

JAN DOMS

2019
GYUMRI
ARMENIA

final performance: *fundaments on fire* - jan doms

MUSHTOPIA FESTIVAL IN MUSH

try out performance: *fundaments on fire* - jan doms

we like to thank

across: mkrtych tonoyan and family
across gymri branch: hrach vardanyan and family, karen barseghyan and family
emili aregak center gymri: tigranuhi akopyan, tamara vanoyan, vahan davtyansam
puppet theatre gymri named after stepan alikhanyan: armenuhi manukyan
yerevan state university of architecture and construction: armen shatvoryan
art academy gymri: vahagn ghukasyan
gwook gastro house gymri, hamlet gevorkian, georg gevorkian, family and staff
guest house gymri: hrach gyurjoghlyan and family
accea - npak yerevan: gagik ghasarez, gor yengoyan and staff

participants - artists and students

juliane schreiber, maryam zomorodian, olga doreva, ernst bonis, hrach vardanyan,
karen barseghyan, aleksey manukyan, artur karapetyan and friends, ani azaryan,
gayane papikyan, varazdat mkoyan, mamikon varderesyan and friends,
alex vartan gubbins, lilit petrosyan, hasmik tangyan, tiruhi tonoyan,
emma sargsyan, miqayel yeghoyan, davit ohanyan, lilit tadevosyan,
vahagn fereshetyan, ani khachatryan, nush petrosyan, suzan ghazar,
tamara kaghzvantsyan, vache azatyan, yunona kirakosyan, ofelya militosyan,
jeny gevorgyan, hranush gabrielyan, lilya tonoyan, liane nersisyan,
christine sargsyan, hovhannes kosthoyan.

colophon

text and layout: jan doms
translation dutch-english: jill bradley
photography: jan doms, vahan davtyansam, maryam zomorodian,
juliane schreiber, suren manvelyan
translation dutch / english: jill bradley
graphic design: jan doms
press: groels
publisher: lef
isbn: 978-90-8637-008-5

related publications:

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isbn: 978-9939-877-50-1
jan doms - sculpture architecture adventure
isbn: 978-90-8637-006-1



mush area | including area mushtopia festival (camera: vahan davtyansam)



research mush area with mirror: varazdat mkoyan



Signs of life - Maryam Zomorodian

The Mushtopia project, including the plan for realising the Mushtopia Festival (13/09 - 15/09) and the preliminary workshop for its creation, which took several days (02/09 - 13/09/2019), was first presented in the spring of 2019 to the students of the International Masters Performing Public Space - Fontys University Tilburg (NL).

Maryam Zomorodian from Iran was one of the students who visited the studio of Jan Doms for this introduction to Mushtopia and became inspired by Mush, the abandoned district of Gyumri. The district was once intended for the re-housing of inhabitants who had lost their homes in the great earthquake of 1988. More than thirty years later thousands of these inhabitants of Gyumri still live in emergency housing consisting of steel containers, called 'domiks' (Russian for tiny houses).

Since the departure of the Russian building contractors after the disintegration of the Soviet Union Mush has become a 'ghost town'. Enormous unfinished concrete structures are spread over the landscape. Many of these have been plundered of the steel reinforcement by those living in poverty and who manage to scrape together a scant income by selling the steel they take.

Maryam Zomorodian decided to participate in the Mushtopia project, carried out research and created various projects in the form of an installation with a hanging carpet and stringing threads of wool in the interior as a sign of life, time-lapse photography, gifs (graphics interchange format) and documentary photography.



maryam zomorodian - photo l.: stringing woolen threads mush | photo r.: interior 'domik' gyumri



DIVING INTO THE WRECK

..
There is a ladder
The ladder is always there
hanging innocently
close to the side of the schooner. We know
what it is for,
we who have used it.
Otherwise
it's a piece of maritime floss
some sundry equipment
I go down.
Rung after rung and still
the oxygen immerses me
the blue light
the clear atoms of our human air.
I go down.
My flippers cripple me,
I crawl like an insect down the ladder and there
is no one
to tell me when the ocean
will begin

..
A part of poem by Adrienne Rich (1972)



