

Newsletter

HERE ARE SOME UPDATES FROM UNITED NET-WORKS:

United Net-Works wishes to welcome [Alexander Vaindorf](#) and [Martin Frostner](#) as new collaborators!!

During the last year United Net-Works »on the Road« project has been the main focus of United Net-Works activities.

[United Net-Works On the Road 2003-2005](#) - is a collaborative art project, initiated and run by Sofie Sweger, which investigates networking and social action as strategies for empowerment, collaboration and exchange between artists and arts professionals around the world. It utilizes the interface of a »mobile archive« designed by Birger Lipinski & Laércio Redondo, the spirit of openness/generosity and the act of traveling as tools to explore communicative and re-generative interests.

United Net-Works [Mobile Archive of Wonders](#) functions as a recording agent and meeting place open to all who wish to participate. The archive unit is mobile so it can travel from city to city, inviting more and more artists to participate as it moves along. It provides a point of contact with and source of information about creative people's work through individually submitted artists« binders. It also provides a platform and supportive structure for presentations and meetings in the different local contexts/exhibitions in which the project participates.

United Net-Works on the Road started in Stockholm at [SAM/Kulturhuset](#) run by Jelena Rundqvist in March 2003. The project has since participated in »Nordic live art« at Göteborgs konsthall organized by Stefan Karlsson & Roger Sarjanen, »Mönstring« at Norrköping Museum of art, Kulturkiosken c/o Gävle konstcentrum, RAGA in Copenhagen, EHU gallery in Minsk and Access Artist Run Gallery in connection with InFest - an international seminar on artist run culture in Vancouver.

Each visit has involved collaboration with a host organization or individual as well as careful event program planning. For the visit to [Minsk](#) a »mobile suitcase of wonders« was constructed by Sofie Sweger to bring a selection of artists files and VHS/DVD- works from United Net-Works main archive. The selection was made based on an ongoing seminar series on the topic of art & science arranged by Art & Science International run by artists Denis Romanovski & Tatiana Tushina that United Net-Works »on the road« project docked onto. »On the Road« invited Ann Rosén and Marianne Hultman to participate in a weekend of presentations and round table discussions on the topic of Art and Science/ Art and Research. Ann Rosén presented »Silent Sound Sculpture« - an artist driven interdisciplinary research project which she initiated in 2001. The project is a collaboration between artists, scientists, researchers and architects where the processes in themselves are both part of the research and the artistic content. Marianne Hultman, curator at Norrköping

Museum of Art and United Net-Works collaborator presented 'Art & Technology, Art & Science' - on Experiments in Art and Technology during the 60s, presenting EAT an organization founded in 1966 by American artist Robert Rauschenberg and Swedish engineer Billy Klüver working with experiments between artists and engineers. Sofie Sweger presented »rising to the surface« - on the nature of networking and networks. Presentations were also be made by Tatiana Tushina and Denis Romanovski about the Art & Science project and by artists Olga Sazykina and Andrej Savitsky. As part of the project United Net-Works also opened the first branch of our mobile archive in Minsk. »United Net-Works Minsk archive« maintained and run by Tatiana Bembel director of EHU gallery.

At RACA in Copenhagen »On the Road« presented a program which included a presentation by Kent Hansen from democratic innovation on his current European artists initiatives »CONNECTIONISM« and 'parking lot for democratic innovation' under the heading: »Prototyping New Styles of Interaction - artist's initiatives dealing with interdisciplinary co-operations and social innovation.« more info on: www.democratic-innovation.org

»On the Road« also arranged a marathon open Screening of VHS & DVD works from the archive as well as presenting the mobile archive of wonders and United Net-Works office open for meetings with Sofie Sweger to discuss ideas, proposals and projects as well as show work during the project period.

»On the Road« and Sofie Sweger also participated in InFest - one of the largest gatherings of representatives from Artist Run Centres around the world in Vancouver. Spanning five days, it included discussion forums, exhibitions, a networking session, Artist Run Centre presentations, public education programs, and an assortment of social events. The focus was on exchanging ideas and strategies to advance artist run culture, generating a sense of community that transcends national borders, and encouraging international collaborations. The goal of InFest was to strengthen the presence of Artist Run Centres within the cultural ecology and public imagination on both local and global levels.

