

The artistic-research project “Walking&Talking Tbilisi – Alternative Routes and Stories” is an investigation of the public space of Tbilisi through individual narratives.

The method was to accompany inhabitants of various parts of Tbilisi during their everyday ways through town. Their paths were the initial points for talking about their routes and routines of life within Tbilisi.

The talking articulates the consequences of urban transformation processes (because of political and socio-economic changes) and their effects to the vita of the inhabitants. The transformation of the city generates the transformation of the subjects living in it and changes the relation between subject and city.

“Walking&Talking Tbilisi – Alternative Routes and Stories” are Subjective Cartographies which visualize the walks&talks and show the individual way of each person as well as the stories told and references. These “Subjective Cartographies” can be used as alternative guides through the city apart from common guidebooks and extend the radius of knowledge as well as the physical movement. They communicate the knowledge of the inhabitants and give an impression of the “hidden” town of everyday life conditions for both, visitors and other inhabitants.

Get new perspectives on Tbilisi and inspired to walk alternative routes through town and maybe rediscover it new.

respond & suggestions: raum@veronikabarnas.net, info@geoair.com

The information on the map is based on the personal narratives of the participant.

The project is implemented during Veronika Barnaš's residency stay at GeoAIR with financial support of

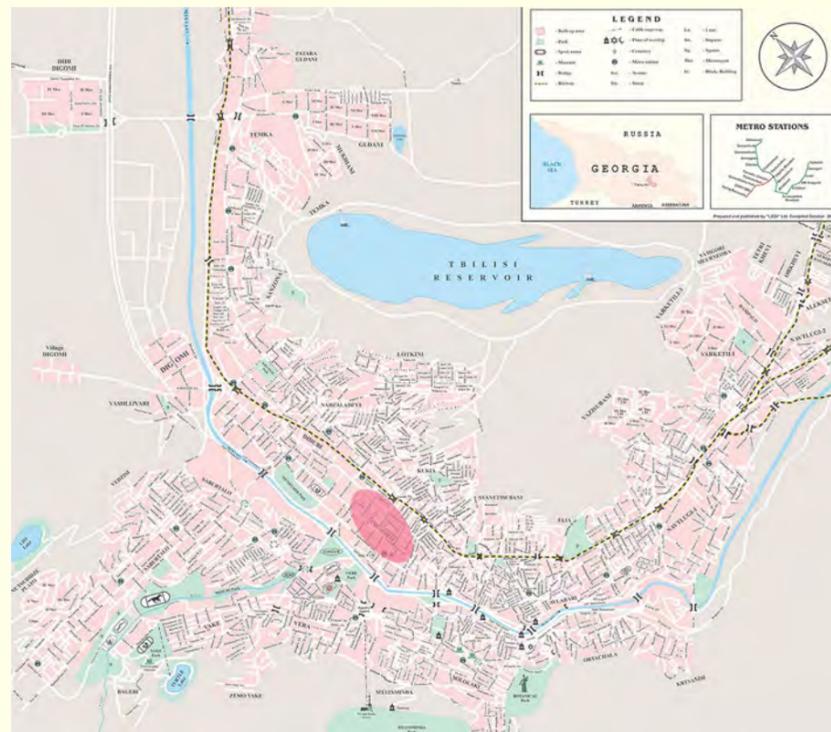
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WALKING & TALKING T B I L I S I

Alternative Routes and Stories - III/XIII, 09.15



TAMARA



Veronika Barnaš lives and works as a freelance artist, curator and artistic project developer in Vienna (A) and teaches at the University of Arts and Design, Linz (A). The mode of her artistic work largely involves research, crosses genres and is space-specific. Visual art, literature and theater form a productive relationship in this. The works range from staging and stage sets to installations all the way to mappings of complex (especially spatial, historical and biographical) conjunctions, whereby space in all its most diverse meanings and dimensions represents the overall context. Eg. “Subjective Cartographies from Israel”, “Far?From where?”, “unORTnung I-VI” and several theater productions.

www.veronikabarnas.net

GeoAIR organises and supports international exchange projects bringing together artists and curators from different cultural backgrounds and finding relevant contexts for them to work in. GeoAIR team has been intensively working on developing contemporary art activities dealing with urgent issues. GeoAIR constantly develops their activities to be more research-based, inclusive and engaged in the specificity of given environment. A fundamental part of GeoAIR programs is the interaction with the public. In their interdisciplinary curatorial projects priority is given to socially engaged projects in which through close collaboration of local artists, audiences and communities they share experiences and ideas.

www.geoair.ge

Tamara, 42
Chubinashvili St. 68 - David Aghmashenebeli Ave. 75
(French Institute in Georgia)

Photographer, grew up in Vake and spent several years abroad, mainly in Spain and the USA. Her recent project is to research extraordinary graves, which she is fascinated by. She likes to walk through the area and explore "her" district when she has to go to the French Institute for French classes she is attending. Every time she gets aware of the things that she has not seen before or that have changed - to the better or the worse.



