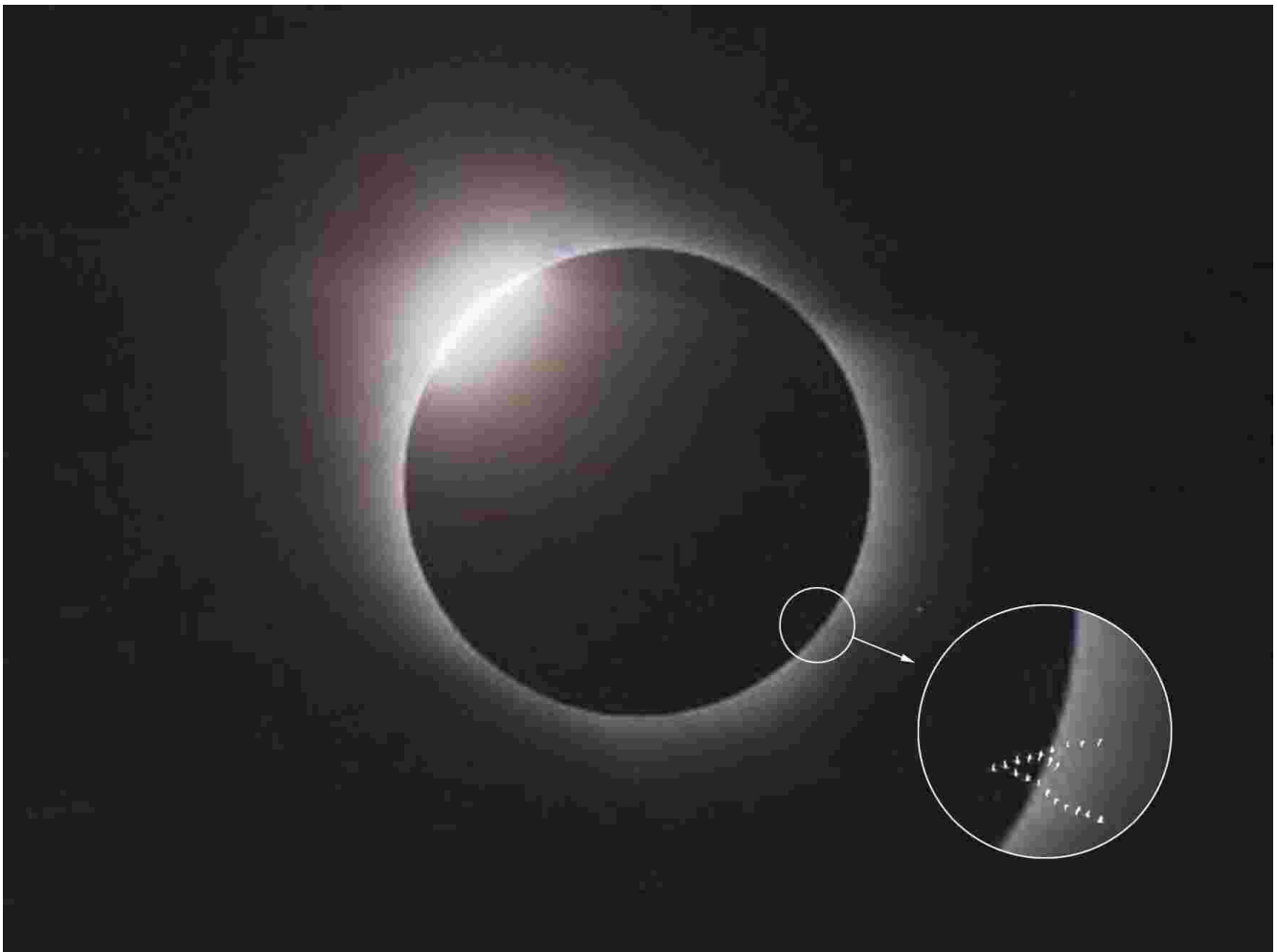


CURATED EXPEDITIONS Nº 1

Siberia, Novosibirsk Zoo
Total Solar Eclipse, 1st August, 2008

agnes meyer-brandis mireia c. saldrigues tommy taipale



agnes meyer-brandis, Moon Goose Experiment, 2008

Capsula´s Curated Expeditions, N°1 Siberia, Novosibirsk Zoo, Total Solar Eclipse, 1st of August, 2008

