FREEDOM

FREEDOM was an artistic collaboration involving delivery partners from four different countries (UK, Germany, Bulgaria and Romania). Led by ArtReach (http://www.artreach.biz) the other formal partners were Haus Drei (http://haus-drei.de) and the Fabric Association (http://www.fabrikata.eu) with delivery support also from Fondacion OBOS in Bucharest. The project was co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

Working through a process of co-curation and collaborative delivery between April 2015 and August 2016 the partners shared innovative artistic practice to create three multi art form ingredients that celebrated and explored values of freedom - a Night Time Lit Carnival performance, a Freedom Wall installation programme (online and physical) and a series of art installations (The Plinth Programme) presented on a temporary basis as part of outdoor festival events – all for delivery in the UK, Germany and Bulgaria, under the cohesive artistic umbrella of the *Night of Festivals* project.

The results included:

1: Night Time Lit Carnival, STAMP Festival. Image: Thomas Panzau

1. Creation of the Night Time Lit Carnival as a 40 minute processional performance followed by a site specific finale show. The Carnival involved performers from Mandinga Arts and Sabar Sounds (UK), Stelzen Art and Oakleaf Creativity (Germany) and musicians from FabriC (Bulgaria) with many individual contributions as Director, composer, choreographer from artists in each country.

2 Freedom Wall, 'Freedom Club' by Squirl Art

3 Golden Green at Night of Festivals, London

2. Commissioning of 6 different artists to create live Freedom Wall work in the UK, Germany and Bulgaria, with an additional 47 artists exhibiting digital work on the Freedom Wall web site (http://www.digitalfreedomwall.eu).

4 Lea Razovsky, 'Be The Change' at Night of Festivals London

3. Commissioning of four artists to create work for the Plinth Programme – Richard Layzell from the UK, Georgi Balabanov from Bulgaria, Lea Razovsky from Romania and Petra Kilian from Germany. In addition curators were contracted from Bulgaria and Romania to support the commissioning process.

There were major presentations to show all three strands of work in Leicester (UK) in October 2015, and London (UK) in August 2016 (both as part of the overarching *Night of Festivals* event, in Gabrovo (Bulgaria) in May 2016 as part of the Gabrovo Carnival celebrations, and in Hamburg (Germany) in July 2016 as part of the Hamburg Altonale and STAMP Festival.

5 Suitcases by Georgi Balabanov and Petra Kilian at Night of Festivals London

Overall the activity reached live audiences of 265,000 plus and stimulated engagement from many thousands more through live participation and on line activity. Up to 50 local community participants took part in each city as performers within the Night Time Carnival with 2,600 people participating in additional participatory Freedom Wall creation across the programme.

More detailed information about the project is available from ArtReach (admin@artreach.biz) with gallery images, moving image and further information available at –

http://www.nightoffestivals.com

http://haus-drei.de/kreativ/

http://www.fabrikata.eu/blog/2015/11/01/freedom/

http://artreach.biz/night-of-festivals-360-degree-film/

http://digitalfreedomwall.eu
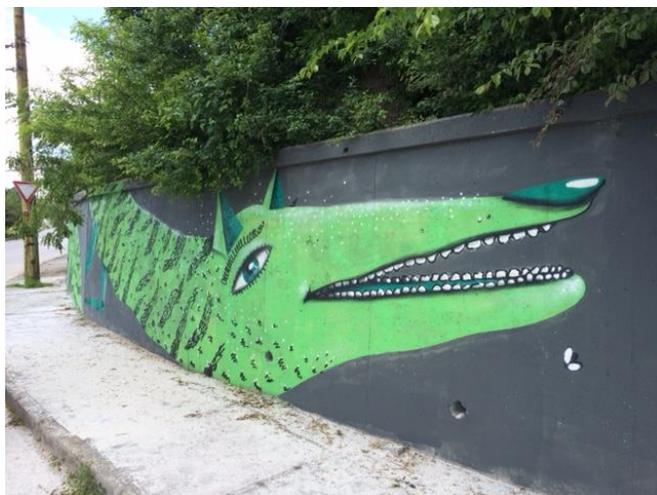
6 Freedom Wall in Gabrovo by Sunshiners