

ANARHISTICKI SAJAM KNJIGA (ASK)

/ ANARCHO BOOKFAIR

BALKANSKI ANARHISTICKI SAJAM KNJIGA (BASK)

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The first Anarcho Bookfair (ASK) was held on 18-20.03.2005 in Zagreb. It was held as a part of the second Balkanian Anarcho Bookfair (BASK) that was held last year in Ljubljana. It was conceived as a travelling fair that would go further after Zagreb, unlike ASK that will be happening in Zagreb every spring. The goal of BASK or ASK is the development and representation of anarchistic and libertarian ideas on a specific (geographical) space, through books and other forms of literature, to strengthen the existing connections and relationships within the anarchist movement and improve mutual communication on the local and international level; by that ASK transcends the local boundaries which gives it the importance for international cooperation. The entire organization and the happening itself with all the following expenses and preparations was based on self-financing, i.e. benefit concerts organized by the very participants of the fair. The fair itself was held in the Nova gallery, the Atrium (crossing of the Gajeva and Teslina Street), where the informal opening was held and the booths with books and other materials were installed. Representations of books and projects were held among other things:

FRIDAY:

The presentation of the *Café Libertad* project (www.cafe-libertad.de) from Hamburg, that is through its continuous activity contributing to the survival of the Zapatist communities, and directly supports and helps the armed social fight of the Zapatists, using the principle of fair-trade. The opening of Nesa's and Andrea's exhibit (*Doomsday Graphics* and *Shaved Women*) with the presentation of the book with the same name, with the cooperation of *Louarn Kounnaret Release* from France. (www.doomsdaygraphics.web1000.com) There should've been a presentation of the new editions of DataArt+, a publisher from Cakovc, but it was not realized for unknown reasons. (www.dataart.hr)

SATURDAY:

Following the program, between 10:00 and 15:00 the fair was supposed to take place in Preradoviceva street, by the Cvijetni square, and later it was supposed to be moved to Frankopanska street, in the Green Action space. (16:00-21:00). Of course, for the first part of it, which was supposed to be held in the open, the city did not give its permission, despite full filed demands which included the list of displayed literature

(which is censorship), and the permissions asked in advance. Apparently, for the City authorities, the happening sounded too unfit and radical, and they feared that the people of the state metropolis would get in touch with different ideas and attitudes, which would be too dangerous for one "free and democratic Republic of Croatia" still polluted by klerofascistic and nationalistic ideals. In the end we finished the Saturday's program in the Green Action hall, where a debate called *New Strategies of Anti-capitalistic Movement*, comprised of two parts, was held. The first part included the presentation of concrete projects of certain collectives and their way of work and activity, while the the second part was supposed to be an open debate involving a discussion of the presented projects, new strategies and changes, and other things suggested by the participants. The discussion started with the presentation of *Hacklabs*, followed by Anarchosyndicalists from the region (ex-YU):

ASC-Anarchosyndicalistic Confederation (from Zadar), *ASI-Anarchosyndicalistic Initiative* (from Serbia); *SiSD* (Slovenia), who prolonged their presentation and so used up a lot of time for open debate. *LETS (Local Exchange Trading System)* that followed presented it's free-trade as an alternative to capitalism (without the presence money, but not without the presence of value), they have replaced the money for value points and so continued to function within the existing structures of neo-liberal capitalism.

SUNDAY:

As the fair approached its end, the little remaining time we had was used for more constructive socialization, exchange of experiences and personal impressions of the entire event. In the end the meeting for Noborder (which is planned this summer in Istria - but it's still not decided when) was also held. The whole event finished with a party. (...) During the Bookfair, all the participants had secured accommodation (squat, flats, and in the houses of locals) and food (warm meals, juices, cocoa, and coffee ... Zapatista-coffee too-, tea...) which was distributed in a room functioning as living room. In spite of all the circumstances the fest went well and better than we had expected, without incidents (that some were anticipating).

Information/Contact:

www.ask-zagreb.org