There are hardly any unexplored areas of the Earth, but the Time of Discovery is not over yet. Instead of lose sleep trying to find undiscovered places or struggle to survive remote and inhospitable environments such as the Polar Regions or Outer Space, we can use our energies to observe intriguing phenomena and endeavour to experience new sensations elsewhere, far beyond the ideas of the American film industry.

"Curated Expeditions" is dedicated to observing and experiencing fascinating earthly phenomena through artistic investigation. In parallel, Capsula wants to revive leisurely traveling experiences, which have been cast aside by the frantic pace of modern day life. Walking, bob-sleighing, swimming, hitchhiking, rowing, sailing and trains or submarines all personify the Capsula Philosophy of Voyage.

The 1st Expedition of Capsula is planning to take a selection of three artists to observe a total solar eclipse. In 2008, this will occur on August 1st^l over a vast area stretching from Canada, through to Russia, Mongolia and China. The observation location selected is the scientific Zoo in Novosibirsk, the capital of Siberia. Eclipse starts in Novosibirsk at 15.45 pm.

The artists will study this celestial phenomena and its impact on the animals and the visitors of the Zoo. Each artist will design their own personal case study in collaboration with the Zoo personnel.

The travel from Finland to Novosibirsk will combine trains and other leisurely means of transport. We plan to stay at the Zoo for eight days, from July 25th through to August 2nd. The one-way train journey takes approximately 2 days, 13 hours and 6 minutes and the eclipse will last a total of two minutes and twenty seconds (source: NASA).

NOVOSIBIRSK ZOO

The director of the Zoo, Dr.Rostislaw Shilo has given permission for the project and Zoo staff will help us during the preliminary preparation phase. The Zoo has also promised to give us all the information and data on animal behaviour, collected during the last total eclipse in the 1970s.

During our time in Novosibirsk, we also hope to get to know the Zoo researchers and better understand their work. Founded in 1947, the Zoo is the oldest in Russia, spread over 53 hectares, and offers a home to 634 species and 10 928 specimens. The Zoo specializes in breeding endangered species.

EXPEDITION PARTICIPANTS

The expedition group is composed of three artists, along with the expedition director and Capsula curator, Ulla Taipale. The invited artists personify the established values by Capsula´s Curated Expeditions.

The celestial phenomenon will be investigated using a combination of empiric methods: Agnes Meyer-Brandis brings an astro-zoologic and fantastic approach, Mireia C. Saldrigues provides the social-collective dimension and Tommi Taipale will supply a fortuitous voyager´s graphical insight.

This Expedition is the first one and could be nominated as a pilot project of a long term investigation and series of expeditions. It will be documented with videos and photographs, and will published and exhibited in future Capsula events internationally. The audiovisula material recorded in Siberia during the eclipse by the Astronomic Group of Sabadell from Spain will be part of the future show.

