



Window

BACTRIA Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

APRIL 2008

WHERE
CREATIVITY
MEETS PEOPLE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 5 April
Classical Concert
(15:00)
- 13 April
Rock n' Roll Day
- 18 April
Hayam Readings
(18:00)
- 22 April
Exhibition Opening
(18:00)
- 26 April
Classical Concert
(15:00)

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Message on the Board from Georgy

Considering the link between culture, social cohesion and conflict prevention, ACTED implements cultural activities by setting up and supporting cultural centres, which have the following priorities. They contribute to the development of a community's identity; democratize access to information, culture and education; sustain cultural and artistic talent; and address socio-economic needs of marginalized people.

Recognizing the above mentioned needs and the low number of cultural initiatives in Dushanbe and in Tajikistan in general, BACTRIA is striving to create opportunities to support the arts and culture on a variety of fields and levels. As a non-profit entity it provides a venue for artists to exhibit or perform, which is a chance for the talented to express their creativity, free of the boundaries of formal institutions and the demands of the marketplace. Furthermore, the centre encourages the young and adventurous to experiment in all forms of art, by announcing an open call for artists and students to create their own exhibitions and by providing guidance in art processes. In April, besides the lectures on curatorship, the centre extends its support to journalists by offering a five-day seminar series on art criticism, especially concerning contemporary art. Individual development of artists, their openness to address modern day problems in a contemporary way, not only elevates the level of artistic creativity, but also contributes to the development of a sense of identity,

self-esteem and the core values of a community.

BACTRIA also recognizes that cultural projects can bring economic benefits for artists, in terms of jobs and income generating potential; therefore it aspires to provide opportunities to artists, where their talent is financially rewarded. Through support from foundations, participating performers in the summer concert series at Gurminj Museum, where individuality and quality is the first criteria, are monetarily rewarded. In collaboration with other entities, BACTRIA takes part in the capacity building project for handicraftsmen, through the organization of semi-annual handicrafts fairs. In addition to the opportunity for income generation, handicraftsmen will also benefit from marketing seminars, conducted by experts from CACSA, the leading handicrafts organization in Central Asia. Acquiring the knowledge and necessity for marketing helps handicraftsmen to understand the needs of their customers in terms of quality, consistency and techniques. In Tajikistan at present, the business of handicrafts has not yet been developed; it remains a potential that is waiting to be exploited. BACTRIA's doors are also open for artists, with entrepreneurial aspirations, that can include but are not limited to conducting classes (visual arts, performing arts, design, music...) or offering any types of artistic/cultural services to the public. In this issue of the newsletter, we are introducing our regular art classes for

children, held by a local artist.

"Globalisation or the removal of barriers to free trade has resulted in the opening of local economies to competition from foreign cultural industries producing films, books and music. There is a risk that the activities of local cultural industries might decrease or simply cease to exist, resulting in a loss of work for local cultural actors but also with major consequences in terms of local cultural identity and social cohesion."

To counteract the situation described above, BACTRIA encourages the development of creative industries, starting with the music sphere. To raise the standards and variety in music, BACTRIA fosters exploration in "world music", which combines rich cultural heritages with contemporary elements. Recognizing the global need for quality music from various ethnic backgrounds, BACTRIA encouraged the formation of new musical groups and supported their promotion by securing opportunities to perform outside Tajikistan. One of the upcoming musical venues is the Bishkek Jazz Festival in April, which provides opportunity for experimental jazz and folk music.

Georgy Mamedov
BCC Program Director

1. http://arcade.acted.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=82&Itemid=10

Nostalgic Exhibition: LENIN & ART

The month of April, will be colored red in the Soviet ideological calendar, due to two significant and noted dates – the day of cosmonauts (12th April) and the birthday of V.I. Lenin (22nd April). Today these dates mean little to us – citizens of Tajikistan are far from the problems of space discovery and the possibilities of flying to the Moon or the Mars, but the birthday of the leader of the world's Proletariat is commemorated by ardent supporters of the communist party and of Soviet system.

Furthermore it should be mentioned that Tajikistan this year finally and irrevocably parted from its Soviet past and from its main, maybe only

remaining, symbol in Dushanbe, by removing the Lenin statue from the central park, thanks to a major reconstruction.