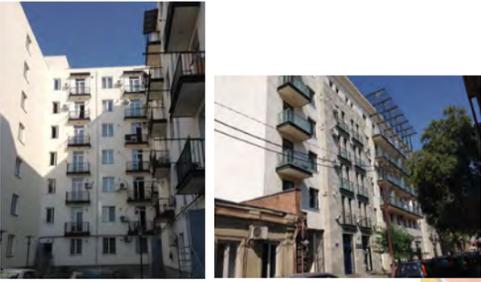
Communal Services/Atelier (Soviet Times): was a popular place to let things be done or to be repaired (watches, cloths, shoes), hairdresser etc.. Seats, a lot of tools and some workers are still from Soviet times - some spirit is still left, but it changes daily. Tailors are like one family, with different nationalities - Armenians, Russians, Ukrainians - that was Tbilisi's spirit in old times, but it gets less and less.



Louisa is Tamara's hero and she wants to make reportage about her. Louisa designed women dresses during Soviet times and was quite successful and well known in those days. She works at this place for fifty years.



Glass selling/recycling - Tamara always sees the guy here working very hard, so she gives him her glass for free every time. There is no official recycling in Georgia. Sometimes she still finds typical glasses produced in Soviet times here.



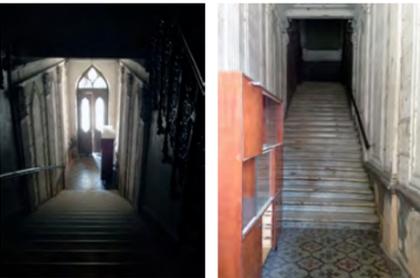
Chubinashvili St. 68 - The building was built only two years ago. It is a gated community - the first one in this area. Tamara does not really like the building; it is too new and sterile for her taste and she hopes to move away soon. (see Map of Levan)



One of the last public baths that is still in use. There used to be a lot like these all over the city. One hour for one bathroom is 5 Georgian Lari. Also if more people in a group are using the bathroom.



A driving school and a market, which used to be a big bazaar once.



The front side of the former bazaar.



Tamara guesses that this house once belonged to one family. She loves the staircase, especially the old tiles of the floor.



Old warning on the Electricity box - still from the Soviet Times in Georgian and Russian.



She often looks into the typical Italian yards, which exist a lot in this area, to see what changes and if she can find a photo motive.



Tamara says, that this is the area of second hand shops. Most clothes here are brought from the USA every three month and sold very cheap; even designer brands.

Memorial House of Ilia Chavchavadze - Tamara thinks, that it is a shame that it is closed and no information about the opening hours is provided at the entrance. She mentions, that he was one of the main figures of Georgia's modernization.
 Ed. Note: Addr.: G. Chubinashvili St. 22. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 - 17.00.
 Ilia Chavchavadze (1837-1907) was a Georgian politician, lawyer, journalist, writer and poet who spearheaded the revival of the Georgian national movement in the second half of the 19th century, during the Russian rule of Georgia. Today he is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of modern Georgia. He was the founder and editor of the newspaper "Iveria" (Iberia). He briefly acted as a literary mentor to young Joseph Stalin (an Orthodox seminarian back then) and exited published Stalin's poems. There are still speculations about his murdering in 1907, for example if Stalin was involved or not.



A typical Georgian bakery, where she likes to buy bread, as they are making it still in the old way.
 Ed. Note: Shotis puri is a type of Georgian bread (puri), baked in a specific, deep circular oven called a tone. Each piece of dough is stretched onto a special linen covered pad. Using the pad, the baker leans into the very hot tone and presses the dough firmly against the tone wall. If it is not pressed firmly it will fall off. Removing the bread requires considerable skill.



Tailors, originally from Abkhazia, where Tamara often drops by. She is happy for them as they just renovated their workshop.



Old Soviet time bakery (next to a former backing factory) with a scale from that time and enamel picture on the wall.



Tamara wonders, why it is not allowed to bring candles from outside to the church, as it is written on the poster, as god would not care where the candles are from.



Former Medical Centre - there is an old mirror inside and she wonders what will happen with it, as she would really like to have it.



Memorial House of the writer Shio Aragvispili (1867-1926) who lived here.
 Ed. Note: Addr.: G. Chubinashvili St. 13.
 Aragvispili is called a master of short stories. Their main subjects are the moral degeneration of tsarist officials and the influence of bourgeois morality on the family, on man's spiritual life and the struggle between individual happiness and social dogmas. He was penalized for revolutionary activities.

