

Ilya and Emilia Kabakov
SHIP OF TOLERANCE

Kunsthhaus Zug, 2016



Ilya und Emilia Kabakov, Ship of Tolerance in Sharjah, UAE, Photo: www.shipoftolerance.org



“Human beings are members of a whole,
In creation of one essence and soul.
If one member is afflicted with pain,
Other members uneasy will remain.
If you’ve no sympathy for human pain,
The name of human you cannot retain.”

Saadi, Persian poet, 12th century



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THE ESSENTIALS IN BRIEF

With the *Ship of Tolerance*, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov seek to bring people of different continents, cultures and identities together by actively involving them in the project. Respect towards foreign cultures and ideas and acceptance of differences is to be attained by means of joint action. Since 2005 the project has been realized in different locations.

With the project *Ship of Tolerance* by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, the Kunsthhaus Zug invites the public to reflect on the themes of tolerance and respect. The Kunsthhaus is thus offering an artistic contribution to one of society's major current topics while taking part in the artist's duo global project. The *Ship of Tolerance* will be inaugurated in Zug on September 10.



Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, *Ship of Tolerance* in Havana, Cuba, Photo: www.shipoftolerance.org



CONCEPT

Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, who are based in New York, are no strangers to the art scene in Zug. Several projects (exhibitions and publications) undertaken in conjunction with Kunsthhaus Zug, as well as the *Drinking Fountain, 2003* in front of Zug's railway station square, bear witness to the couple's close artistic links with Zug going back more than fifteen years.

For *Ship of Tolerance*, a participatory project dedicated to the theme of tolerance and respect towards other cultures and ideas, this productive co-operation will continue, but in a novel way that involves broad segments of the general public.

Through the language of art, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov intend to connect children, young people and adults of different continents, cultures and identities by actively involving them in the project.

Kunsthhaus Zug and the internationally renowned artists are laying down a marker for tolerance and respect in the current, very difficult situation in world politics. The *Ship of Tolerance* is a strong symbolic metaphor which is accessible for everyone whatever the educational or cultural background.

The Zug region, whose residents belonging to over 140 different nationalities, illustrates how it is possible for people of widely differing cultures and patterns of living to coexist peacefully together, and hence provides a suitable setting for the *Ship of Tolerance*. At the same time, because of the region's strong involvement in the global economy, the project also raises typical questions and problems.

A wooden ship will be built, about twenty metres long, five and a half metres wide and with an eleven-metre mast. Mounted on a raft, it's shown on Lake Zug during September and October. The ship will be built by artist assistants working together with apprentice carpenters and unemployed people. The sail is made up of a hundred and twenty individually painted pieces of canvas, and will be illuminated after dark.

Kunsthhaus Zug mobile, the exhibition container of Kunsthhaus Zug, is going to be based at the lakeside and serves as a point of information and a place for



discussions. In the Kunsthhaus a special project room will be installed and a small Kabakov exhibition shows selected major works. Furthermore a continuously updated project website informs about the process and ongoing activities.

The project will be underpinned by preparatory studies of the topic in public and private schools, kindergartens and other educational institutions in the Canton of Zug, and will be led by the art education team of the Kunsthhaus Zug. 120 school classes in various towns and villages will take part. The children and teenagers will design segments of the sail, giving visual form to what they wish to say on the topic. The many paintings will bedeck the *Ship of Tolerance* and will also be used for further installations in Zug and other places. The images will be complemented by essays on the subject of tolerance and respect. Dialogue in the classroom will allow the children and teenagers to actively explore the subject through discussion and close examination of various social and cultural aspects, as well as practical exercises.

Participation, direct encounter and joint activities will be at the heart of the process, in a collaboration with the schools and many other organizations, supplemented by the outreach programme provided by the Kunsthhaus Zug.

This project will also feature NY based conceptual artist Marko Remec. He will install a work based on his *Totem Series* in the Vilette-Park in Cham. This new work, *Once Upon A Time (Ship Totem)*, consists of eight ten-foot-high wooden poles covered in almost five hundred eight-inch semi-dome steel and acrylic mirrors. The wood poles are arranged in a circle about 16 feet across. Standing in the circle or near the work, one will see millions of different reflections of the *Ship of Tolerance*, themselves, the crowds around them and the overall surroundings.