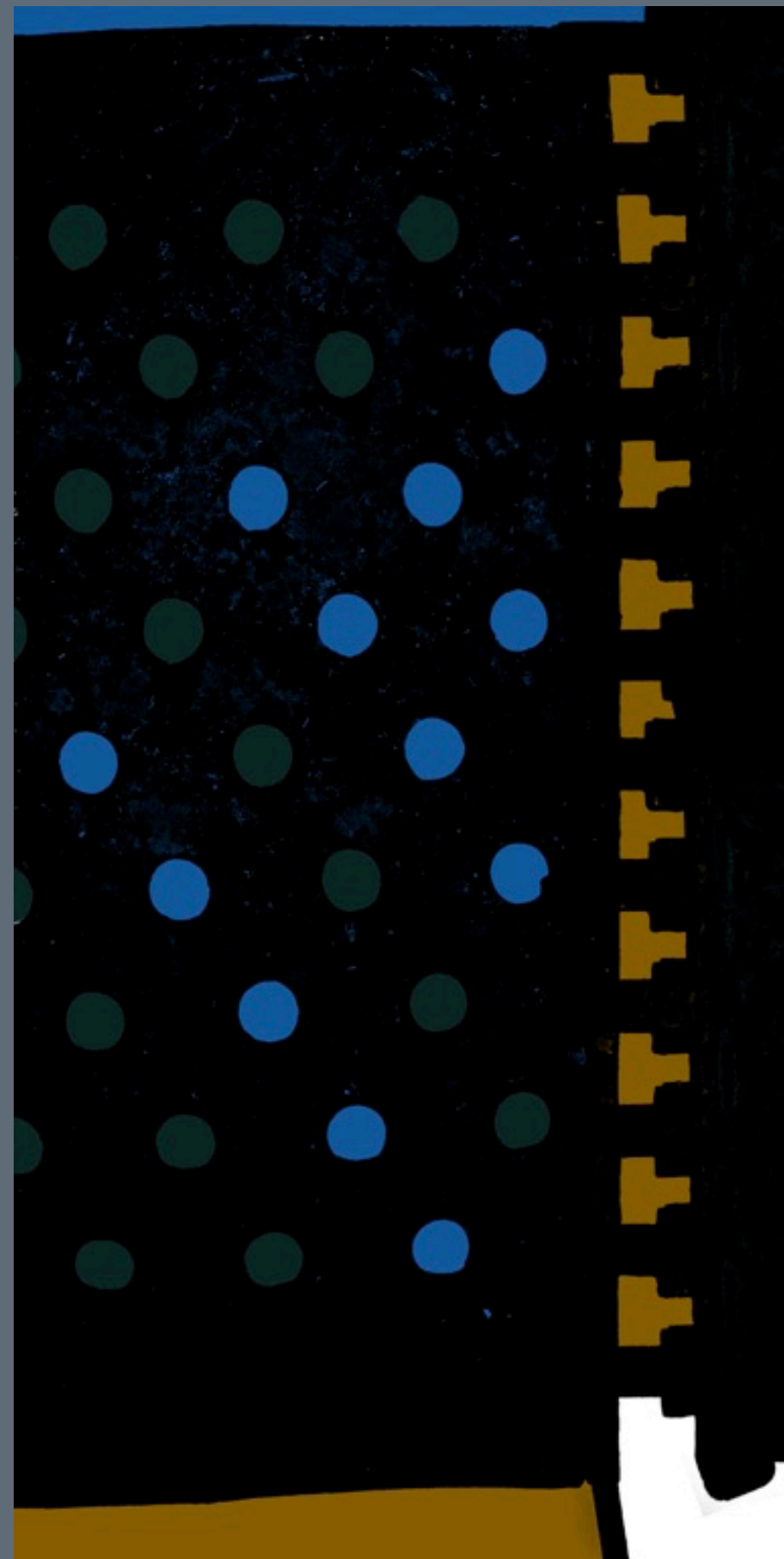
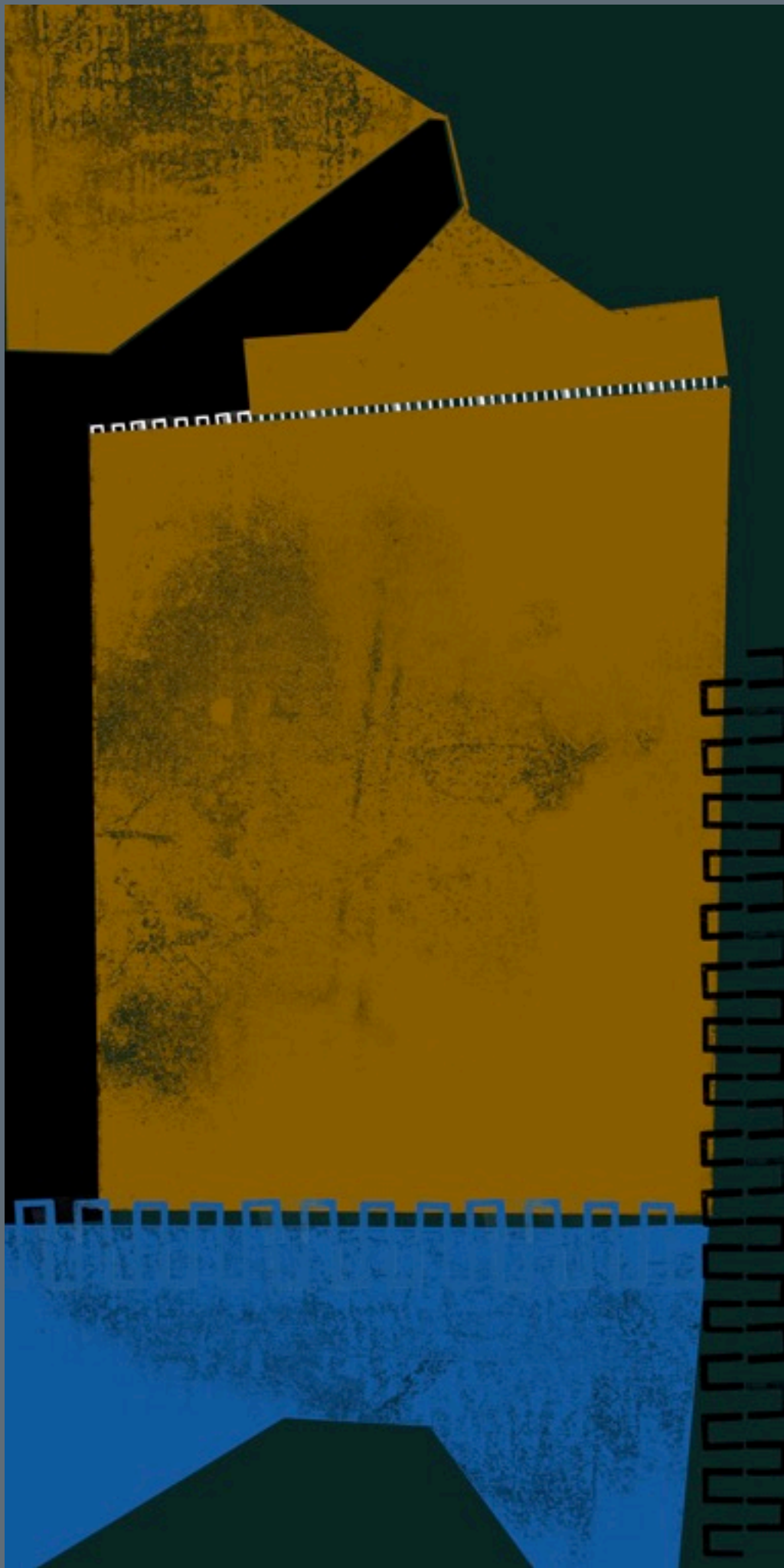