Statues of Lenin, bas-reliefs of Lenin, portraits of Lenin, busts of Lenin, large canvases depicting the leader of the revolution in different situations and even kundals with Lenin... Lenin, Lenin, Lenin as the main figure of the Soviet ideological art, which will be marked by the upcoming exhibition in Bactria Cultural Centre – "April Theses": LENIN and ART, an exhibition we deemed nostalgic. This exhibition is our attempt in the sea of other similar efforts in the past years across the former USSR, trying to

reinterpret the political and artistic reality, which has become a more and more distant memory, but at the same time continues to have an effect on the contemporary artistic scene.

"April Theses" is a manifestation about what soviet era art means; an integral part of our cultural heritage. Being limited by ideological frames and by state-ordered themes, artists expressed their talent and high quality mastery in ideologically defined works of art and at the same time did not sacrifice their artistic values.

Bactria_ArtVision

APPLICATION
REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must include:

A, title of the proposed exhibition,
B, exhibition concept,
C, artists/artworks included,
D, support materials (photos of
works, bibliographies of participat-
ing artists),
E, suggested layout of objects/
works of arts,
F, space and technical require-
ments.

Please also include the name(s) of
applicant and contact information.

All interested applicants are re-
quired to visit and know the physi-
cal gallery space.

Proposals must be e-mailed or
dropped off to BACTRIA no later
than **June 1, 2008**

If you do have any questions,
e-mail: jashed.kholikov@acted.org
call 227-03-69
or stop by at BACTRIA during office
hours 9:00 -12:00; 13:00 -17:00.



Stir the water! Open call for artists and students!

Bactria_ArtVision

In response to the overall cul-
tural situation in Tajikistan and
following artistic trends in the
world, Bactria Cultural Center is
introducing a new concept of
exhibition development. In the
country, the expression of artis-
tic creativity is hindered by the
lack of cultural infrastructure,
like museums, non-profit art
spaces, and art collectors. Art-
ists tend to only produce art that
sells the most in for-profit galler-
ies and therefore creativity that
goes beyond the depiction of
beauty and ornaments finds few
outlets, like SDC's "Starter" and
"Parallel" program and some
private initiatives. To counteract
this situation, Bactria is offering

a venue and a service to artists
and art students, where their true
artistic talent is encouraged and
appreciated. The goal of the pro-
ject is to elicit ideas from inter-
ested parties, to generate debate
over the curatorial process and to
help artists/students act as cura-
tors working with the community.
BACTRIA invites artists or cura-
tors (individuals or groups) from
all levels of experience to submit
exhibition proposals for realiza-
tion on its premises. Proposals
must be original to BACTRIA and
may not have been realized in
other venues. We are particularly
interested in proposals, which
harness the space's potential,
take an innovative, experimental

approach to exhibition making
and/or are site responsive. The
Centre has many sites, like its
staircase, lobby, balconies,
courtyard which offer an interest-
ing challenge for artists to make
use of. Proposed exhibitions can
be solo or group and are open to
all visual arts media. BACTRIA
will review all submissions and
compile a shortlist. Additional
support materials (images etc.)
will be requested from applicants
of interest. All applicants will
be notified by the end of June,
2008.

Meet the Team - interview with Anna Ibragimova

Anna, how long have you been working at Bactria?

I started working at Bactria just
after it opened. I hadn't taught
French for few years, but the
first director of the centre,
Florentin Blanc, encouraged
me to start teaching again in
Bactria.

Over the past years, have you ever considered work- ing in other teaching cen- ters?

Not really because one of my
main character traits is to per-
severe and, in order to obtain
better results in French, Bac-
tria was the perfect place for
me as it provides easy access
to the French written press, to
the library and to the Delf/Dalf
programme. When I was
young I heard about this pro-
gramme and it really caught
my attention. Today, I have the
opportunity to experience this
program myself and prepare
the students for it. I do not
think I could have obtained
such results without stretching
myself.

**You gained first place in the
'Be trained in France' com-
petition organized during the
French Week in Bactria,
which means you will get a
chance to go to France to
complete a one month train-
ing in the 'Centre de Linguis-
tique Appliquée' of Besan-
çon. What advantages do
you think you will get from
your stay in France?**

For me it is essential to keep

improving my level in French but,
unfortunately, in Russia and Tajiki-
stan, it isn't easy to find profes-
sional trainings whereas in France
I think that the teachers will be
able to provide me with good work-
ing tools.

Since 2006 Bactria has been closely working with schools in the Khatlon Region that teach French. Having worked on this project since its inception, you know it very well. In your opin- ion, what makes this project interesting?

