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Emergence, Development and Institutional Dimensions of the Alternative Art Spaces in Bulgaria in the Period from the End of the 20th Century and the First Decade of the 21st Century

The subject of my doctoral research is based on 10 years of studies in the field of site-specific art in public spaces in Bulgaria. For this time I was a witness of a lot of changes in the Bulgarian art history, and now, when I thought my project was finished (and highly evaluated by the scientific jury on 3rd of October 2014) I see that there is a constant need to be continued in some direction.

This research is important with the connection that it establish between processes of formation of the new art and its future socialization finding its place in the history. A subject of this dissertation is the alternative non-defined exhibition space in Bulgaria: the works of art that are shown there and also their authors from the period of the end of 20th and the beginning of 21st century. There are also ranged the sociologic and culturological aspects of the problem, such as the process of turning them into institution.

The study of the alternative art spaces is useful not only for the founding of certain tendencies in the history of the Bulgarian art and the tracing of a chronology. It will also have a cultural and political meaning for the development of the Bulgarian art in alternative spaces that I am trying to explain towards the following objectives:

- defining the terminology in spite of the difficulties that the new non-affirmed term can provoke
- characterizing the alternative exhibition spaces in dependence of the space and the environment
- the opposition between official and unofficial art in Bulgaria
- the contribution to the socialization of the new Bulgarian art
- the contribution to the cultural identity and diversity

- the transformation of the alternative art spaces in Bulgaria into institution

These are the five main aims I took into consideration when I worked on my doctorate and they represent also its contribution. I would like to present the result of this research to the professional auditory at the forum because I think the phenomenon called “art in alternative spaces” is really important for the development of the art in post-socialist countries like Bulgaria. The countries that persist to have problems with cultural policies, art education and access of the public to the contemporary art – all these are problems that can be easily solved with the presentation of the art in public spaces.