Encounters in Mush - Juliane Schreiber

In order to create a link between the historic centre of Gyumri, the northern inhabited district of Ani and the abandoned Mush, within the framework of the Mushtopia Festival an exhibition was set up in the gallery space of the Puppet Theatre. Included in this exhibition was the work of Juliane Schreiber from Hamburg (Germany). These works consisted of a photographic series of encounters in Mush during her field study and a series of graphic works based on photograms of steel objects found in the area.



juliane schreiber - photo l.: boy and dog mush | photo r.: shepherd mush





Juliane Schreiber was also involved in the previous exhibition 'JAN DOMS art and architecture in motion' in the Armenian Centre for Contemporary Experimental Art in Yerevan (ACCEA - NPAK). In addition to these series of photographs and graphic works, working with Jan Doms (construction) Juliane created a glider made of paper. For this, making use of her background in fashion, she designed a pattern and worked on a very exceptional way of constructing a floating object made of paper parts and having a span of nine and a half metres.

That floating object served as the basis for the performance Talking Gliders for which the American-Armenian poet Alex Vartan Gubbins wrote a dialogue between two glider pilots who were imagined to be soaring over Mush and talking about it.

The Pilots' Dialogue I composed by Alex Vartan Gubbins

Pilot A: We are approaching. It is foggy. Can you see anything?

Pilot B: It's foggy, but I know what lies beneath the clouds and rain.

Pilot A: What's there? Tell me.

Pilot B: It's the city of Mush, province Taron. If we listen close, we'll hear the dialect of the mountains spoken, like the sun that bathes Aveluke and the snowdrop flower that balances light and cold in its stalks, the same tongue spoken by Aghbjour Serob as he hid in mud and listened for Turkish and Kurdish on the hillside, the same spoken by Hrayr Djokhq when he held the pen as high as the rifle, spoken in 300 churches and its courtyards, spoken plain and spoken with the language of caves.

Pilot A: I cannot hear anything. The winds are too loud.