If you consider the French lan-
guage as a means to accessing
culture, then I think it is a very
interesting project but, currently,
it is only just starting and I think
we need to wait little longer to get
to see the results. In any case I
think it is important that some-
one starts initiating changes other-
wise there is no 'hope'. What is
going on in the regions is incred-
ible and by the simple fact of sup-
plying these schools with teaching
materials and audio materials al-
lows them to listen to French mu-
sic, and this already represents
something important for the peo-
ple working in this region. On top
of that, the teachers from Khatlon
who participated in the seminar
organized by Bactria in March for
all Tajik French teachers will be
able to tell their students about
the possibilities of being able to
go to study to France one day and
this is a great motivation for their
students.

**It seems like English and Ger-
man languages have assumed a**

much greater importance than French over the past few years. How do you perceive the evolution of French lan- guage teaching in Tajikistan and what advice would you give to the Bactria pedagogical team to avoid the French lan- guage completely disap- pearing in the country?

Since I arrived in Dushanbe in
1999, I would overall describe a
positive evolution; if I compare
the results of the students in
2002 with my current students
there is an obvious progression.
Students are much more inter-
ested as they realize that there
are some possibilities to go to
France and some employment
opportunities, especially on the
French military base. I think that
nowadays, on the contrary, there
is little chance that the French
language will disappear in Tajiki-
stan. In order to make sure that
this does not happen, I think that
the most important thing is to
work in close collaboration with
the Minister of Education be-
cause in the eyes of the Tajik
population real changes and
progress first happen at the local
authorities' level.

Interview by Marielle Dupont

Odd birds on the screen

The overall theme title for the April film selection at BACTRIA is "Island" after the movie with the same title. The common element in these films is the fate of the main characters, "the odd birds," who while striving to keep their inner world, consequently fall into dramatic and sometimes tragic relationships with reality.

APRIL PROGRAM:

Apr. 3. Thursday, 18.00

The Moslem

Director: Vladimir Khotinenko
Language: Russian

Apr. 10. Thursday, 18.00

Assa

Director: Sergei Solovyov
Language: Russian

CinemArt

Apr. 17. Thursday, 18.00

Island

Director: Pavel Lungin
Language: Russian

Apr. 24. Thursday, 18.00

Life is a Miracle

Director: Emir Kusturica
Language: Russian

Curatorial and Art Criticism Seminars

Bactria_ArtEdu

In order to further promote contemporary art media among Tajik artists and to establish a foundation for curatorial work and art criticism of contemporary art in Tajikistan, Bactria Cultural Centre is organising three separate workshops on three topics: contemporary art media (video art), curatorial work and art criticism. Public lectures on the topic of curatorial processes in contemporary art and on art history (from modernism to post-modernism) are open to everyone.

Thanks to the support of organizations like the Open Society Institute (OSI) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Tajikistan has seen significant growth in contemporary art projects in recent years. Though the quality of these projects in artistic terms is very high, their value has not been recognized by professional art critics or journalists. This is largely because contemporary art is still new to art theorists in Tajikistan.

In contrast, in other Central Asian countries, like Kazakhstan, there are a number of art critics and art journalists writing articles about contemporary art for mass media and special editions which has created a positive and dynamic art scene in these countries. This environment was achieved largely thanks to contemporary art events such as workshops and masterclasses, which were attended by art critics and journalists throughout the region.

Following their examples, two experts are invited from Kazakhstan, who will conduct both public lectures and workshops.
Oxana Shatalova: artist and art critic
Dastan Kozhahmetov: curator at Soros Center for Contemporary Art, Almaty

The project is supported by Open Society Institute, Tajikistan



PUBLIC LECTURES:

April 07.—08. Monday, Tuesday, 10:00 - 12:00

Public Lecture: Role of curator in the contemporary artistic process by Dastan Kozhahmetov

April 09. Wednesday, 10:00 - 12:00

Public Lecture on Art: Modernism by Oxana Shatalova

April 10. Thursday, 10:00 - 12:00

Public Lecture on Art: Dadaism by Oxana Shatalova

April 11. Friday, 10:00 - 12:00

Public Lecture on Art: Postmodernism by Oxana Shatalova

The project is supported by Open

Culture and Development - Art Classes at BACTRIA

Dilorom Shermatova, whose unique dried rose petals artworks are well known among both locals and expatriates, established her art class for children at Bactria. She is a trained artist with several years of experience in teaching. Her idea of creating an art class for children was well supported from the beginning and received help from many sources. The Art College for example generously donated her some old easels, which with a bit of fix-up, work just fine.

