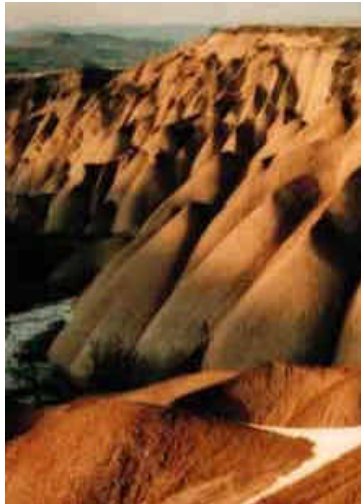


Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia Turkey 2008/2009

Theme: WATER! = BRIGHT? ♦ SU! = PIRILTI?



Introduction

Cappadocia is a cultural and historical area, still peaceful and away from a hectic modern world and a World Heritage site of Unesco since 1986.

The presence of open-air museums, beautiful landscapes filled with painted cave churches, pigeon houses and historical sites make it well to study and to connect to. Breathtaking hand-carved architecture and 40.000 km² of sculpturally shaped volcanic nature astonish the eye of everyone that visits. The local population is traditionally dependent upon agriculture, pottery and weaving of carpets. In the 1980's tourism has become one of the dominant economies of the region. Cappadocia slowly opens to the world with all kind of consequences for environmental infrastructure.

- Problems like open canalizations, very polluted valleys by free garbage dumping and the lack of drinking water are all over the area. As it became a tourist area, the modern use and the supply in this volcanic infrastructure became clearly out of balance.
- The river Kızılırmak is the main water stream coming from the North region streaming South, passing through Cappadocia and following its way up again towards the Black Sea. The river is therefore of huge importance for the Anatolian Heights. But there is little water streaming now, because several storage lakes are constructed. Wastewater is led into it at many locations and soon this river will provide the drinking water supply of Ankara...



Adding value

The Art ♦ Eco platform Cappadocia will add value to a big scale ecological water management project in Cappadocia. Technical research and exchange projects by Universities, Companies and Local Authorities will attend infra-structural assets.



The Art ♦ Eco platform helps raising environmental awareness of the people in cities and villages, by using all sort of artistic, audio-visual, dramatic methods and means, also in using international exchange of students and professionals.

Cappadocia iconographic rock painting

Aim:

- Create awareness for the value of Cappadocia through art and art education.
- Respond to signals of misbalance between nature and careless human use.
- Nurturing creativity by the Art ♦Eco Platform, through communication among various fields of art and through the cultural and artistic backgrounds of the participators in relation to the cultural and ecological surrounding of Cappadocia.
- Be a show-window for the out come of the EKOKAP Ecological Water Management Project Ibrahimpasa, Cappadocia 2008/9.

Mission:

- Awareness: continually be aware and give shape to this awareness by annual manifestations based upon existing or developing ecological projects.
- Show art of various disciplines in Cappadocia and - if initiated - in other regions of Turkey; in 2008/9 based upon the *water!=bright?* theme.
- Inform inhabitants of Cappadocia and stimulate them by involving them in the Art/Eco Platform according to the standards of today.
- Involvement and exchange of students.



Strategy:

- To present the Art ♦Eco Platform at the '5th World Water Forum Istanbul' March 2009.
- To bring 'Awareness by Art': a Turkish and International professional art group contribution to the '5th World Water Forum Istanbul' - Artistic and Cultural Events, *Water - From Another Perspective*.
- To continue presenting the 'Awareness by Art' all over Turkey.
- To cooperate with all organizations/companies, which are involved in the EKOKAP Ecological Water Management Project Cappadocia realization.
- To cooperate with all organizations/initiatives that support environmental awareness by art.
- To cooperate and exchange ideas with existing ecological and environmental NGO initiatives.
- To approach village and town schools, local authorities, tourist cooperatives, universities, companies and merchants.
- To stimulate cooperation between Art Students and Artists from Turkey and abroad.

Intended impact and output

Awareness:

Showing and sharing village life as it is/was in Cappadocia by a documentation of several areas in the Cappadocia region. Show the vulnerability & exclusiveness of the eco system and pointing out the differences between balanced and unbalanced areas (due to the ‘new world’ features and temptations).