Pilot B: Once the winds lift off the plains of hazy mush (Mushi mshot dashter), off the priest at the church with bells ringing, off the craftsman tinkering on khchkars, off the mother walking in the street with her child, off the mason smoothing tuff for a family waiting to move in to a new home, off the student on the steps to his house with textbook open, off the old woman reading the New Testament to her husband in bed waiting for the final escort by Michael the Archangel who gives us war cries in battle, after the winds lift – the sounds will be clear.

Pilot A: I am anxious. What else is there? What will I see?

Pilot B: There are letters and books; there are phones and computers; there are offices and factories; there is wine and cognac; there is a revolution and Armenians returning; there is hunger and there are those who cook a neighbor gircheek; there are thieves and there are pimps and prostitutes; there are gamblers and peddlers; there are police and soldiers and citizens who train at night for Artsakh; there are scientists and there are doctors; there are gardens of xurma and hills of thyme; there are women and men who love to dance the kochari and eat xashlama and pickled peppers; there are women like your mother and men like your father; there are people with faces yours and mine.

Pilot A: Amazing! What else is there?

Pilot B: There is more, but I'll also tell you what has been that you will not see. There were churches from one end of town to the other; there were Turks and Kurds and Armenians sipping tea at the same table, making business deals, sharing talk of weather; there were Turks and Kurds killing those same men and then enslaving their women and children; there was a musician named Komitas who collected hundreds of folk scores and made the notes and words live again through compositions; there was a doctor named Daghavarian who was elected to Turkish parliament; there was a man of numbers named Kazazyan who told Abdulhamid II how to deal with his gold and cash; there was a father who made his daughter Zabel Yesayan write on emancipating women and there was a woman called Srbouhi Dussap who wrote that a woman can decide for herself.

Pilot A: Look! We are close to landing. Prepare for the earth.

Pilot B: Yes. I am prepared for the ground. I am prepared to walk again. You see, my legs have taken too many steps to and from familiar places. My soles are ready to be reintroduced to a ground that our grandfathers and grandmothers once planted seeds in. My hands are ready to dig in the soils. My mind is ready to reimagine how to build new schools and how to run clean streams through the town center. My will is ready to tell others to come here and do it with me.



staircase and first floor hall: jan doms - documentary panels art projects | video compilation glass projects | glass installation: *rising sun* | light projection: *full moon* (photos: jan doms)

The gallery space in the Puppet Theatre bears the name of Stepan Alikhanyan

With the advent of the new director, Armenuhi Manukyan, there began a new chapter in the history of the oldest puppet theatre of Gyumri, and also a start being made on the renovation of the rooms.

At the suggestion of the artists Hrach Vardanyan and Karen Barseghyan it was decided that the first floor gallery space of the puppet theatre for the first time was to be used as an exhibition hall for the visual arts.

The first part of the exhibition ‘Mushtopia II - art and architecture in motion’ consisted of a presentation of the work of Jan Doms. The second part was made up of the contributions of the artists Juliane Schreiber (Germany), Maryam Zomorodian (Iran), Hrach Vardanyan and Karen Barseghyan (Armenia).

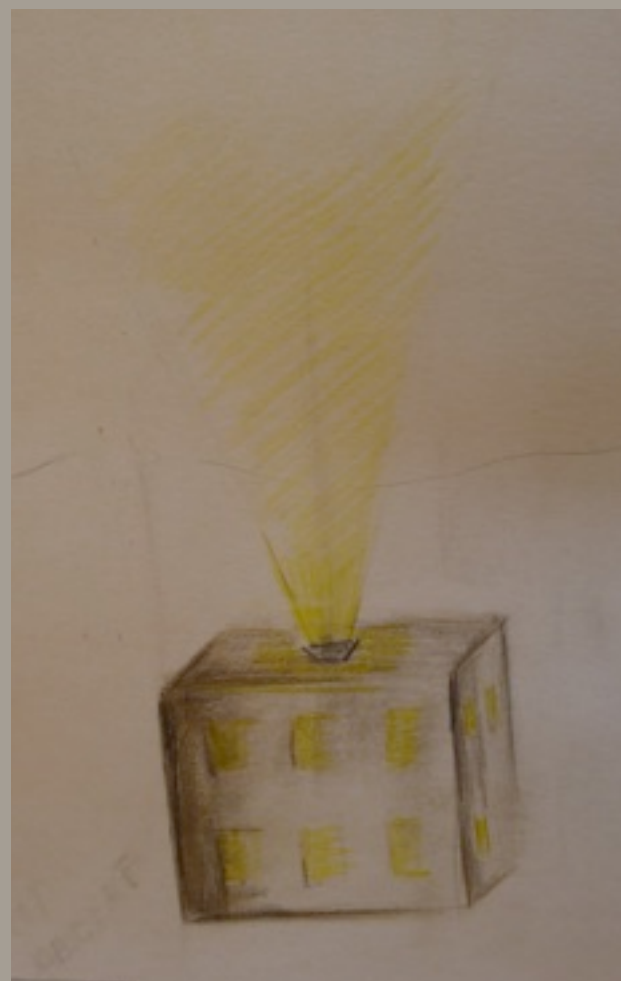
A third element of the exhibition was formed by drawings of the future of Mush and glass architectural models that were made under the leadership of Jan Doms in earlier workshops on the urban development of Gyumri.