She conducts her classes 3 times a week Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 13:00-17:00.

When working with children she believes that attending to their individual needs and giving them

the freedom of choice benefits them the most. After observing each child's capabilities and talents she places them in the specific group that suits them the best. "Encourage each and every child to express their talents" is her motto. To develop interesting and tailored programs she creates her own curriculum and into it she integrates interactive and constructive teaching methodologies. She notes however, that children who are used to being told what and how to draw often find it too challenging to simply draw whatever they want. Overcoming these obstacles and finding ways to release the free spirit in children is an interesting and creative task for Dilorom. Offering these

needs- and capability- based, after-school classes she believes that she has found an area, which no one else is addressing. Whether or not it is a successful business, she cannot say quite yet. There is enough interest but still a lot that needs to be improved. She hopes to extend the number of classes and offer special classes, where parents and children can work together. In the meantime, in collaboration with Bactria, she has offered to show documentaries on arts and culture to parents while their children are in class. It is a great way to introduce more and more people to the world of arts and culture.

Adrienn Hruska

Upcoming events: Hayam Readings

BACTRIA is opening its doors to the great talent of Hayam in a series of readings. In the events that are dedicated to the poet, scientist and philosopher in one person, you can listen or read rubais from Omara and share your views and thoughts. Delve into the verses from the most popular poet of the East. We invite everyone who loves poetry, eastern philosophy or just simple spiritual talk.

April 18th, 18:00 in the library's reading room.

THE MAIN TOPIC OF APRIL COFFEE HOURS

"DISCOVER THE WORLD"

In this month's Coffee Hours participants learn about various countries through the eyes of the presenters, who have lived, worked or traveled for an extended period in these countries. Come and discover Canada, India, Chili, Peru and Hungary among the countries presented!

What's new on the bookshelf?

"Back in the USSR" Artemy Troitsky (in Russian)

The first edition of this book came out in London in 1987. Artemy Troitsky is the first critic and researcher of Soviet rock. As one of the organizers of the first legal concerts, the first rock clubs and rock festivals, he personally knew almost all the famous performers and authors of rock compositions. He was a witness and an immediate participant of the rock movement between the 60's and 80's in the USSR. The book is a valuable source of rock history and youth movement in general. This is the first attempt by a Soviet author to analyze the social revolution that started with the beginning of the Second World War. The book is written in a lively, sincere and interesting tone, abundant with details transmitting the soul of the era. It is

full of sympathy and love for those who one way or the other are connected to rock. It contains a large number of illustrations as well information on LPs, cassettes and films that were released at that time. The book is undoubtedly for those who are interested in rock music and in Soviet era history.

The entire collection of Lenin's and Stalin's works.

In the next decade we cannot expect the republishing of these works. However, Lenin and Stalin predetermined XX century history with their actions and ideas, and became the founders and prophets of a new quasi-religion. Understanding of modern day history is impossible without being familiar with the ideology of communism. Besides, the book gives an opportunity to sense the incandes-

Bactria_Bookshelf

cence of political war at the first half of the XX century, to trace the evolution of Lenin's and Stalin's viewpoints and to provide an interesting historical material. The works of Lenin and Stalin do not have equal values. Vladimir Lenin is a well educated, outstanding publicist and polemist, talented scholar and theorist of the revolution. His work is excellent food for the intellectual gourmet and for any political persuasion. Joseph Visarionovich is not as great of a theorist as a pragmatist. The works are attractive for those, who are interested in the history of the XX century, political scholars, politics and one's own roots.

All the books recommended here can be found in BACTRIA's library.