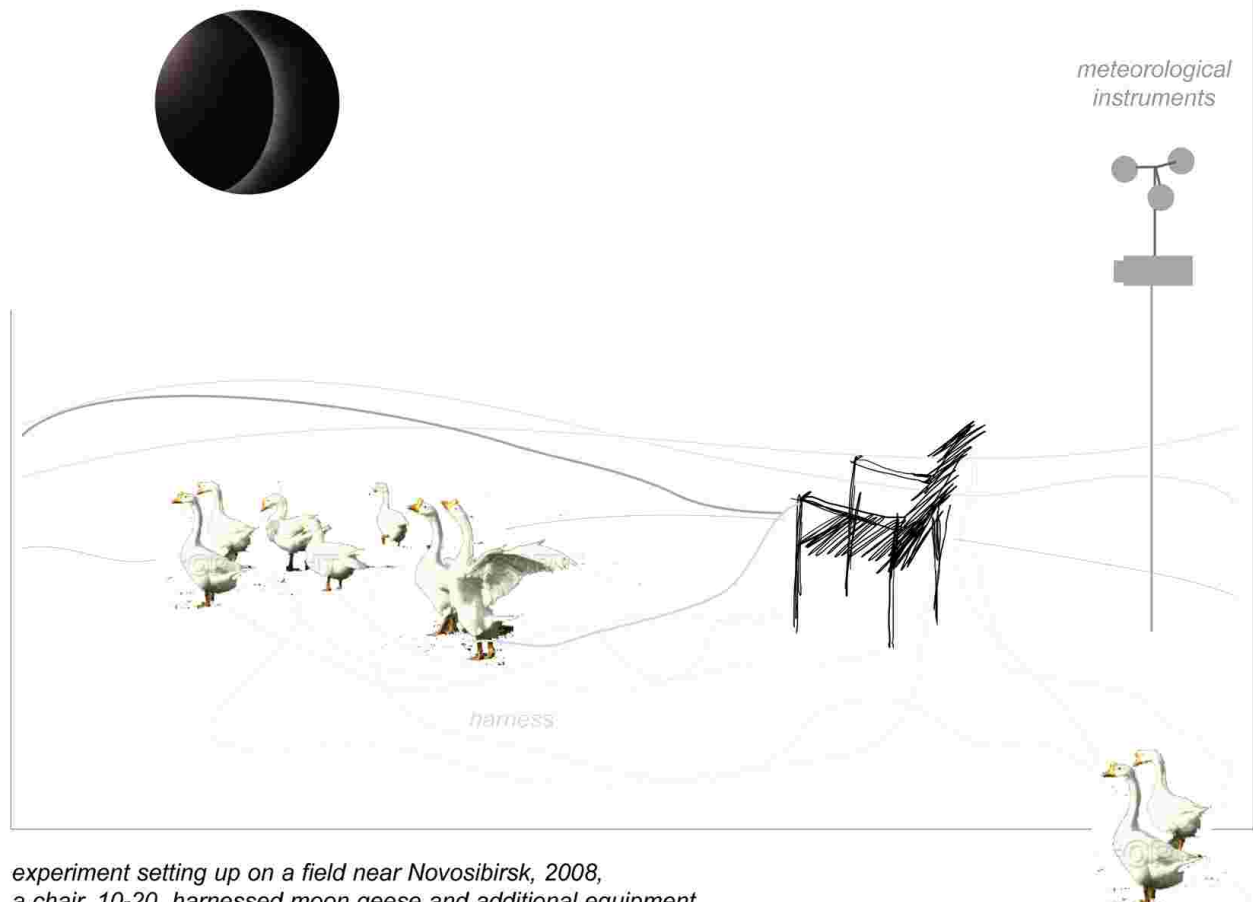
**Agnes Meyer-Brandis, Germany, artist /
MOON GOOSE EXPERIMENT | a bio-poetic investigation**

Agnes is the founder of the "Institute of Research Raft for Subterranean Reefology". Her work is exhibited worldwide and is at the experimental edge of art and science, exploring the zone between fact and fiction, fantasy and technology. Her current focus is on "fantastic" augmented reality and other participatory urban interventions, using self-designed and self-made tools. Consequently, she is able to investigate sub and upper worlds with the accuracy of a scientist. Since 2005 she has participated in various expeditions to Brazil, Norway and Germany. During these journeys she has investigated weightlessness in collaboration with German Airspace Center (DLR) and analysed subterranean icebergs in collaboration with NASA/JPL.

The bio-poetic investigation by Agnes is based to a text of Francis Godwin (1562-1633), author of the book "The Man in the Moone" and will focus on the behaviour of Moon Geese during the eclipse. Agnes will prepare a setup where she sits on a chair that is connected with 15-20 geese with a special harness, ready to lift her up and take her to the moon.

She will travel to Novosibirsk by train joining Ulla an Mireia in St. Petersburg. Her *Moon Goose Experiment*, it's audiovisual documentation and the data gathered during the eclipse, will be exhibited in a future exhibition.