In this, students of the faculty of architecture and construction of the State University of Yerevan and the Art Academy of Gyumri were involved:

Emma Sargsyan, Miqayel Yeghoyan, Davit Ohanyan, Lilit Tadevosyan, Vahagn Fereshetyan, Ani Khachatryan, Nush Petrosyan, Suzan Ghazar, Tamara Kaghzvantsyan, Vache Azatyan, Yunona Kirakosyan, Ofelya Militosyan, Jeny Gevorgyan, Hranush Gabrielyan, Lilya Tonoyan, Liane Nersisyan, Christine Sargsyan, Hovhannes Kosthoyan.



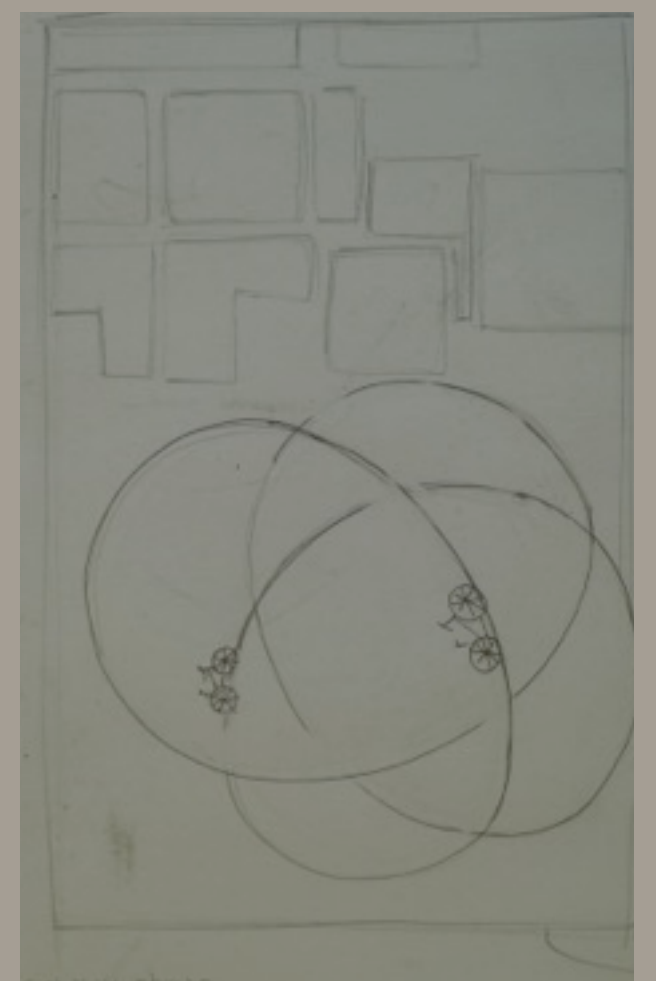
exhibition space: f.i.t.r.. hrach vardanyan: *enneagram* | jan doms - floating glass objects | artur karapetyan - opening performance *rotor* | gymri art academy students: drawings mush (photos: jan doms)