Coffee Hours

Deutscher Klub

am 1. April um 16.00
Film: „Walters letzter Gang“, (1988) Kinodebut vom Regisseur Christian Wagner
Diskussion über den Film

English Club

April 2. 4pm
'Discover Honduras'
Presentation by Max Baldwin - Children's Legal Centre Projects Manager

April 9. 4pm
'Discover California'
Presentation by Sarah Carrade-
ACTED Reporting Dpt. Manager

April 16. 4pm
'Discover India'
Presentation by Mr Sinha - In-

dian Ambassador in Tajikistan

April 23. 4pm
'Discover Canada'
Presentation by Peter McConaghy - Canadian citizen - Products Manager in The First Micro-FinanceBank

April 30. 4pm
'Discover Hungary'
Presentation by Adrienn Hruska - Hungarian citizen - Bactria Communication Dpt Assistant

Club Voltaire

le 3 avril à 16.00
'Découvre l'Afghanistan'
Présenté par Jean-François MORGANT – officier de la coopération civilo-militaire au Tadjikistan et ancien officier de la coopération civilo-militaire en Af-

ghanistan

le 10 avril à 16.00
'Découvre la Corée du Sud'
Présenté par Julien Mahuzier – stagiaire à OXUS

le 17 à 16.00
'Découvre le Chili'
Présenté par Antoine LEROY – stagiaire à ACTEDBCC

le 24 à 16.00
'Découvre le Pérou'
Présenté par Olivier CHATELAIS – Premier Conseiller de l'Ambassade de France au Tadjikistan

Bactria_Lingvo

Rock' n Roll!

The International Day of Rock' n Roll started its formal countdown on the 13th April, 1954 with the release of the song "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley, which radio stations immediately broadcasted and which consequently stayed on the top of the American charts for 8 weeks.

And what about today? Rock has gone beyond the framework of 50's rock. From a mix of country and blues it has developed in many directions, from light, danceable rock n' roll to brutal

and aggressive hardcore. The content also varies from light, casual to gloomy, deep and philosophical.

We could not leave such an important date in musical history like April 13th without attention; therefore Bactria Cultural Centre is organizing a rock festival with Tajik rock musicians, who perform in a wide range of styles. The main idea is that musicians should play their own compositions in Tajiki or Russian languages.

Along with the performances, a line of other events will be organized. First of all two books by Kide (from the musical group "Alice in Jeans") "The City of Monday" and "If Tomorrow there won't be a War" will be presented. In his books, the author talks about Tajik rock in the 80's and its development in the ensuing years. Finally movies directly connected to the idea of the festival will also be shown.

Sergej Chutkov,
Music Projects Coordinator

Bactria_Sound

Where is Feminine Art?

It would be bold to say that the exhibition "Art: Feminine Gender" was the first, where representatives of the "weaker sex" tried to present feminine art, which corresponds to contemporary tastes and approaches to art in general. Apple, which was chosen as the symbol of the exhibition was, already from ancient times, considered as the symbol of perfection and an emblem of God's gift. The success of the exhibition of accomplishing perfection should be determined by true judges of the arts.

Why was the exhibition attractive? First of all, the selection of the exhibition venue, which was not a studio, a gallery, or a museum was unique; it was just an ordinary basement. Descending below on the stairs with feelings of fear and cold, suddenly one finds himself in an artistic space, where the soul of female warmth reigns. The works of art are traditional and contemporary (paintings, graphics, kundal, embroidery, photo and video art, installations) and cater to many tastes. There is no limitation and direction among the selected works, especially concerning the quality of the contemporary materials.

The exhibition's atmosphere once again confirmed the idea that feminine art is made of tenderness and charm. Maybe this same belief was behind the idea of exhibiting the embroidery with silk thread and beads, "Flora and Fauna". The figure of the panther, like a symbol

of predatory feminism, flexible and gracious, is associated with the trivial vision of the women's figure. The work "Clown" is an interestingly eclectic batik work. From the picture the clown is cunningly looking at the viewers, while playing with his dolls, or possibly with the hearts of humanity. Take a look at the painting "Melody" and listen to the music of the soul.

While in the painting, "Night Butterfly" expresses feelings of inconstancy and frivols, in the artist's other work, the eyes of the young "Girl from Kulob" captivates the viewers. Her look speaks of her sincerity, openness and secretive sadness.

The work, "Faceless Slaves" emphasizes a gender problem and assigns an essential conceptuality to it. Next to the painting hung a newspaper article as a piece of information in reflection to and possibly as a comment to the artist's concept. "...In Tajikistan by far not all women awaits and loves the celebration on May 8th. Their rough and cracked hands have forgotten what it feels like holding flowers, it has been long time since someone had given them presents and they don't even expect them anymore...." (Asia-Plus, Number 10 (424)/ 6 March 2008, "This is not a feminine celebration")

In the elegant and extremely inventive collages "Fast Love" and "Came, saw and bought", the artist reveals the spiritual emptiness of modern society, where money decides everything.

