cafe9.net

Bologna

Cafe9.net is a project of a cultural and artistic network, which connects eight European Cities of Culture for the year 2000 - Avignon, Bergen, Bologna, Brussels, Krakow, Helsinki, Prague and Reykjavik – by means of a large band network: these cities will be connected one to another and also they will be connected to the world by means of Internet and a Web site. It is a project that is supported by the European Community and the Youth for Europe Project.

The main aim of Cafe9.net is to create a social/virtual space where people can co-operate and communicate in a creative way. In the era of digital networks, public spaces should be kept for a free creative action and expression. The conceptual starting point is the European tradition of the "culture" of the public café, as a place that reflects the social, intellectual and cultural life of a society. This metaphor is extended to the non-place of the networks and Internet, where it can be "mapped", so that participants are able to experience the opportunities of multicultural exchanges and communication.

Inside Cafe9.net there will be different aspects, which can coexist and co-operate: local aspects, which will be powered by the large band internal network; general aspects, which will be based on the Internet activity of the Web site. This network, during its "internal" large band improvement in the different Cafés, will be active from the 1 of September to the 31 of October 2000; in this period, it will produce, diffuse and share events and information and it will help interactions between people.

Projects

Cafe9.net substains projects that emphasize the use of local and global networks as creative spaces for communication, acknowledgement,

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artistic activities and the building up of social network in long terms.

The projects have been chosen according to their capacity to attract a local, regional or global participation in a creative and communicative process, or according to their capacity to get in touch and get involved in different realities and/or other projects. The organizers are conscious that this process can have lots of different shapes, from a social and a technical point of view; they will try to help the improvement of these shapes, accordingly to the technological limits. The organizers in the nine Cities will inform and encourage groups, communities, single people, in order to receive not only projects that have already been realized and achieved, but also new projects that might take advantage from the platform – and these projects will be assisted in their formulation -. The project Cafe9.net depends absolutely on the efforts made by all the participants to create a solid network in the remote and in the local dimension; besides, it depends on the number of demographic groups that take part in the project. A wide social inclusion is the key for a good network.

Cafe9.net offers a gam of technological instruments to stimulate a process of art making. Nevertheless the subject of the artistic content in the frame of telecommunication is complex and it differs in a meaningful way from what most of people consider as art. One of the ways to imagine the difference of Cafe9.net consists in the fact that the artist who creates is not only a creator of a static content (some paintings for a gallery), but he is also challenged to create the place where an artistic exchange can happen (a project of a gallery). An additional element, which makes the situation more complex, is the fact that the work of art itself can be modified by the audience, by the participants. We may hope that the participants will get the idea that all art is communication (the process of moving human energy from one person to another one) and that this process – we can call it dialogue, communication or whatever else – can be art.

As the other cities, Bologna will offer a physical venue and the equipment for transmission and sharing - by ISDN and by Web – the contents of the projects and the events.

Contacts

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Cafe9.net official website:
http://www.cafe9.net (under construction)

Cafe9.ne - Bologna, local website:
http://www.salara.net/cafe9 (under construction)