+info about the artist: www.ffur.de



*experiment setting up on a field near Novosibirsk, 2008,
a chair, 10-20 harnessed moon geese and additional equipment*

**Tommi Taipale, Finland, photographer /
THE JOURNEY TO THE ECLIPSE**

Remarkable expeditions of 19th and 20th centuries were documented by photographers or illustrators that accompanied the expeditions and because of their work the discoveries, the cultural as the scientific ones were immortalized. Tommi is a photographer, specialising in portraying Russia during his long, slowly advancing journeys to the periphery of this huge country. This expedition is a continuation of his trip begun in 1999 when he first observed the total eclipse in the village of Rabapatona in Hungary, on the banks of the River Danube. He hitchhiked for one week to reach his destination. This summer he plans to reach Novosibirsk by hitchhiking from Finland to Siberia. Through his photographs and diary notes, he will offer an original perspective of the dimensions and citizens of Russia, Novosibirsk and Zoo.

The Time of Discovery is over and the chance to experience surprising adventures has disappeared as a consequence of the contemporary society, characterised by rational and technological efficiency. What sort of stories could spring up as a result of less controlled way to travel?

...I walk by the road my thumb lifted and let my friend chance decide and give me a gentle ride and, together with my will, design an adventure. This manner to travel is my way to give the protagonism for the distance, that has been forgotten as a consequence of the culture of material sensations we are living in.

The automobile technologies has gained such a velocity, that a distance has almost disappeared from the globe. Distance is no more taken as a physical strain. There is only a depart, the stay and return. For a privileged occidentals, enabled to travel, the world has broken into shivers. The distance is only an abstract break in between of two spots, measured by time.



A total solar eclipse is an exceptional reason to travel. It happens in an accidental place in an accidental time both exactly determined, though. For someone interested in that phenomenon it is a reason to travel to a place where he would never go without.

I point my compass needle at the oldest Russian Zoo in Novosibirsk town. When the sun darkens, I can sense from the animals how it feels when something unexpected happens.

Fragments of the text: *The Journey to the Eclipse.*

The photographs are from Tommi Taipale's earlier journeys to periphery of Russia.

+photos of Tommi Taipale:

http://ameba.lpt.fi/~taiptomm/opinnayte_TommiTaipale/

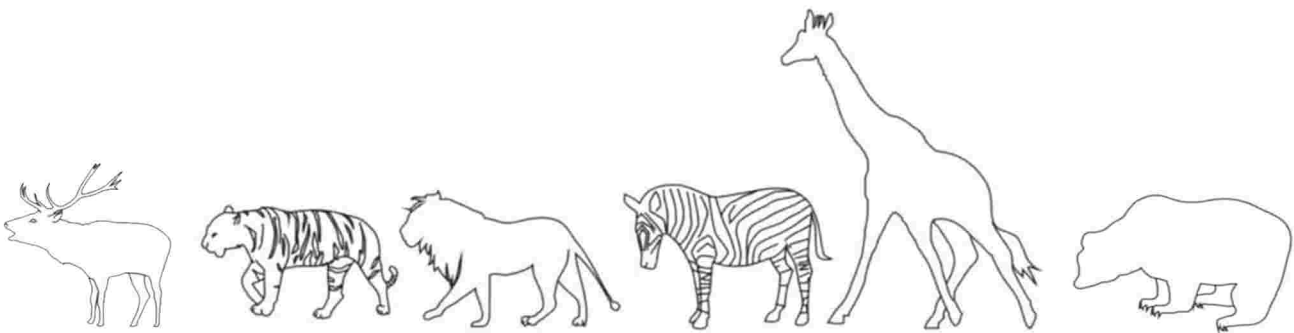
Mireia Castillo Saldrigues, Catalonia, artist / ZOOLAR ECLIPSE

Mireia aims to understand and find new dimensions of the surrounding world through her interactive performances. Her *Zoolar Eclipse* -project will invite 100 Zoo visitors to actively participate in observing the changes to the animals and themselves during the total eclipse.