The author of the works "Herbal

Woman", Spirit of Traditions" Moonlit Night" and "Kiskiack Homage" makes an attempt to search the realization of Native American cultural traditions.

Otherwise the exhibition appears bleak. In the background of some interesting works both in terms of technique and composition, others are simply lost.

One exposition of the exhibition suddenly brings viewers to a separate corridor, where a video of a girl putting on make-up was projected on the wall. Moreover, as if it is confirmed, that a new day brings new hopes and aspirations.

Impressions of the exhibition lead to the idea, that the role of female artists in our society demands radical changes. They mustn't be the ones who work on their graphics from 8 am till 6 pm and catch moments of inspiration in their dedicated state studio. A contemporary artist shouldn't be isolated from the arts and think only about his daily bread. His responsibility is to be an intellectual researching the problems of society. Living creatively means that one is capable of transforming set ideas about arts from a contemporary point of view.

Hope remains that some day we will have observers who not only watch but can also react to the present.

Mukaram Komilova



Curator's Talk

In connection with the exhibition Art: Feminine Gender, Bactria Cultural Centre organized the first public event, a meeting with the curator of the exhibition. The event gave an opportunity for both the exhibiting artists themselves and the general public to meet the curator and discuss the exhibition's successes and deficiencies and to learn about the curatorial process itself. The gathered participants actively shared their opinion about the exhibition. They all agreed that the curatorial objective of giving an

overall picture of feminine art in Tajikistan was successfully met. However, in the future curators must be encouraged to take up on greater challenges and to narrow down as well as to further specify their concepts. The exhibited artworks elicited various points of views in terms of their topics and quality. Some firmly believed that art created by women rightly focuses on topics like motherhood, love, beauty and are characterized by their decorative nature. Others have highlighted the lack of intel-

lectual debate in the artworks and demanded the increased depiction of contemporary issues. In the future the Bactria Cultural Centre is striving to offer a wider number of public events connected to its exhibitions, including educational programs for students, curators' talk, meet the artists, etc.

Adrienn Hruska

Bactria_ArtVision

Bactria_ArtEdu

Culture and development: Handicrafts Fair

Traditional arts and crafts play a viable role in the economic and cultural development of Central Asia. Crafts fairs are regularly organized throughout Central Asia, including a semi-annual crafts fair in Almaty, Kazakhstan and an annual Silk & Spices Festival in Bukhara, Uzbekistan to boost the regional market as well as to attract foreign buyers. Nevertheless, major initiatives should be further developed in Tajikistan to involve more Tajik handcrafters in this regional network.

In order to increase the visibility of Tajik craftsmen and to develop regional links with Bactria Cultural Centre, the Central Asian Crafts Support Association (CACSA), a Kyr-

gыз NGO, and Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, in collaboration with the International Fund of Tajik Handicraft Producers, "Haft Paikar" is organizing a regional Handicrafts Fair involving more than 50 handcrafters from different countries of the Central Asia region.

Bactria Cultural Centre has been organizing Handicraft Fairs twice a year since 2003 but this year we would like to go beyond the strict scope of the exhibition of handicraft products and focus more on the development of a regional handcrafters' network and on building the marketing capacity of Tajik handcrafters.

Following a three day exhibition/sale in Kohi Vahdat in

Dushanbe, a day long marketing training will be conducted by a marketing expert from CACSA. This training will focus on improving the quality of products through learning a range of techniques as well as address the marketing deficits of handcrafters and aim to raise awareness of the strategic importance of marketing and the economic benefits of a marketing plan. Documentaries on the trade of handicrafts and on other fairs, music from the countries that are represented in the fair, a concert and a fashion show will make the exhibition even more colourful.

**Exhibition/sale 19-20 April
Marketing training 21 April**

Haft Paikar

"Haft Paikar", led by fashion designer Mukarama A. Kayumova, has been working for 15 years to popularize and market national handicrafts. The NGO has built a data bank of people who produce national products, organize small workplaces and trainings for local communities, organize fairs and set quality standards. Trainings are for three months and enable participants to work at home independently. In general "Haft Paikar" has a four-step approach: 1. identify artisans, 2. establish cooperation with them, 3. improve standards, and 4. sell their

products. "Haft Paikar" works with groups all across the country, including Vanj, Jirgatal and Murghab (Yak House). In Vanj, caps and gloves from angora and kashmir wool are produced, in addition to beadwork. Beads from Afghanistan are bought on markets in one of the Free Economic Zones recently established in Khorog and Darvaz. Jirgatal produces 26 different products, mainly stockings and carpets. Ms. Kayumova also present carpets made of different kinds of furs such as rabbit and sheep, which have an attractive appearance and price. "Haft

Paikar" sells through its shop, by order, and through fairs throughout Central Asia. The best-selling articles are dresses, which are mainly ordered by state institutions for official events, and by upper class women. Through CACSA, "Haft Paikar" participates in international fairs and festivals but does not have regular customers abroad.