»The current international growth of Artist Run Centres is unprecedented. There is, however, no consensus of what defines an Artist Run Centre. Structures, funding models, modes of criticism, and curatorial practices vary according to differing social, cultural and economic contexts. But central to these initiatives is a stronger role for the artist in determining culture, and the provision of creative spaces that add an alternative to established public or private art institutions. InFest is an event that proposes and expands notions of what Artist Run Centres can be«.

Artist Run Centres from all regions of the world attended InFest. Special presentations were made by: BASEKAMP-Philadelphia, big sky mind-Quezon City, instant coffee-Toronto, ICOLS International Corporation of Lost Structures-Sydney/London/Berlin, OBORO-Montréal, Open Circle-Mumbai, Orgacom-Amsterdam, Secession- Vienna, Southern Exposure- San Francisco, the trinity session- Johannesburg, Trama-Buenos Aires, Tribe inc. Aboriginal Arts Collective- Saskatoon. There were also 5 thematic discussion Forums with 15 speakers from Canada and other regions of the world. Each discussion forum was led by a moderator and was followed by smaller informal group discussions to further develop the ideas presented by the speakers.

InFest also included the participation of Vancouver's Artist Run Centres and public galleries who contributed special exhibitions and/or video programs. Three nights of opening receptions took place at these galleries during the seminar. Sofie Sweger presented »United Net-Works Mobile Archive of Wonders« part of United Net-Works »On the Road« project at Access Artist Run Centre as part of this program.

United Net-Works Mobile Archive of Wonders is envisioned in terms of a space made available to artists and other creative people for communication about their work and ideas. Special guidelines are provided for this engagement. Within the framework of the binder each person decides freely how they wish to represent themselves or what they wish to say. The archive reflects the interests of its participants, without whose engagement there would be no project. Its nature and function is multifaceted. It can provide a point of contact and inspiration for someone. It can function as a temporary meeting place and supportive structure, or it can be seen as reflective of networks and network building between artists and arts professionals at a particular point in time and space. The archive presently contains over 300 artists binders as well as a large collection of VHS/DVD - works, CD-R presentations and other catalogue materials.

Upcoming Tour program
»United Net-Works on the Road 2003-2005«

NEWCASTLE

24.6 - 26.6 Sofie Sweger, Alexander Vaindorf and the mobile archive of wonders participates in »Return to Sender-Questioning Fluxus« Artists Art Fair at Waygood gallery. www.waygood.org

SAN FRANCISCO

10.9 - 23.10 Sofie Sweger & Lena Malm participate in »Co-Operation« at Southern Exposure in San Francisco and set up a branch of UNW archive. www.soex.org

MELBOURNE

February 2005 Sofie Sweger and the mobile archive of wonders visits West Space. www.westspace.org.au

TORONTO

March 2005 Sofie Sweger and the mobile archive of wonders visits Mercer Union. www.mercerunion.org

What is United Net-Works?

UNITED NET-WORKS is an international network, platform and meeting place for contemporary artists, artists groups, independent curators, researchers and other arts professionals based in Stockholm.

UNITED NET-WORKS supports, initiates and participates in projects and exhibitions that seek to develop new opportunities, communication and collaboration within the sphere of contemporary art.

UNITED NET-WORKS was founded in 2001 by Sofie Sweger, social anthropologist, curator/artist, and writer and is run by her in current collaboration with **Lena Malm**, artist; **Marianne Hultman**, curator Norrköping Museum of art; **Alexander Vaindorf**, artist and **Martin Frostner**, graphic designer.

Please feel free to contribute to United Net-Works Newsletter by sending us your suggestions, ideas and comments as well as information about projects and events that you think might be of interest.

All interested contemporary artists, artists groups, independent curators, artist run centres and researchers are welcome to participate in United Net-Works mobile archive by submitting a binder containing documentation of art works/projects, exhibitions and other work to United Net-Works. Guidelines can be found on our website along with a list of all participants.

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Stockholm 25 May 2004
Sofie Sweger
/United Net-Works