reading the main dailies and weeklies--which I'm supposed to do because of my job--very unpleasant. Meanwhile, the economy of the whole place has completely collapsed (though you can still buy just about anything in Belgrade, if you have money). When the war ends, people will either hold the lunatics who have ruined Serbia responsible and try to rebuild the country, or else the various goon squads will fight it out among themselves and the strongest one will set up an authoritarian regime.

It may not sound like a great place to live, and it isn't. But on the whole, the people are nice. Some people in Belgrade really understand what's going on here, and even those who are caught up in the hysteria created by the propaganda machine are nice if you can keep them off certain topics. The war has not come to Belgrade, although you do see guys walking around downtown in their camouflage outfits sometimes, and occasionally they are carrying guns. From time to time you hear gunfire, either from firing ranges at army installations in the city, or sometimes at night from some idiots firing in the air because they're happy or drunk. (The worst example of this was when a column of the "People's Army" came to Belgrade after destroying Vukovar, and spent a whole afternoon firing their guns around the city in celebration.)

Materially, life in Belgrade is easier than what we experienced in Poland a few years ago. You can buy things like tropical fruits, coffee, chocolate and paper products easily--without waiting in line and you can pay in dinars, if you have enough of them.

Traveling is a slight problem, since most of the places in this country we would want to see are not places we can go right now. And since we can't travel across Croatia or Slovenia, traveling to western Europe by car or train means detouring northward through Hungary. Plane travel is getting harder since Germany, Austria and Italy have cut off air traffic with Belgrade (Swissair and Air France are still flying here). Budapest is about seven hours north of Belgrade by train or car. We have been there once already, and I expect we'll be going there fairly often. It's a wonderful city with a lot to do and see and interesting stuff in the stores that you don't find in Belgrade, and it's also in a country that doesn't have a civil war going on. We have some good friends at the embassy there and they have a beautiful apartment in the old city of Buda, so we have a place to stay there, as long as we don't wear out our welcome. We hope to get out of Belgrade again in a couple of weeks, and go to either Paris (if Air France is still flying) or Budapest.

My job is going well. There is too much work to do and I get worn out, but the people I work with are great. Part of my job is covering Bosnia-Herzegovina, so I get to travel to Sarajevo frequently, and have made it back to Banja Luka (I hope to spend some time there after things quiet down). I get pretty wound up about the things that are going on down there, and it's hard to accept that we can't do more to stop the Serbian government and the army from making trouble there. It's amazing that war hasn't broken out in Bosnia, when you consider that the second and third largest ethnic groups are the Serbs and the Croats, and they live side-by-side in places like Sarajevo.

We have a strange but nice enough little house in a very nice part of Belgrade, close enough to the center that I can walk to work in 30 or 40 minutes (which I usually do). Our newest toy is a tv satellite dish that gets a couple of English stations and a bunch of German ones, so I'm having fun with that. There are also a couple of sports channels, so I was able to watch Notre Dame win the Sugar Bowl and also watched a Penguins-Rangers game the other night. Our other toy is the car, a Volvo we got when we arrived in July, and it's great too.

So Linda and I are doing well, we've got lots of material things, the city is safe, and we can take some interesting trips. It will be nice when the UN peacekeeping forces arrive, though, if they do, and the political mess starts getting cleaned up. Serbia will not be a great place to live for quite a while, I'm afraid, but they can at least stop the killing. Please forgive the "open letter" approach here, and the self-important tone. I'm afraid this letter sounds the way George Will looks. Lin and I both appreciate the letters we've been getting, and thought it might be interesting to send out some of our impressions of what's going on here and what it's like for us. Our house has a guest room (with satellite tv) and we would love to have guests, though people may want to hold off until things here stabilize a little. We would also be interested in rendezvousing with people visiting other parts of Europe. And we obviously enjoy letters! Anyway, we send our regards and best wishes, and hope you are thinking of us once in a while, and praying for peace.

Thanks again for taking care of us when we were in line. We really enjoyed seeing you. We hope you're having a good winter - it's been so beautiful here when it snows. We hope to see you again sometime very shortly soon. *Kelly*