Remec has created *Once Upon A Time (Ship Totem)* specifically for the *Ship of Tolerance* project and the series moves in a new direction. Its title alludes to a familiar opening for children's fairy tales. Remec observes that very similar versions of this opening language exist in almost all the major languages and cultures around the world and, equally common, the subsequent tale usually ends with a version of

“and they lived happily ever after.” How can so many people, sharing such a common childhood fantasy, grow up with such divisive and intolerant beliefs?



Marko Remec, Would That I Wish For (Tall Totem)

On 10 September an inauguration ceremony takes place as part of the integration platform “Let’s Talk” activity day. On 11 September there is a concert held in the Lorzensaal, Cham, with performances by musically gifted children and young people from around the world who are given the opportunity to come here thanks to a charitable foundation. Marko Remec’s installation will be inaugurated on September 11 as well. Until October 13 the ship is on Lake Zug, is presented as a special exhibit at the Zug Trade Fair. It will then also be possible, for the first time, for visitors to actually go on board. Installations featuring the children’s pictures link the two



main venues of the Trade Fair. And the City of Zug has also chosen the topic “Tolerance” for its special appearance at the Zug Trade Fair. Finally, the ship will be given a permanent place at a suitable location in the Canton of Zug, where it will serve as a venue

With the *Ship of Tolerance* Zug also sets itself in an international context, given that the project began in 2005 in the oasis town of Siwa in Egypt and has since been repeated in new versions in a variety of places including Venice, St. Moritz, Havana, Miami, Moscow and New York.

The installations of Ilya and Emilia Kabakov have consistently attracted the attention of the art world. As far back as 1993 they presented the installation *The Red Pavilion* in the Russian pavilion at the Venice Biennale. In 2008 they were awarded the Praemium Imperiale, the “Nobel Prize” of art, by the Imperial House of Japan. In 2014 they showed a specially devised installation, *The Strange City*, at the Grand Palais in Paris. In 2017 they will be honoured with a retrospective at Tate Modern in London, where the *Ship of Tolerance* will once again be on show.

Dr. Matthias Haldemann, Kunsthhaus Zug (April 2016)



Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Drinking Fountain, Train Station Square, Zug, 2003



PARTNERS

- Alterszentren Zug Zentrum Herti (a nursing home)
- Animation für Schulmusik des Kantons Zug
- Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne
- Franz X. Bachmann, Zug
- Dr. phil. I. Daniela U. Ball, Möriken
- Bossard AG, Zug
- the Canton of Zug
- the City of Zug
- Contact Hünenberg
- Copytrend AG Zug
- ELG Cham, ElternLehrerInnen-Gruppe, Cham (Cham parent-teacher group)
- Fleury-Art GmbH, Reinach
- FRW Intercultural Dialog
- German courses of the department of social services for asylum seekers of the cantonal social welfare department
- Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft Zug (a non-profit association of the canton of Zug): GGZ@Work - Podium 41 and Ship Yellow
- GIBZ, Gewerblich-industrielles Bildungszentrum Zug (the commercial-industrial vocational training centre of Zug)
- GIBZ-Apprentice IT: Benninger Martin, Geisser Pascal, Kafadar Tomislav, Lao Wanda, Schurtenberger Benjamin
- Glencore International AG
- HALLE 44, Baar
- IBA, Integrationsbrückenangebot, Zug (an organization offering integration measures)
- the Ilya and Emilia Kabakov Foundation, New York
- Kantonaler Frauenbund (the cantonal women's association)
- Kindertrachtentanzgruppe Ägerital (a group of children folk dancers)
- Let's Talk, Zug
- Municipal and private schools in the canton of Zug
- the Municipality of Baar
- Music-School Cham
- PH Zug, Pädagogische Hochschule Zug (Zug college of education)
- Schilliger Holz AG, Küssnacht am Rigi
- VAM, Association of labor market measures
- Wasserwerke Zug AG
- Welti-Furrer Pneukran & Spezialtransport AG, Baar
- ZIWC Zug International Women's Club
- the Zuger Messe (the Zug Trade Fair)
- zuwebe, Baar
- and many more



MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT

Preparation

Part 1: February till July 7, 2016

- Educational works in the participating schools
- Creation of essays and drawings

Part 2: August 15 till September 10, 2016

- Construction of the ship
- Installation of the sails exhibitions in town

Presentation

Part 3: September 10 till October 13, 2016

- September 10: Festive inauguration in cooperation with „Let’s Talk“, an integration platform, at Landsgemeindeplatz, Zug
- September 10: Presentation of the sails exhibitions in town
- September 11: Concert in Lorzensaal, Cham
- September 11: Inauguration of Marko Remec’s installation *Once Upon A Time (Ship Totem)* in the Vilette-Park, Cham
- September 17: Zug Art Night
- Further events

Part 4: October 22 till October 30, 2016

- Presentation of the ship at the Zug Trade Fair
- Events

Part 5: from mid November 2016

- Ship as a venue



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ilya and Emilia Kabakov are globally recognized as the premier artists to emerge from the Soviet Union and major figures on the international art scene. In 2008 they were awarded the Praemium Imperiale, established by the Emperor of Japan to honor the fields that the Nobel Prize does not cover. "Art News" magazine named them among the top 10 living artists.

