

Thomas K. Lang Gallery



Kamen Stoyanov We're late

Introduction: Walter Seidl

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 15, 2005, 7pm

Duration of the Exhibition: Sept. 16 through Nov. 4, 2005,

Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Webster University, Berchtoldgasse 1, 1220 Wien

The dynamics with which culturally and economically decentralized locations live up to the demands of globalized values, create new distinctions for present territorial structures, which surpass the center-periphery concept of the last decade. While the 1990s were faced with the problem of adequately distributing and accessing information, the reality of current living modes leaves it open to users how to deal with their space in relation to regulatory or deregulatory standards.

Kamen Stoyanov's work takes up transition zones on the outskirts of various cities and examines the parameters with which alternative communities or parallel spatial living processes are developed. The overall concept of Stoyanov's photo series suggests a position that lags behind the urban concept of modernity as a constant process of change and adaptation of spatial paradigms. The photo of an orange bus on the edge of Sofia is one example which blends two socially configured ways of life: the metropolitan outlook signified by the specifics of public transportation and the transition from urban to rural life in a rarely populated area. Emptied of people but reached through the means of modernity (not only transportation but also the photographic apparatus), Stoyanov's work captures visible traces of intermediary moments that seem to be neglected by a fleeting conception of time. The subjects in Stoyanov's photographs, however, not always directly relate to the addressed topicality. Sometimes, the camera focuses on the people who experience the location itself. This is the case in the photo *Lunch time* in which students and tourists are looking towards the city limits of Paris. Here Stoyanov subverts the gaze by photographing a crowd of people sitting at the back stairs of La Défense. It is through their eyes that we meet Stoyanov's real subject: the ends of a city, which border the realm of perfunctory spaces outside a commonly known territory.

Stoyanov's exhibition at Webster University shows several large-scale photographs, whose size varies with regard to the depicted locations. The mix of contents and formats relates to the post-modern grid of city structures, yet emphasizes the diversity of living practices that follow an agenda which differs in its general conception of urbanity.

Walter Seidl