She will choose five species of animals with the etiologist of the Zoo, and the behavior of these "test animals" will be registered and written down by the zoo visitors on the postcards, designed by Mireia. Together with a blanket, eclipse glasses and written information, this will form an "Eclipse-Kit", exhibited with the documented experiences of the public and Mireia herself. The observations written down will be translated in English and Finnish and these notes will be compared with the ones done by the Zoo personnel. The written and graphical outcome will be exhibited together with other artworks by Agnes and Tommi.

Mireia is working on her proposal in Pori, Finland, where she has been invited as an artist in residence in the University of Art & Design Pori department.

<http://sinisydyenvastalause-progress.blogspot.com/>
<http://www.elpoderdelaconvocatoria.blogspot.com/>



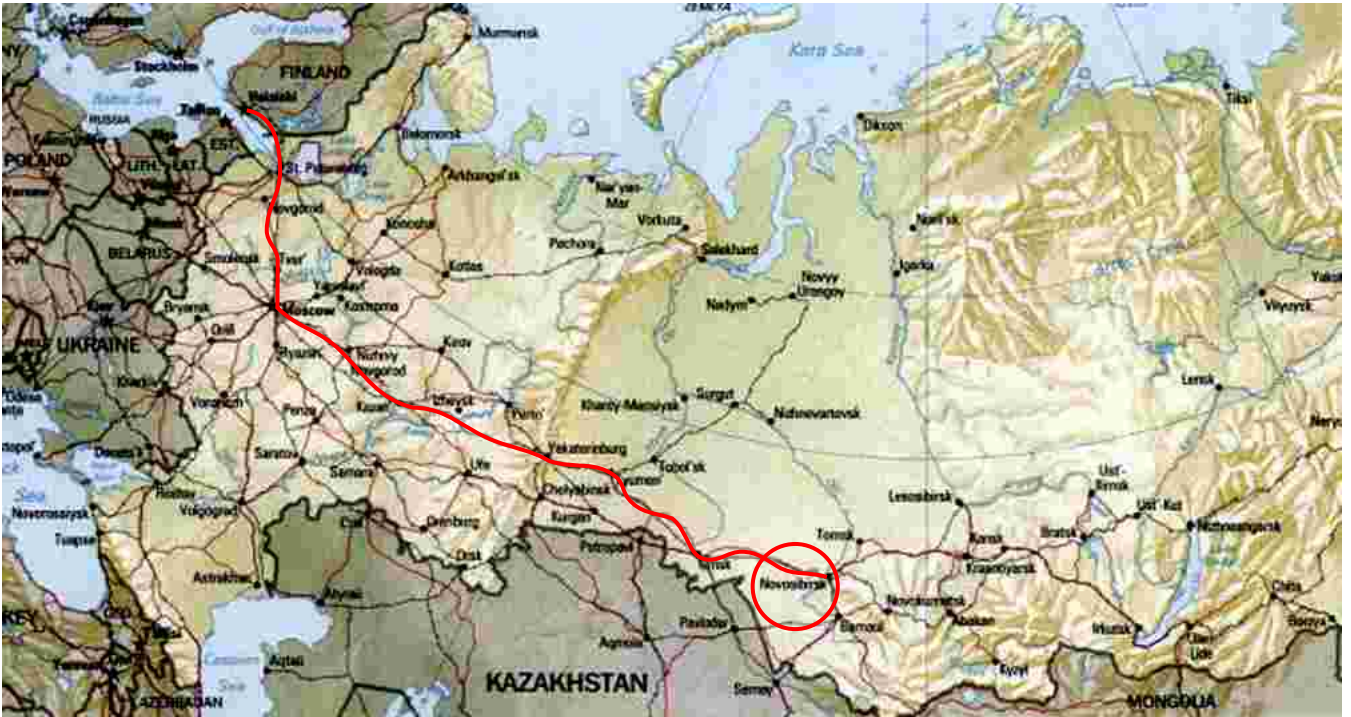
Ulla Taipale, Finland/Spain, curator and the Expedition director

Ulla has worked the last three years for the Capsula organization, curating events at the crossroads of arts, science and nature in format exhibitions, symposiums and workshops. Her fascination with artistic expression intercommunicating with sciences, especially with natural sciences, is the main thread in her new project "Curated Expeditions". Through this long term project she aims to produce new pieces of artwork and events while paying close attention to international contemporary phenomena.