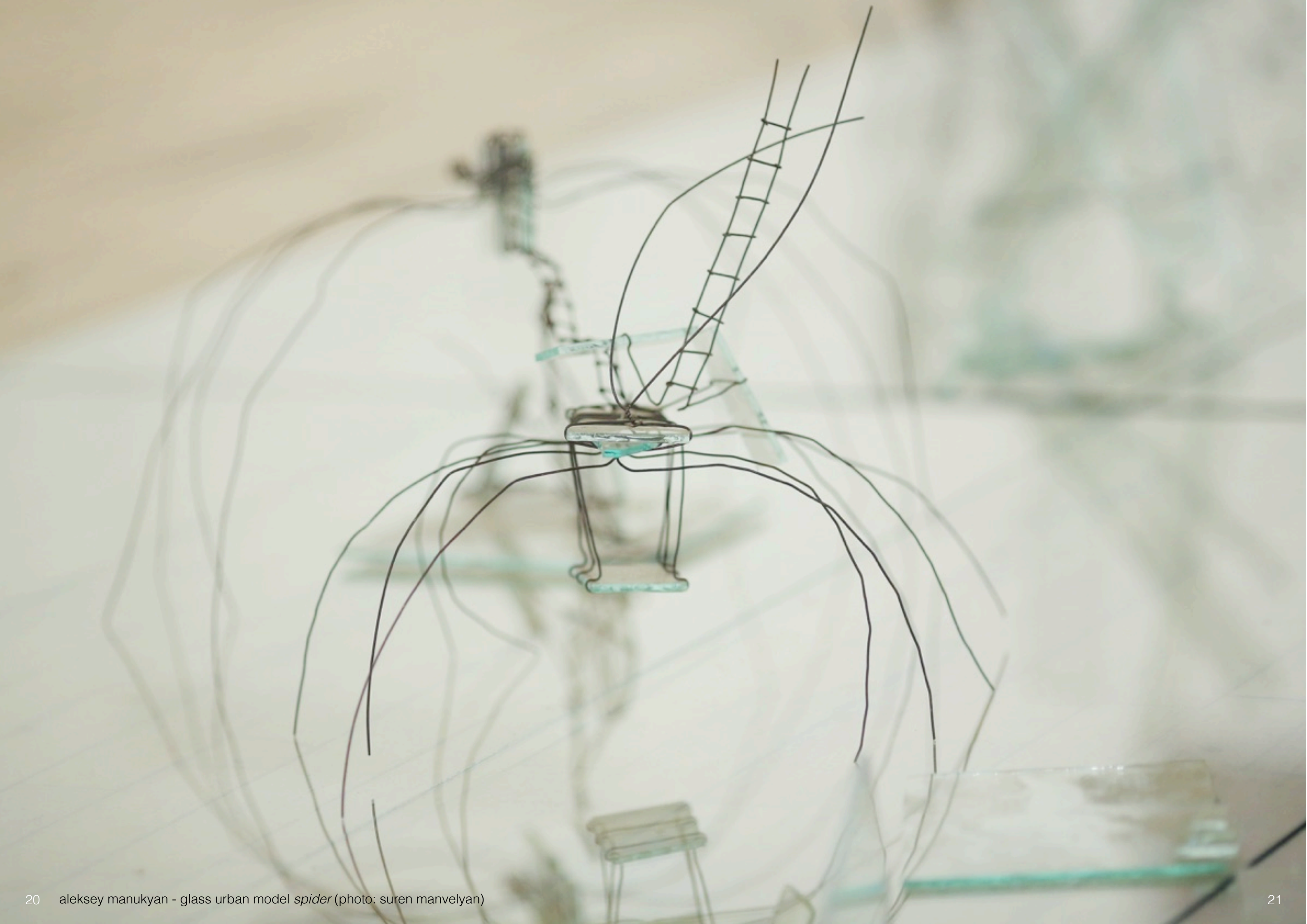
hovhannes kosthoyan - *light beacon* mush



ofelya militosyan - master plan | public space mush



ofelya militosyan - bicycle plan mush





Plastic Garden on the Hill - Aleksey Manukyan

Aleksey Manukyan was involved in the activities in Armenia from the beginning: he lives and works in what is known as the Austrian district on the edge of Mush. There he has his house and a large garden in which he puts together his installations made on the basis of materials and objects he finds in Mush.

During a visit to him, he pointed out the 'open air recycling activities' of the area. For him it is an inexhaustible source of inspiration and exploration, symbols of post-Soviet industrialisation, the post-earthquake era and the post-war reality of Gyumri. He gives the objects a new identity and by so doing he uncovers the struggle Gyumri conducts against these traumas of the past.

Before and during the Mushtopia Festival he created a 'garden' of plastic on a hill at the foot of the festival grounds. From plastic bottles gathered from this area he made the 'trees' of the 'garden', an action that represents an alternative perspective on archaeology that opens our eyes to contemporary history in which nature is under threat.

Aleksey Manukyan's ultimate aim is to speak to visitors in this garden and discuss with them the future of Mush – Mush as a free area for creative residents who can build their homes and studios there, collaborate and devise programmes for residents and visitors to Gyumri and in this way contribute to the vitality and activity of Gyumri as the cultural capital of Armenia.





Words with Books - Artur Karapetyan

Professional wrestling, reading and poetry.





BTA Ghost Tracks - Ani Azaryan

BTA? BTA. Tracks. There was a ghost in Gyumri. The lifeless walls became colored as if they were already breathing. They talk and talk to passers-by. The ghost of a tramp leaves traces illustrating the walls of Gyumri. He leaves his work of art all over the world, almost everywhere, on the walls of aisles, in buildings. BTA strives to breathe life into the inertia. This is the kind of ghost that the Mush district needs.