Output:

- Clean surroundings and conscientious use of water.
- Own initiatives by local authorities to maintain the environment.
- Open mind behavior in Cappadocia towards new developments.



Art:

Maintaining an ‘Awareness by Art’ Platform for professional art in the Cappadocian region and abroad. And offer all possibilities for artists to work with local inhabitants, both artists and or regional professions (handicrafts, farmers etc).

Output:

- Contemporary Visual Art & Performing Art & Music.
- Theatre/art/film performances in local (open air) theatres and in culture and art centers.
- Exhibitions, installations, manifestations and film/video showings and lectures.
- Workshops for artists and interested.
- Lectures, debate, open discussions.



Education:

In three ways:

- School children: attending creative programs and workshops at several levels.
- Local inhabitants and handicraft men will teach their traditional & special skills and handicrafts.
- Involvement and exchange of university faculty students and graduates of theatre, fine arts and film.



Output: Lectures / workshops at schools, universities and culture- and art centers.

Cultural Exchange in contact with *Local Inhabitants* and *Handicrafts men* is considered important.

Sustainability

The achievement for preservation of the Cappadocian/Turkish 'old ways' while opening up to the 'new world', has to be placed in full conscience of the risk of fast changes (pollution, Internet, energy waste, distance between generations: breaking-up of old network systems).

Every art or cultural project implemented from outside based on this awareness has to be developed with good respect for the eco- and social system and the local inhabitants. If done so, the complexity of this issue is overruled by the simple fact of noticing the importance of awareness and its direct results.

The participation of students, artists, visitors and locals, developed under the wing of the Art ♦ Eco Platform will therefore also be used as an information-providing body.

In the EKOKAP Ecological Water Management Project Ibrahimpasa (funded by Hayata+/Life+) the awareness issue is fully carried by field level projects, stimulated by the Art ♦ Eco Platform. And at the same time openly manifested by brutally bringing in Art Projects from the 'new world'.

A sustainable future is starting-up, when events like Contemporary Art, Theatre & Film are naturally accepted by the local population and not rejected as 'alien'.

Waste water running freely in an Ibrahimpasa valley.



End Result

The end result 2008 / 2009 consists four actions:

- Starting-up the Art ♦ Eco Platform by making a non-profit Foundation and promotion.
- Supporting the realization of an ecological water management pilot project EKOKAP in Ibrahimpasa, Cappadocia (funded wastewater wetland) and to reflect on it in an artistic way ('Awareness by Art').
- Participating in local Festivals:
 - 'FabrikArtGroup' Contemporary Art Festival in Mustafapasa: Dutch water art pavilion,
 - 'ASK-DER' Avanos Applied Ceramics Festival,
 - 'Göreme Culture and Food' Festival.
- Projects program on location in Cappadocia 2008/9 by the partners, based on the Cappadocia water issue awareness by visual art & performing art, film & documentary.

Beside this the Art ♦ Eco Platform focuses on the *5th World Water Forum*, Istanbul, March 2009 and other activities in Istanbul, to present the Platform 'MAINSTREAM - Awareness by Art' professional artists contributions by speeches, workshops, exhibitions and audio-visual documentaries (by call for entry).

Art exhibition in the old Greek Eleni Church during the Mustafapasa Art Festival 2007



View on partnership cooperation within Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia

Partners and associates are:

- ‘KozaVisual’ audio-visual research and documentation, Ankara.
- ‘Hayal’ creative workshops, Amsterdam/Kalkan.
- ‘Babayan Culture House’ art-residency, Ibrahimpasa, Cappadocia.
- ‘FabrikArtGrup’ Mustafapaşa

Goals:

- Providing each other with the necessary/relevant information about art & ecological projects.
- Working together towards their collective goals and bringing more content to the Art ♦ Eco Platform.
- Initiate and perform artistic and cultural projects based on ecological issues.
- Produce a series of audio-visual documentary of Ibrahimpasa Village Field Studies.

Art ♦ Eco Platform meetings: Göreme, Ankara and Ibrahimpasa.