(patca.zerofive.co.uk/expert_reports/
Expert-Socio-Economic-Doempke-Pamir-
Alai-20008-01.doc)

April 15th, 15:00

The next Cultural Coordination Meeting is to be held on 15th of April, at 15:00 in **Bactria Cultural Centre**. The meeting's topic is "Contemporary Art of Central Asia (the insight vision)".

Presentation: Jamshed Kholikov
Oksana Shatalova

Cultural Window: Central Asian video art (participants of Venice Contemporary Art Biennale)



Cultural Coordination Meetings

Cultural coordination meetings were designed and launched as a project in 2003 by German Embassy, ACTED, and Swiss Cooperation Office as a tool for coordination and idea exchange for cultural operators of Tajikistan.

In 2008 Bactria Cultural Center retained this project and conducted the first meeting of the new project phase on 26th of February. The CCM group put together the key cultural players of Tajikistan: governmental organizations, local NGOs, International organizations, local and international foundations as well as donor institutions. The meeting provided a good forum

for all parties, who again became convinced that coordination, is a very important part of any activity and is indeed a key prerequisite for successful implementation of plans and designs.

BCC announced the official launch of the projects supported by such International organizations as Swiss Cooperation Office and Open Society Institute. It also presented previous projects implemented in close cooperation with several local and international organizations. Examples of this were such projects as "Pre-Islamic Heritage in the Contemporary Culture of Tajiki-

stan" (NGO "Restorers Without Borders", Behzod National Museum of Tajikistan, Bactria Cultural Center) and "Gurminj Live" (Gurminj Museum, NGO "Restorers Without Borders", Lu Edmonds, Bactria Cultural Centre).

All participants found the meeting very helpful because it provided them with forum for information exchange and making contacts, as well an opportunity to enjoy the Art_Подвал exhibition of Tajik avant-garde artists.

Des examens de DELF dans la région de Khatlon; une première au Tadjikistan

Depuis que le Centre Culturel Bactria a été agréé comme centre de passation pour les examens de DELF en 2002, 4 sessions d'examens ont été organisées avec au total 155 diplômés sur 221 inscrits qui ont pu évaluer leur niveau de français en fonction de critères fixés et reconnus à un niveau international.

Mais si les examens de DELF présentent un intérêt pour les étudiants pour améliorer et évaluer leur niveau de français, ils présentent également une réelle valeur ajoutée pour les professeurs car ils permettent non seulement une évaluation personnelle mais aussi la découverte de nouvelles méthodes d'apprentissage de la langue française axées sur l'interaction, la communication, l'échange d'opinions sur des thèmes d'actualité....

C'est donc pour donner une chance aux professeurs de français tadjiks de découvrir à leur tour les examens de DELF et l'intérêt que ces derniers peuvent représenter que, dans le cadre de la Semaine de la francophonie, Bactria a organisé un séminaire de préparation aux examens de DELF pour.....professeurs de français qui passeront ces examens au cours de la session de mai 2008.

Ce séminaire représente donc une avancée pour Bactria dans sa volonté d'apporter un réel soutien aux professeurs enseignant le français au Tadjikistan et ce d'autant plus que les participants comptaient 7 professeurs enseignant dans 5 écoles de la région de Khatlon. Si ces professeurs étaient présents c'est parce que, au fil des années, Bactria a pu approfondir sa connaissance du paysage éducatif tadjik et surtout développer des liens étroits avec les différents acteurs de ce domaine. Et c'est à travers ce travail de longue haleine que Bactria s'est rendu compte que l'enseignement du français n'était pas seulement une composante importante en capitale mais également en province. Ainsi, selon le Ministère de l'Education tadjik, il y aurait encore 44 professeurs

d'école enseignant le français au Tadjikistan dans 29 écoles secondaires et lorsque l'on sait que Douchanbé ne compte qu'une seule de ces écoles, on se rend rapidement compte de la nécessité de dépasser les frontières de la capitale pour pouvoir réellement comprendre la répartition géographique de l'enseignement du français et les zones géographiques dans lesquelles le corps enseignant nécessite un réel soutien pour pouvoir continuer à enseigner dans des conditions décentes.