Mush is not abandoned...not abandoned ! It needs art !
Have have nice day !







Street Art - Mamikon Varderesyan and Friends

The painter Mamikon Varderesyan has already made various works in Gyumri including in Mush.

During the Mushtopia Festival Mamikon Varderesyan and his street art friends got to work in several places in the festival area.





Mush Universe - Varazdat Mkoyan

Varazdat Mkoyan has explored Mush with the aid of a mirror (see page 1). Ultimately the mirror was blown over by the rising wind, the reflective fragments mirrored the clouds blown overhead.

Originally Varazdat had the idea of doing a performance with a chain of clothes hanging in one of the abandoned structures, as a sign of life.

In the end he decided to paint the sky above Mush and hang this art work on one of the remaining walls still standing.





bauhaus - walter gropius in mush

New Architecture for Mush area - Gayane Papikyan

With her buildings of prominent architects printed on transparent paper Gayane Papikyan advocates the building of structures in Mush that have extraordinary value for architecture and valuable cultural functions.

The idea behind this is that in this way Mush can develop as a vital district of Gyumri and by so doing can the city truly realise its role as the cultural capital of Armenia.

In addition to an exhibition of these prints, during the Mushtopia Festival Gayane Papikyan organised interactive drawing sessions on glass so that visitors could express their ideas about the new architecture of Mush.



