

## Bul Fiction

a project for Istanbul – concept

### Short Concept:

Istanbul, the city that connects two continents, full of history, appears to us as a giant amount of social and urbanistic foam. An uncountable number of different cultures, stories, ways of life, philosophical thoughts and ideas meet in Istanbul. Hardly any other city is so diverse and full of contrast like that city at the Bosphorus. Hardly any other city is as difficult to capture as Istanbul – too much for a foreigner's simple interpretation.

Istanbul can be compared with a film or a social novel which uses different characters, each to represent a single idea. Therefore it appears to us that Istanbul is the perfect place for an interdisciplinary workshop focusing on architecture, urbanity and film.

Honey & bunny feel that Istanbul is the city of the future. And we want to furthermore explore this feeling, this notion with students of two different faculties. It is our urge to interpret Istanbul, together with those young creatives, as it is today and at the same time generate a vision for the year 2056. We want to make the students think different about Istanbul and we want to teach them carefully in doing a conceptual project about their city.

At the same time it is the inspirational basis for an experimental feature film.

The second step, after this intensive workshop is then to bring an experimental, longplay film named "bul fiction" into being. This feature film is meant to be a cooperation with Halit Refig, shot in Istanbul and Vienna, and to build a cultural bridge between Bosphorus and Danube.

## The workshop

### Background Information:

Urbanity, as understood by honey & bunny, stands for one of the most important topics of our time and for the future of social co-existence. During our study visit to London and our working stay in Tokyo we have already been doing research on urban development and creating new thoughts on sociology, economical studies, philosophy, natural sciences (mainly looking at biological and technical developments) and of course architecture and film.

Honey & bunny productions understand themselves as an interdisciplinary group of artists that generate different ideas circling around urbanity and its features, and transforms them into pieces of art to present those to the public. Just recently our visions on “mobility and emotion” were shown by the Viennese institution “Kulturaxe” and our experimental film production “future urban organism” was screened in various European cities.

A visit to Istanbul in December 2002 caused a feeling that this metropolis will play a leading role in further development of urban space. Our last stay in Istanbul in Dember 2005 enriched our thoughts which lead to a first interpretation: As a whole lot of different cultures and mentalities, sociologies, expectations and conflicts, different kinds of architecture etc. meet at the Bosphorus, Istanbul can metaphorically be compared with foam or a glasse of champagne. We claim that this urban foam is a necessity for social-urban evoltuion, hence indispensable for the evolution of a city. Evolution is always a result of conflicts; conflicts which come into being by different bubbles hitting each other and thus paving the way for future urban developments.

We will use this quality for a new interpretation of urban space. As the moving picture is in this case the best means to visualise the phenomenon of urban foam, we choose the medium film to be our instrument of interpretation. Further reasons are:

- Film allows, with the help of using different characters, a differentiation of single social or cultural bubbles. These can, in a crystalline way, symbolise ideas, cultural backgrounds and mentalities.
- Film offers the chance to work both documenting as well as artistically interpreting, and furthermore to visualise visions.
- Film, as a moving image, can capture the permanent movement and the unbelievable plurality of Istanbul and bring it together as an artistic project.

Not only the evolutionary chances of Istanbul and its contrasts fascinate us, but also society's way of dealing with the past and the future at the Bosphorus is extraordinary and a driving force for new goals. Hardly any other European city is as historically significant as Istanbul. Although cultural heritage from different epochs can be found everywhere, Istanbul's inhabitants live in co-existence with those relicts instead of leaving them to the pure decadence of conserving them. Old masonry is being used as living space and not disabused as a museum or a touristy sight like in central Europe. Istanbul's eye doesn't scrutinise the so-called "advanced civilisations of the past" but looks into the future. Istanbul's cultural intentions target the future. We want to pick up these thoughts concerning the future and generate a vision for Istanbul 2056.

As inhabitants of Vienna we are aware of the fact that our point of view will always be that of a foreigner. Like Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq or Le Corbusier we can only watch, feel and describe. We stand for the eye of the other (alternativ: the audience). For this reason we want to cooperate with Turkish students as a first step to increase our awareness of Istanbul and to propose cultural dialogue as an answer to the foreigner's report.

#### Goals:

- The main goal of the intensive workshop is the student's interpretation of Istanbul, as well as a visionary discourse about Istanbul 2056.
- To establish interdisciplinary teams with students of different faculties in Istanbul (architecture and urban planning). This progress is meant to increase the students' awareness of urbanity and to offer diversifying artistic concepts.
- The presentation of the project in Istanbul and Vienna.
- The creation of a basis for an experimental feature film on the future of urbanity. This feature film shall be shot in Istanbul and Vienna being an artistic cooperation between Halit Refig and honey & bunny.
- To build a bridge of cultural cooperation between Istanbul and Vienna.

## Method:

- Students of the universities mentioned above will have the task to form interdisciplinary teams.
- Honey & bunny will develop and write a feature film script on the fictitious experiences of a foreigner staying in Istanbul (an architect). The foreigner visits the metropolis at the Bosphorus and meets different characters who represent the city's characteristics and mentalities. At the end honey & bunny will connect each character with a significant catchword like intimacy, criminality, trade or faith. These catchwords will again serve as a metaphor for the bubbles mentioned above.
- Each team of students will be confronted with one catchword, which will be decided by casting lots.
- Each team of students has to find a location in Istanbul which represents the team's catchword and to shoot a five minute short film at the very location. The main attribute of the cinematographic working progress is the location, especially by describing and interpreting its architecture. These short films must explain why the location is suitable for symbolising the catchword.
- Those short films provide a basis for the students' developments of visions for the year 2056. Each team creates a scenario for 2056: What will the chosen location look like in fifty years? How will Istanbul deal with the specific catchword in fifty years? Will the catchword be of any importance at all? The students will create an urban scenario on the basis of physical models. Within 7 days, they create a concept for the urban future and build models about their ideas. These models are able to be used as a "film set".
- During 2 days a professional cameraman (maybe a good student from a film faculty) will shoot the models together with honey & bunny and the students. The students should learn, how to use light and camera. The students should work as directors to learn how to organize a film set and how to work together with different professions.
- According to the original script by honey & bunny those single short films will again be edited to be presented in Istanbul and Vienna.

Keywords:

- Intimicy
- Fear
- Trade
- Foreigner
- Faith
- Transit
- Crime
- Heritage
- Tradition
- Sexuality
- Revolution
- Risk