Her first expedition to observe an eclipse was in 1999, when she travelled by bicycle from Wien to Rabapatona in Hungary with landscape architect Markus Breuss.

+information:
 ulla@capsula.org.es
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Novosibirsk 55°02'N 082°55'E - 'D1 09:41:19.2 298 266 39 10:44:02.3 110 74 10:46:20
306 270 11:45:08.7 117 80 22 10:45:11.6 208 172 30 258 1.038 1.000 0.861 02m18s



Departure on July,22 from Helsinki, Finland □

July, 22 □ 7.23 - 14.05 Helsinki - St.Petersburg *6hours, 42 minutes □

July, 22-23 □ 23.00 - 7.01 St. Petersburg - Moscow *8 hours, 1 minute □

July, 23-25 □ 16.35 - 14.58 Moscow - Novosibirsk *1 day, 22 hours, 23 minutes

Arrival on July 25 to Novosibirsk, Russia _travelling time 2 days, 13 hours, 6 minutes

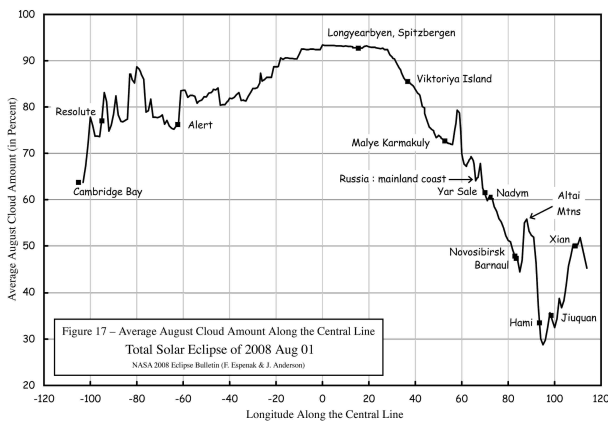


Figure 17 - Average August Cloud Amount Along the Central Line
Total Solar Eclipse of 2008 Aug 01
NASA 2008 Eclipse Bulletin (F. Espenak & J. Anderson)
Data courtesy NOAA and the Pathfinder Project.

source: NASA

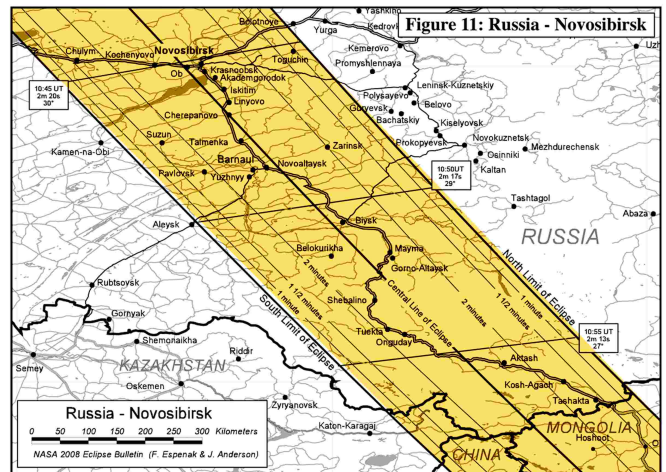


Figure 11: Russia - Novosibirsk

Russia - Novosibirsk
NASA 2008 Eclipse Bulletin (F. Espenak & J. Anderson)

source: NASA

Phenomenon:

Total Solar Eclipse, August 1, 2008
at 10.45am. (UT),
duration 2 minutes 20 seconds
probability of clear sky in Novosibirsk 53%
local time 15.45 pm.

