

DEFINING GLOBAL ART

For the first time in the history of art we are witnessing the emerging phenomenon of global art. I perceive it as the result of development of global communication tools such as internet and electronic medium, which stimulate communication between artists, interdisciplinary knowledge exchange, raise awareness of global issues, and provide tools to reach global audience. The process will continue and thanks to open source tools the access to global art either as a creator or receiver will be continuously growing.

How to define global art? I would suggest the following definition: it is the art directed to global audience, disseminated via global communication tools and whose topic has global dimension. None of the above elements can exist without the other and none of them can exist without networking or grid-way thinking.

The question to be answered is whether there should be any limitation concerning the creator and whether an artwork is a necessary result of the creation process? The 'Global Art Project' coordinated by Katherine Josten for example, is created by 'people of all ages and from all around the world who create a work of art expressing their vision of global unity. Global Art Project then organizes an international exchange by matching participants group-to-group and individual-to-individual' Although it is an **art project** the artists are general public and there is no **art work** as such. Is it then an example of global art?

Global Art phenomenon reflects the moment of deep transformation of our planet - for the first time we, humans are facing global threats such as climatic changes, energy resources problem, food production and epidemics. Till now, several problems could have been solved on a national, tribal or individual level. We still need to learn how to operate on a global level and how to introduce global changes. It has become possible now, through communication, cooperation and easy distribution of information. It does not mean that the above, most often quoted 'global topics' would be relevant in art. It is rather the new context, the range / scale of problems and the growing awareness of us as a species that are key to determine topics of Global Art. The new context and possibilities forces us to think about human beings as active participants of the universe. Moreover, quoting Fred Alan Wolf: "Quantum physics says that you can't have a Universe without mind entering into it, and that mind is actually shaping the very thing that is being perceived." There is already a global projects that reflects that idea and uses the potential of cooperation of global (here called 'quantum') community. The Event Temple is a virtual temple where participants perform energetic transfers to pre-selected crisis points throughout the globe.

I don't know any art project equally ambitious in its scope, but paradoxically technology does not keep pace with the creativity of human mind. Visually sophisticated, interdisciplinary and particularly interactive projects pose technical problem.

European collaborative projects, including the 'Mobility-Re-reading of the Future' presented in Lisbon focus on stimulating the exchange of ideas, mobility of artists and artworks, and could be a strong starting point towards Global Art projects. As I mentioned before, we need to learn to operate on global level, which often demands from artists stronger flexibility, deeper collaboration and balance between the individual and the universal.

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