Their work is regularly exhibited in leading international museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington DC, Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Centre George Pompidou, Paris; State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and Tate Modern Museum in London. In 1993 they represented Russia at the 45th Venice Biennale with their installation *The Red Pavilion*. The Kabakovs have also completed many important public commissions throughout Europe and have received a number of honors and awards, including the Oskar Kokoschka Prize, Vienna in 2002 and the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, Paris, in 1995 and Commandeur de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2014.

Ilya Kabakov has been making installation art since 1984. Working with Emilia Kabakov, he has become one of the medium's most important practitioner and theoretician. He is a leading figure of the Russian art movement of the 1980s known as "Moscow Conceptualism." Kabakov was born in 1933 and lived in the Soviet Union until coming to the West in 1988. Emilia Kabakov was born in 1945 and came to the New York in 1975 where she worked as a curator and art dealer. Ilya and Emilia Kabakov have been working together since 1989. They live and work in Long Island, NY.

Marko Remec is a conceptual sculptor living and working in New York City. Remec's most recent work is his ongoing Totem Series whose origins involved utility poles, regular fixtures of the urban and suburban landscape. Adhering readymade objects to the poles, such as safety mirrors, bicycles, mops, brooms, and rearview mirrors, he transforms them into contemporary totems. While indigenous totem poles

of the Pacific Northwest are frequently associated with religious ceremony, they typically performed a social rather than spiritual role—recording important events, legends, and clan lineages. Referencing these functions, Remec's works speak to facets of the present urban and suburban condition—paranoia, consumerism, narcissism, and indifference.

His work has been exhibited in leading museums such as the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams, MA, The Museo de Arte in Ponce Puerto Rico, LongHouse Reserve in East Hampton, NY and the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill, NY.



Emilia and Ilya Kabakov in front of the Drinking Fountain, 2003, Zug, Photo: Bernhard Kägi



HISTORY

The first *Ship of Tolerance* was built in 2005 in an oasis in Siwa, Egypt to engage children and young adults in active discussion surrounding tolerance in their daily lives. Participants were given vivid exposure to different cultures and ideas, while creating personal, and often thought-provoking works of art. These drawings and paintings were later sewn together to form a mosaic sail, which was mounted atop the ship. The construction of the ship itself was part of the performance, with student carpenters working under the guidance of master carpenters from Manchester, London.

The Kabakovs recreated the project in Venice, Italy in 2005 for the Venice Biennale and in St. Moritz, Switzerland in 2009 where it has received the prestigious Cartier Award for the best art project of the year. In November 2011 the *Ship of Tolerance* was unveiled in Miami in conjunction with Art Basel Miami and followed by Havana, Cuba in May 2012. It was unveiled during Havana Biennale and was the first public project of this scale by an American artist to ever be allowed by both Cuban and American governments.

The project has garnered global media coverage and tremendous attention in each host country's news and cultural outlets. The *Ship of Tolerance* has become a unique symbol in every host country's collective consciousness, a symbol that changes with every new launch according to the unique political and cultural reality of each setting. On show again in Zug, 2016 and presumably in London, 2017 the *Ship of Tolerance* is bound to generate a large public interest and a new and stimulating interpretation for the Kabakov's vessel.



MEDIA RELEASE
22 March 2016

The Kunsthhaus Zug is building a ship for tolerance

Ship of Tolerance – Ilya and Emilia Kabakov are back in Zug

With the project *Ship of Tolerance* by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, the Kunsthhaus Zug invites the public to reflect on the themes of tolerance and respect. The Kunsthhaus is thus offering an artistic contribution to one of society's major current topics. The participatory project by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov provides a tangible experience of tolerance through joint action with others.