Expedition destiny:

Russia - Siberia
Novosibirsk 55°02'N 082°55'E
Zoo Novosibirsk
53 hectares
634 species and 10 928 specimens
Director: Dr. Rostislav Shilo
Scientific Director: Olga V. Shilo

КОМИТЕТ ПО КУЛЬТУРЕ И ИСКУССТВУ МЭРИИ г. НОВОСИБИРСКА
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ART OF NOVOSIBIRSK ADMINISTRATION

МУНИЦИПАЛЬНОЕ
УНИТАРНОЕ ПРЕДПРИЯТИЕ
г. НОВОСИБИРСКА
"ЗООЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ ПАРК"



NOVOSIBIRSK
MUNICIPAL
ZOOLOGICAL PARK

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№ 28

25th January, 2008

We in Novosibirsk Zoo are happy to collaborate with curator Ulla Taipale in her project "Curated Expeditions". She and the three artists

Agnes Meyer-Brandis (Germany)
Mireia Saldrigues (Catalunya-Spain)
Tommi Taipale (Finland)

are welcome to carry out their artistic research in the Zoo installations during the period of 25th July - 2nd August, 2008, that coincides with the total solar eclipse on 1st August at 10.45 a.m.

The artists and curator can count on with the support of the researches of the Zoo, related on their projects and will have acces to the information gathered in 1970's during the solar eclipse in Novosibirsk, dealing with the animal behaviour.

Yours sincerely,

Rostislav Shilo
Director





Agnes Meyer-Brandis (Germany) □□

Cologne, 15.01.2008

Agnes Meyer-Brandis (Aachen, 1977) studied mineralogy for a year, then transferred to the Art Academy in Maastricht, the Düsseldorf Art Academy and the Cologne Media Art Academy. She comes from a background of both sculpture and new media art. Her work, exhibited worldwide, is at the experimental edge of art and science, exploring the zone between fact and fiction, fantasy and technology. Her current focus is on "fantastic" augmented reality and other participatory urban interventions. She has received various grants and awards: Goethe Institute, Porto Alegre, grant, 2006/Brazil, transmediale06 winner first prize 2006/Germany, Japan Media Arts Festival, honourable mention, 2006/Japan, Kunstraum Aarau, Science & Cite Award / 2005/Switzerland, Kunststiftung NRW, grant, Prix Ars Electronica, honorary mention, 2007 & 2003/Austria. She currently holds a teaching position at the university of applied sciences Düsseldorf/Germany and is frequently lecturing at other universities and conferences. She is the founder of the *iForschungsfloss FFUR / Research Raft for Subterranean Reefology*, a small institute whose chief aim is to explore and confirm subterranean phenomena and unknown lifeforms. www.ffur.



Mireia C. Saldrigues (Spain) □□□□□

□ Barcelona, 15.01.2008

Mireia Saldrigues (Barcelona, 1978) is a Catalanian / Spanish artist that has finished her Fine Arts MA in Barcelona and has a scholarship in the MACBA (Barcelona Contemporary Art Museum) Postgraduate Program. In 2006 she received the Guasch Coranty prize with her Projecte E/F and the same year she visited Finland in the summer at HIAP residence Helsinki. Saldrigues has as well worked in Spain, England and Denmark. She will visit Pori AIR residence from February to July 2008. Saldrigues works hermeneutically on understanding the context where she lives and works, questioning clichés - through conversation, interviews, theory and a variety of practical acts related to performance / stimulating audience participation. Saldrigues' work has always been based upon conceptual maps and archives, but in Pori she will focus on giving them a map / archive appearance. Saldrigues has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in Spain, Finland and Denmark.



Tommi Taipale (Finland)

□□□□□ Tampere, 22.03.2008

Tommi Taipale (Valkeakoski, 1977) is Finnish photographer and artist. He graduated in 2007 in Lahti Institute of Art and Design. He has been working for several magazines as a freelance photographer mainly concentrating to photoreportages dealing with peripheral Finland. His special interest as photodocumentarist is slow intuitive travelling in areas where the distinction between nature and culture is not obvious. Taipale has made extensive trips to Russia, which he calls experimental adventures. They are expeditions to unknown coincidental places. Taipale's interest for self-sufficient living and inventiveness in everyday life are subjects which were also present in Floating residence project that he made with Teemu Takatalo. Taipale's photographs from the adventures have been exhibited in solo- and joint exhibitions in Germany, Russia, Finland, Letonia and Estonia.