

EREMUAK

Open programme

eremuak is a space for creating art environments, and for generating knowledge and spreading it throughout society.

The result of reflection on the grants policy for art production, this programme aims to create many areas of interaction between people and lines of thought.

eremuak is an initiative of the Department of Culture orientated towards redefining the scope of the cultural policy of the Basque Government and implementing a permanently open programme that optimises the way the art system works within the context of contemporary society.

origin

The eremuak open programme originated both in the demand expressed by various social agents of the art world for new environments and contexts for contemporary art in the Basque Country and in the process of reflection on the Basque Government's grant policy for art production carried out in 2009-2010 by various study groups made up of representatives of the art institutions and different agents from the Basque art world. Up until now, the cultural policy followed in the art world has been based almost exclusively on awards and grants, and these products for promoting art have been expressed in terms of the different art disciplines. In the opinion of the study groups, this policy contributes to the categorisation of art, and, while necessary, is not the only possible approach. The study groups have requested new approaches for cultural policy that are open to reflection on where and how art is produced and to the expansion of creative activity into domains that have not traditionally been occupied by contemporary art. They reached the conclusion that it was necessary to "promote measures that widen and re-define the scope of grants for art work in the specific policy area of contemporary art".

philosophy

The result of all this is the birth of eremuak, an open programme that has a disruptive or unsettling effect on former activities and that aims to create its own environments and motivations. The area in which the programme moves is the contemporary world as a whole and not just the world of the art disciplines. The contemporary world is the central concept of eremuak and it is orientated towards producing projects, ideas and environments for contemporary art. The mission of the programme is to create art environments -understood as areas made up of people and lines of thought that interact with each other and react to specific situations- and also to create knowledge and spread it throughout society. It is hoped that these artists (people) and discourses (lines of thought) will in turn generate new contemporary art environments.

characteristics of eremuak

creativity vs. artists

Contemporary art is both individual and collective and cannot be limited only to individual people or signatures. It is the result of processes that are highly contagious, and results from the participation of various sectors of society. eremuak wishes to open this area up to all kinds of creative work.

contextualisation

An art environment emerges from areas where people and lines of thought interact among themselves and react to specific situations. eremuak wishes to promote new art environments or contexts by putting forward the problematic areas in which contemporary art operates.

transformation

Networks of people and the environments in which they operate affect each other mutually. eremuak wishes to achieve a situation in which contemporary art affects and is affected by the places in which it is produced. These places are to be understood not only as physical places and regions but also as shared mental spaces.

organic and permeable nature

The contemporary world is the result of the interaction of active forces that affect each other. eremuak wishes to adopt this organic and permeable character by being a flexible, changing programme immersed in a constant interchange of ideas, opinions and proposals. The very structure of eremuak responds to these characteristics; it has a built-in system for renovating the Technical Committee and the group of participants every year.

what exactly does eremuak do in practice

eremuak faces the challenge of going beyond the thought processes, discourses and texts produced by the study groups and making a practical contribution. It will approach contemporary art by identifying and empowering suitable environments, by opening up areas to research and by promoting interdependence in the development of creative work.

The question that needs to be answered is the following: "What kind of environments does contemporary art need when the relation between art and artist is no longer direct or sufficient?"

The answer is to be found in eremuak, a programme that is open to creative proposals and capable of developing projects by more than one artist, and whose main activity is to promote favourable environments for contemporary art. eremuak has been conceived of on the basis of a broad definition of contemporary art and is intended to implement a process of creating contemporary practices that is in continuous development. Far from being a programme that is repeated every year, eremuak is designed to be a "live" programme that generates ever-changing opportunities for creating contemporary art environments and making transformations.

who can participate in the eremuak open programme

The eremuak call for participation is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Its aim is to collect art projects by individuals or groups of people working in the area of contemporary ideas. Therefore it is directed both towards established art disciplines such as painting or video art, other disciplines such as dance, architecture, landscape design, social art collectives, and even scientific disciplines, and will consider any group or discipline that is active within the area of creating contemporary art ideas.

It is a question of disseminating and promoting the idea that the term “contemporary art” also includes creative activities that, as well as fulfilling important social functions, play a vital part in defining concepts such as creativity, research, identity and difference.

Contemporary art is not just an activity that is limited to artists and their social conditions of production; it is interrelated with other structures that operate in areas such as education, art criticism, distribution, marketing, social work etc.

how does the programme work

The programme is organised around a Technical Committee made up of three people who are recognised social agents of contemporary art. The Committee is responsible for selecting art projects and cooperating in their development and for defining and creating art environments. Each year the Committee will select some of the projects presented in the course of the year to form part of the programme. It will foster the free creation of project proposals by not previously imposing artistic disciplines. The “artist” can be an individual or a group and will be selected on the basis of the parameters for creative work established by the Committee.

where is eremuak based

eremuak’s permanent headquarters will be its website www.eremuak.net and it will function using reception centres. As the programme develops it may set up physical headquarters in other places.

eremuak is born as an experience whose purpose is always to be a “B version”. That is to say, it is an open and dynamic configuration that will be gradually built up as new environments, artists or groups, and experiences are incorporated alongside the contributions of the Committee. The programme is not conceived of as a fixed system to be repeated every year, but as a system that learns from experience, year after year.

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