Bactria a donc décidé de tenter de relever le défi d'un soutien à la langue française en dehors de Douchanbé puisque dès 2006 une coopération a été entamée entre Bactria et 5 écoles secondaires de Khatlon (districts de Khamadoni et Danghara) dans lesquelles la langue française est encore enseignée. Afin d'améliorer l'enseignement du français dans ces écoles, des fournitures scolaires et du matériel d'enseignement ont été distribués en fonction des besoins de chaque école et les professeurs ont suivi des séminaires de formation dans leurs propres écoles mais également au cours du séminaire de mars 2008. C'est en avril 2008 que Bactria pourra réellement évaluer les résultats de ce nouveau projet puisqu'une session d'examens de DELF sera organisée pour la première en dehors de Douchanbé pour les écoliers des écoles en question. De nouvelles écoles secondaires ont également été identifiées dans la région de Sughd et une partie de l'équipe pédagogique de Bactria effectuera une visite de terrain au début de l'été 2008 afin d'évaluer les besoins de ces dernières et les possibilités de développer une nouvelle coopération. L'identification de toutes ces écoles et l'extension des activités pédagogiques de Bactria en dehors de la capitale n'en est donc qu'à ses débuts mais apparaît désormais comme une étape indispensable si Bactria veut se donner les moyens de contribuer efficacement à la survie de l'enseignement de la langue française au Tadjikistan ; enseignement qui a trouvé ses racines au cours de la période soviétique, non seulement au Tadjikistan mais aussi dans tous les autres pays d'Asie Centrale, et qui représente une valeur ajoutée pour chacun de ces pays qui pourrait être vouée à disparition dans certaines régions du Tadjikistan si aucun effort de soutien n'est entrepris rapidement.

Bourse d'étude pour la France – appel à candidature

Avec le soutien de l'Ambassade de France au Tadjikistan, au cours du mois d'avril 2008, Bactria sélectionnera un candidat pour une bourse d'étude d'une année – année académique 2008/2009 – qui offrira la possibilité à un étudiant tadjik francophone de terminer ses études en France, niveau Master. Le but de cette démarche est d'ouvrir de nouvelles perspectives d'emploi à un étudiant dans la mesure où, après son retour de France, ce dernier aura acquis des compétences de traducteur professionnel ; compétences très recherchées au Tadjikistan.

Master de traduction professionnelle, domaines de spécialité
Master proposé par l'ITI-RI (Institut de Traducteurs, d'Interprètes et de Relations Internationales) de l'Université Marc Bloch de Strasbourg. Cette année d'études est consacrée à la traduction de textes spécialisés, essentiellement scientifiques, techniques et juridiques.

Pré-requis pour les candidats

- 4 années d'études universitaires, filière Langues Etrangères – spécialité français
- niveau oral et écrit excellent en russe et en français
- la connaissance d'une 3ème langue étrangère est un plus

Processus de sélection

Epreuves écrites de sélection - 14 avril 2008 – 15h00

Pour plus d'informations sur l'ITI-RI et sur ce Master, <http://www.itiri.com/>

Les candidats doivent adresser une demande d'inscription à bactria.education@acted.org - 227 02 57



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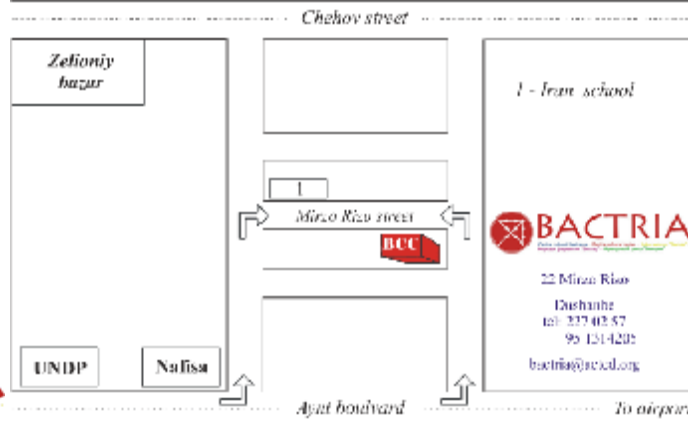
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