IRWIN IN BUDAPEST

It was my personal obsession for many years to work with the group IRWIN in Budapest. Actually, we have been planning for two years now this new, huge installation which is, in a way, a synthesis of their work as a group.

The installation, called "Interior of the Planit", is perhaps the first work of art in this post-totalitarian interior of the Ludwig Museum Budapest which works well here. Without being too political we can say that there is a coincidence between the activity of the IRWIN group and the transformation of the former Royal Palace (wing 'A'), which was later transformed into the Museum of the Workers' Movement, then into the Museum of Contemporary History and finally into a Museum of Modern Art; this coincidence demonstrates, in a way, these shifts of meaning. The IRWIN installation was literally designed for that space, therefore the message of their three units and the message of the architecture were in a perfect accordance.

The work of IRWIN has many levels to be interpreted and analyzed: the topics touched by them are very near to our cultural and political history. The notion of the different totalitarian systems, the strong presence of the religious symbols and the Central European petit-bourgeois kitsch have formed our visual perception and our environment in this region in a similar way. The other important issue, the legacy of Constructivism, more precisely, the great Russian master, Kasimir Malevich, was and still is very important from the moral point of view. This beautiful utopia about art as a positive power in transforming the society was the vehicle of hope for many progressive artists and Constructivism was a manifestation of the new aesthetics as well as a moral resistance for them.

The three units of the IRWIN project - the Interior of the Planit, the Heart of the Transcentrala and the vehicle connecting them - are a statement about the NSK State, this virtual, beautiful fiction of a new type of society designed by artists.

Some people posses a passport of this state (which even works in some cases) and I do believe that many of us would like to be its citizens!

Katalin Néray
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