

Installation Gori, Georgia

Artarea Gallery Tbilisi Georgia

TBILISI TRIENNIAL 2018

# THE METAMORPHOSIS OF POWER WALK THE SOLAR CARPET JOSEFINA POSCH & LESLIE JOHNSON







The theme of the third Tbilisi Triennial was THE WILL coupled with ideas of socialization through education. Curator Wato Tseretelli had the ambition to expand the sphere of contemporary art exhibitions

to include smaller regional cities. We saw the potential in developing a project in Gori and how that could link to the central exhibition venues in Tbilisi. A poetic trailer of our ideas, research process and situation in Gori would be the main focus for the Artarea gallery exhibition in Tbilisi. Our ideas developed from visits to agencies, museums and locations visited during research trips, and earlier experience of Georgia. The Silk museum in Tbilisi with preserved examples of silk moths and collections tracing the ancient trade routes was an essential inspiration.

We thought about export, trade and renewal.

One Saturday in July we went to the bus station in Tbilisi and took a Marahrutka bus to Gori. The driver and passengers urged us to alight at the Stalin Museum--but we showed them a foto of the central government building and they reluctantly dropped us off in the empty-on-a-Saturday city center--Stalin Avenue. We wandered derivé style. Tucked away behind a parking lot in the center of Gori was the abandoned former power transformer station for electric trams.

We began to put things together

old power  
silk moths

new power  
sun worship

silk route  
future trade routes

solar route

What could be done in such a short period of time?



**Together with Curator Wato Tsereteli we went to meet Marta Bibilashvili the Director of Strategic Development in Gori.**

## **The Idea**

- To transform the building into a sculpture by closing it but making visible through broken windows, doorways and chinks in the concrete a play of light and shadow.
- The shadow forms of moths refer to the silk route--with wind and solar powered light and shadow pointing to the future of trade: the solar route.

## **Our process**

- Georgia Tech University agreed to supply a wind and solar turbine as they were developing a special model.
- Experimenting with lighting effects, a yellow gel heightened the reference to "solar".
- We produced a flag printed with images of the moths in the Tbilisi silk museum.
- We created mobiles of moth shapes with laser cut acrylic and motors powered by sun and wind.
- The openings of the main side of the building were covered on the inside in white building plastic. Shadows were created by LED lights covered by yellow gel behind the spinning moth mobiles.
- A string of LED lights lured viewers to the back side of the building. The doors of three of the rooms were cracked open—continuing with elusive moths in motion.
- A fourth room contained a two and a half meter cocoon bathed in purple light with a sound piece. Viewers saw the gigantic cocoon swaying in the purple night air to the sound of the wind blowing.
- Each day began and finished with trips to the Tbilisi building market and the Gori hardware store for our art supplies. We were regulars.
- A young local filmmaker Ana Barjadze followed our process and together we edited the video as a "trailer" for the exhibition in Gallery Artarea in Tbilisi. The video used the style of news programs with scrolling text, documentary fotos. We wrote the texts in Wato's vintage Mercedes driven by the cool and silent Ilia at 150 kil. per hour back and forth to Gori each day.
- The exhibition "Walk the Solar Carpet" featured an eight meter long bright yellow carpet promenade up to the video, flanked by our drawings. At the opposite end of the space custom-made vitrines displayed our research, field work findings and paraphernalia.

Research trips: April 25-29 and July 17 – 26, 2018

Installation Gori and Tbilisi: September 25-October 6, 2018



2.3.4. - 5.6.













8.9. - 10.









11.12.13 - 14.



Let the input begin. We start our solar powered engines in light that has never seen the light.

Gori, the birthplace of Josef Stalin, is now being developed for new power sources, for renewable energy solutions solar and wind power.

NEW POWER TV brings you...

B R E A K I N G N E W S... Metamorphosis of Power is everywhere... Electric transformer station becomes renewable energy celebration....

All invited to Walk The Solar Carpet.

From ancient solar temples to now, we are all east west north south solar bodies, heating and tanning in the sun.

Now we have solar and wind power machines. Tanning salons and really really alot of very tanning salons.

The sun still shines on and off over 100 new solar routes being built, and everyone with a sun roof and solar upholstery

NEW POWER TV learns about....

P L A N A.....

Moths come from the silk route attracted to the sun.

Where is the new power route today?

All bumpy roads lead to The Butterfly VIP room. The route of trade and exchange, secrets and knowledge...the route of under the sun experiences...taking place in Solar Class.

MEANWHILE back to the Solar Route.....

P L A N B.....

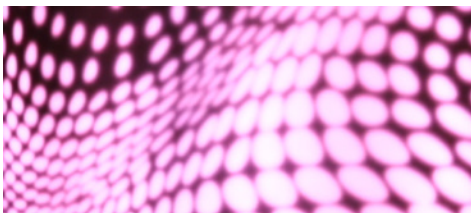
Buildings can be sun temples with solar panels.

We have on and off power.

We have 600 RPM omni directional wind catchers.

We have kilowatts and megahertz galore.

WHAT WILL BE THE  
OUTPUT ???



THE METAMORPHOSIS OF POWER IS EVERYWHERE











The journey, the dialogue, between Gothenburg and Tbilisi started in 2002, when a group of cultural workers from Georgia visited Sweden to establish partnerships with the support of the Swedish Institute.

Meeting Leslie Johnson and Josefina Posch had crucial value for this cooperation. The contribution of Leslie and Josefina to the 3rd Tbilisi Triennial was indeed a very important project. It was especially valuable regarding regional development and rethinking regions of Georgia in a new, environmental and creative perspective.

"The Metamorphosis of Power" and "Walk the Solar Carpet" created dynamics in the city that is stigmatized and searching for a new identity. CCA Tbilisi is very grateful for these artworks and we do hope that this dialogue will create many more opportunities between Sweden and Georgia.

Wato Tsereteli



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