

CAPITAL'S TIME MACHINE

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19th of October 2018 / 7th of January 2019
Universul Palace, Bucharest

Utopias originally were not perceived as temporal distances but as spatial ones—with early discovering and travelling to distant islands, the idea was that it had to be a place far away that could offer a better life. A temporal turn in how utopias were imagined happened with H. G. Wells "The Time Machine" where the better life had to be in another time, past or future.

Despite the physical necessity of a continuous, non-changeable time, this learning from utopias by travelling time was instrumentalized for the ideal of constant progress. Having this in mind, also other established conceptions of temporalities become questionable: Today, personal imagination is mostly temporal and tied to commodities, either as remembering (falsely) or as dreaming of something which is about to come. As most dreams are related to their realization in the future, they all share a dimension in time which seems most of all a dimension of capital. The same is true for visions in politics, societies, and economics—leading to preemptive planning which eliminates all dangers of the dream's realization instead of working towards realization. If politicians defend the superiority of their (Western) countries, it's not anymore about geographies and histories but a narrative of being ahead or the others still acting as if it was another time, i.e. temporal structures are introduced into private and public relations to demonstrate hierarchies.

The project will engage with this idea that the representation of time or a temporal distance can never be neutral: neither in the sense of remembering—idealizing—condemning something past nor in preemptive future planning. And even more: the question of time and in which

temporal scheme to represent the other has become a decisive factor in personal, political, and economic exchange. So, how can we deconstruct these temporalities? How can we learn from the past futures that already have been conceived, what are they now? Are there relations between these different times and temporalities which all coincide in one contemporaneity?

Text by Maximilian Lehner

Cultural project co-financed by the National Cultural Fund Administration.