First realized in the oasis town of Siwa in Egypt in 2005, the *Ship of Tolerance* has meanwhile made appearances in such widely diverse locations as Venice, St Moritz, Havana, Miami, Moscow and New York. Now it is in Zug: a region which – with residents from more than 140 nations – is living proof of how the most varied cultures and life designs can coexist peacefully. But Zug is also a region whose economy is subject to global tensions. So it is exactly the right place for a further realization of the *Ship of Tolerance* project.

With the *Ship of Tolerance*, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov seek to bring people of different continents, cultures and identities together by actively involving them in the project. Respect towards foreign cultures and ideas and acceptance of differences is to be attained by means of joint action.

Overwhelming participation

The preparations are in full swing. A wooden ship is to be built, some twenty metres long and five and a half wide, with a mast eleven metres high. Mounted on a raft, the vessel will circulate on Lake Zug. The sail will be made up of 120 individually painted elements. Where is the journey headed? Who will take part? When the project got underway, there were still a lot of unanswered questions. What has meanwhile taken place is a true success story: some 115 school classes from public and private schools ranging in age from kindergarten to upper school, as well as vocational schools and numerous social organizations are all participating. The project is being backed on a broad scale by political authorities and committees.

A decisive element of the project concept is the exploration of the topic of tolerance in school classes in advance under the direction of the Kunsthhaus Zug's museum education department. This educational work has already begun. The children and teens are visualizing their personal messages on the theme; in June they will paint sail pictures based on their ideas. Some one thousand sail pictures will thus be produced, and will not only bedeck the *Ship of Tolerance* but also be presented in installations in the city of Zug and other communities. The ship, for its part, will be constructed starting in mid August in the Lake Zug basin by a team of technicians



working with apprentices from the vocational training centre GIBZ (Gewerblich-industrielles Bildungszentrum Zug) and unemployed persons.

The project partners are: public and private schools of Zug Canton, Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft Zug (a non-profit association of the Canton of Zug); Kantonaler Frauenbund (the cantonal women's association); GIBZ, Gewerblich-industrielles Bildungszentrum Zug (the commercial-industrial vocational training centre of Zug); IBA, Integrationsbrückenangebot, Zug (an organization offering integration measures); Let's Talk Zug; PH Zug, Pädagogische Hochschule Zug (Zug college of education); the City of Zug; the Canton of Zug; German courses of the department of social services for asylum seekers of the cantonal social welfare department; HALLE 44, Baar; ELG Cham, Eltern-LehrerInnen-Gruppe, Cham (Cham parent-teacher group); the Ilya and Emilia Kabakov Foundation, the Zuger Messe (the Zug Trade Fair), and many more.

Festive inauguration and events

The *Ship of Tolerance* will be inaugurated in Zug on Saturday, 10 September in cooperation with "Let's Talk", a day of encounter and getting acquainted for old and new residents of the city and region. On Sunday, 11 September, a concert will take place in Lorzensaal in Cham with musically gifted children and adolescents from all over the world who will travel to Zug with the help of a charitable foundation. Over the course of the subsequent three weeks, the ship will dock at various towns on Lake Zug, accompanied by further events revolving around the topic of tolerance. It will then be placed on view at the Zug Trade Fair as a special exhibit, where visitors will also be welcome to come on board. As a guest of the Zug Trade Fair, the City of Zug will tailor its presentation to the theme. Finally the ship will be given a permanent home at a suitable location in Canton of Zug, where it will serve as a playground, a place of encounter, and a symbol of active tolerance.



Ilya and Emilia Kabakov

The Kabakovs' installations have consistently attracted the attention of the art world. As far back as 1993 they represented Russia at the Venice Biennale with an installation called *The Red Pavilion*. In 2008 they were awarded the Praemium Imperiale – the “Nobel Prize in art” – by the Japanese imperial house. In 2014 they had the opportunity to show the installation *The Strange City* at the Grand Palais in Paris for which it had been specially conceived. In 2017 a retrospective will present their work at Tate Modern in London, where the *Ship of Tolerance* will once again be on show.

Several projects carried out with the Kunsthhaus Zug (exhibitions, publications) as well as the *Drinking Fountain* of 2003 on Zug's station square testify to the close artistic bond the artist duo has developed with Zug over more than fifteen years.