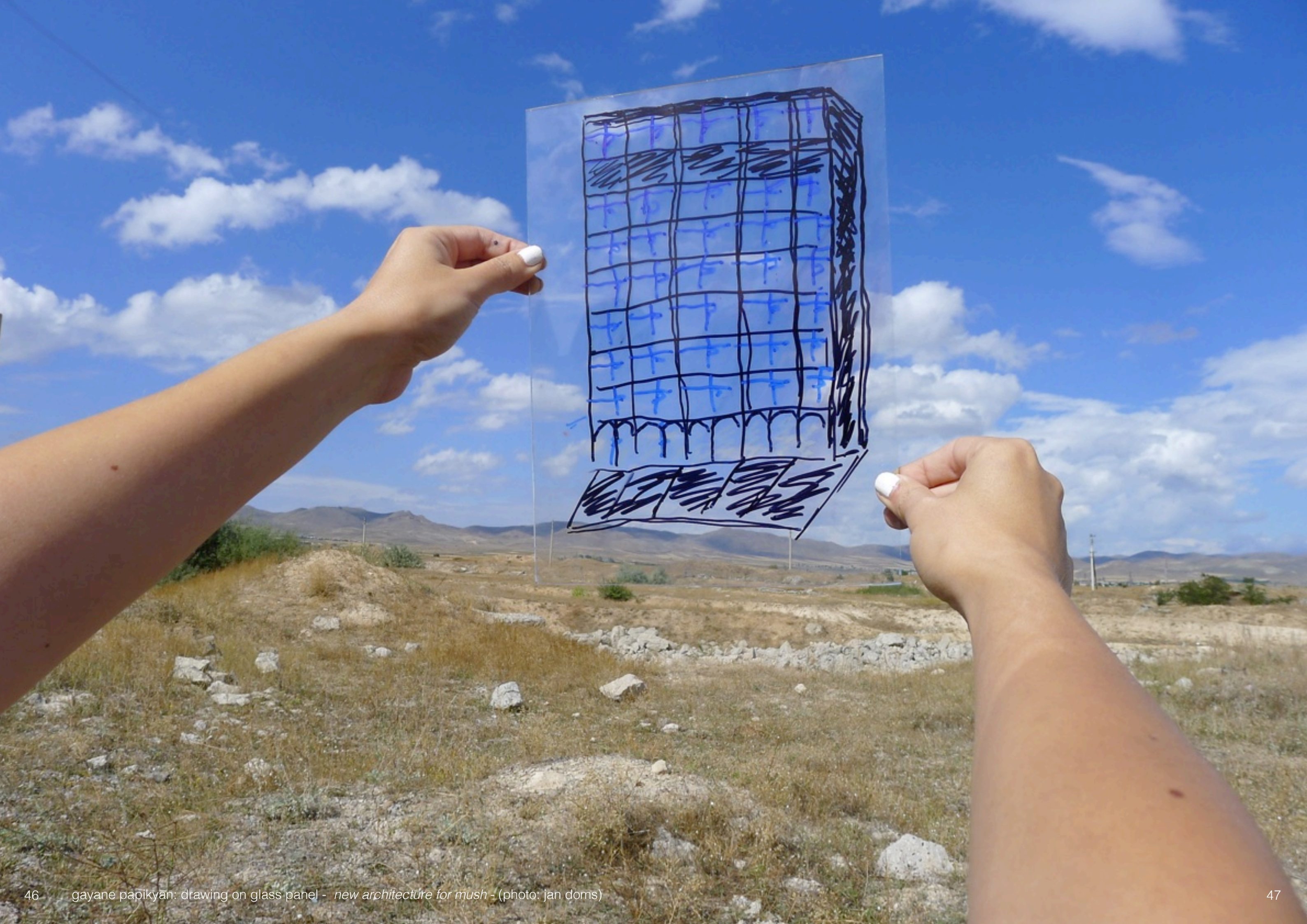
guggenheim - frank lloyd wright in mush



centre le corbusier in mush









Video | Music | Sound

Yuka Kawabe Spring and Autumn

Aleksandra Rusulić Zemi mi zemi

Jan Doms i.c.w. Dancing on the Painters Trail

Ulrike Doszmann - dance

Evelien van den Broek - compositions | voice and electronics

Wouter Kemkens, Ries Doms, Jarno van Es - title song

Ernst Bonis, Joris Bonis - sound, composition, electronics

Rudi Klumpkes - video montage

Paul Bogaert audio composition Kazichene Station

Ernst Bonis compositions: tetra, hexa, penta, hepta

Jan Doms i.c.w. intercepted light - architecture in motion

Iwona Rozbiewska - video montage

Agnieszka Ziemiszewska - typography

Ernst Bonis - DOMS'CASIO electronics

Alex Vartan Gubbins Talking Gliders - pilot's dialogue

ballad of the rising sun

jan doms: direction, libretto, stage design, photography

yuka kawabe: songs

paul van kemenade: compositions

paul van kemenade quintet: music

Serigne Gueye: drums

Ries Doms: drums, percussion on glass discs

nola van trier: voice

strijbos & van rijswijk: electronics and sound

wiersma & smeets: light animation and projection

video montage: rudi klumpkens



intercepted light - architecture in motion

jan doms: direction, relief prints, live electronic music
iwona roszbiewska: video montage
agnieszka ziemiszewska: typography



dancing on the painters trail

jan doms: direction, libretto, stage design

ulrike doszmann: dance

evelien van den broek: compositions, voice and electronics

wout kempkens, ries doms, jarno van es: title song

wiersma & smeets | blanca alonso: light animation, projection

ernst bonis: electronics

joris bonis: compositions, electronics and sound

juliane schreiber: costumes

rudi klumpkens: video montage





MUSHTOPIA - Jan Doms

On the invitation of Mkrtich Tonoyan, director of ACOSS (Armenian Artist in Residence Programme) the Dutch artist-designer Jan Doms designed the multi-element programme Mushtopia.

Part 1

The project started in March 2019 in Galeria Wschodnia in Lodz, Poland. That occurred at the invitation of the co-founder of this oldest avant-garde gallery in Europe, Adam Klimszak. Jan Doms, in collaboration with Iwona Roszbiewska (video-montage) and Agnieszka Ziemiiszewska (typography), produced a video animation film, based on 120 relief prints that he made in the Book Art Museum, also in Lodz.

This video animation film 'intercepted light - architecture in motion' linked three cities with each other, Tilburg (the Netherlands), Lodz (Poland) and Gyumri (Armenia). In an abstract fashion their common history was related, the emergence and decline of the textile industry, the role the cities played in the avant-garde and the fact that these three cities are concentrating fully on developing further a new economic and cultural basis.

Part 2

The second part consisted of the Mushtopia Laboratory for Design and Research. That took place in May 2019 with young professionals from Germany and Iran and

with students from the Art academy of Gyumri. Ideas for the future development of the Mush district, an unfinished area in the north of Gyumri that was intended to re-house residents who had lost their homes in the great earthquake of 1988.

Part 3

In the Armenian Centre for Contemporary Experimental Art, Yerevan (ACCEA - NPAK) the work of Jan Doms was presented with contributions from Juliane Schreiber (paper glider) in combination with the results of the Mushtopia Laboratory for Design and Research. Juliane Schreiber and Maryam Zomorodian and students of the Art Academy Gyumri participated in this laboratory. Each week on Friday evening there was a performance programme of Jan Doms presented in collaboration with Armenian artists such as Alex Vartan Gubbins (poetry), Hasmik Tangyan (dance), Lilit Petrosyan (poetry aloud) and Tiruhi Tonayan (student graphic design).

Part 4

Proceeded by a special workshop under the leadership of Jan Doms the Mushtopia Festival took place during 13-15 September 2019, the focus being the Sunday afternoon and evening, the whole thing concluded with the action of Jan Doms and his fire brigade basics ablaze.

The festival is the impetus for further activities in the Mush district.





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