Further information and photo material:

www.kunsthhauszug.ch

<http://shipoftolerance.kunsthhauszug.ch/>

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MEDIA RELEASE
10 June 2016

1,000 painted sail pictures as messages for more tolerance

Kunsthhaus Zug launches realization of *Ship of Tolerance* project

This June, the Kunsthhaus Zug and 2,000 participants of the *Ship of Tolerance* project are productively busy in the Shedhalle in Zug. One thousand sail pictures will come out of this large-scale painting endeavour. The sail of the wooden ship scheduled to be shown on Lake Zug from 10 September onward will be made of 120 of these pictures. On Sunday, 26 June, interested persons can make their own sail pictures at the open painting studio in Hofstrasse 15.

Every day, Sandra Winiger, the head of art mediation at Kunsthhaus Zug, and her team welcome 70 to 100 participants in the old factory hall: people of all age groups – from kindergarten children to adults – and a wide range of cultural and social backgrounds. More than 115 public and private school classes in Canton of Zug have discussed and studied the subject of tolerance in class over the past weeks. Now the participants immerse themselves in the world of Ilya and Emilia Kabakov. Following an introduction on the *Ship of Tolerance* project, Emilia Kabakov herself bids everyone present a hearty welcome by way of a video message: “It is very important to understand that violence does not change anything, but only destroys the world. For that reason, we would like to give you an opportunity to send a very strong message to the adults of our world – with painting, with words, or with anything you like. Please respect one another. Understand that culture, language, music, drawings are more important than violence. That’s how you change the world; that’s how you can make it better.” After the entire group joins in singing “All We Wish Is Peace”, the Kunsthhaus Zug art mediators give the participants insights into the art and life stories of the two artists. A lively discussion ensues about the Kabakovian works. Then the participants present the sketches they have prepared in class and talk about their messages on tolerance. Now the actual day’s work begins at the painting stations set up around the hall. In groups of two, children, teens and adults paint their pictures of tolerance on pieces of sailcloth on the floor. Altogether an entire kilometre of cloth will be processed. The 22 painting days in June are being supervised by seven art mediators from the Kunsthhaus Zug and some 40 volunteers from the Pädagogische Hochschule Zug, the IBA (“Integration Bridge Offer”), the ZIWC International Women’s Club and Deutschkurse Asyl as well as private individuals. The campaign will result in approximately 1,000 sail pictures for the presentation to take place from 10 September to 13 October. The painted messages on tolerance and respect will be on exhibit on the ship and in large installations at the Kunsthhaus, in the city of Zug and in various other communities. Then the *Ship of Tolerance* will be placed on display along with the sail pictures at the Zug Trade Fair as a special exhibition.



Open painting studio

Ship of Tolerance was conceived as a participatory project for the public. On 26 June, interested persons can also realize their messages on tolerance and respect in sail pictures. The Shedhalle will be open on that day from 10 am onward for all who would like to participate actively in the project. "I think it's a good project because not only children but also adults can learn something for coexistence", said one pupil. The Kunsthhaus Zug team looks forward to welcome the public and engage in lively exchange. No previous registration is necessary; participation is free of charge.

Apprentices and job seekers of Zug involved in the ship's construction

The actual work of building the *Ship of Tolerance* will start on 16 August. Over a period of about two weeks, a mixed team of artists' assistants, apprentices from the GIBZ and helpers from GGZ@Work will turn a pile of wood into a ship. When it is completed, the vessel will measure 5.5 metres in width and 18 in length. The public is invited to follow the progress of the shipbuilding work, which will be carried out in front of the harbour restaurant.

With the *Ship of Tolerance*, the Kunsthhaus Zug is realizing a project with the public and in its midst. The process of creating the ship and the sail pictures is a key aspect of the project: joint activity with others offers an opportunity to experience tolerance and respect first hand. Further project helpers are welcome. Interested persons are requested to contact the Kunsthhaus Zug at info@kunsthhauszug.ch or by phone.

The *Ship of Tolerance* Project

In view of the many projects they have already carried out in cooperation with the Kunsthhaus Zug, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov are truly no strangers to the region. The cooperation is now continuing. With the *Ship of Tolerance* – a work revolving around tolerance and respect towards foreign cultures and ideas –, they are once again coming to Zug for a project in the public space. By hosting this project, Zug is placing itself in an international context: the *Ship of Tolerance* has already been in progress since 2005, and been realized with great success in the Egyptian oasis town of Siwa, in Venice, Moscow, Sharjah, St. Moritz, Havana, Miami and New York.

With the participatory project *Ship of Tolerance*, the Kunsthhaus Zug seeks to make a contribution to the theme of tolerance and mutual respect in a difficult global-political situation.



INFORMATIONS AND CONTACT

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