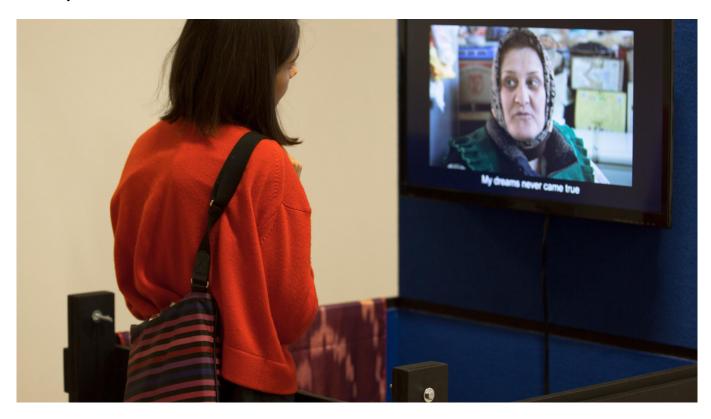


Moving Borders

By Alina Safronova

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A visitor to The Border exhibition thoughtfully watching an installation, one of the works of art on display that all deal with the concept of borders - personal, geographical, social and political. **Courtesy of the Goethe Institute**

"The Border," an exhibition organized ■ by the Goethe Institut e being shown at the ■
Tsereteli
Art Gallery, ■ explores t

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he geographical and cultural⊠border between Europe and Asia
It

features ■twenty three works created by young artists from 16 ■cities and

11⊠countries.

The⊠head of the Goethe cultural program, Astrid Wege, came up with the⊠idea for the exhibition. "Some parts of Russia are in Eastern⊠Europe while others are in Central Asia,"

she said in an interview to The Moscow Times. "Now everything has changed on the territory of the former Soviet Union. How do people look at these changes? What are the cultural borders they experience in their daily lives?"

The works on display suggest some answers to these questions. A series of photographs, "The Edges of Gilea," explores three natural "sectors" in the south of Ukraine. Created by Anastasia Zhyvkova, the work emphasizes the blurred lines of geographical borders.

Another⊠artist, Saule Dyussenbina, reinvented the meaning of sacred symbols⊠in different cultures. She designed wallpaper with traditional Kazakh⊠ornamental patterns specially for the show.

But ■ the works are not only — and not mainly — commentary on political ■ and economic issues. They are, first of all, conceptual ■ meditation

s on⊠social and personal borders. Artist

Alina Kopytsa explored the⊠borders between personal and public information in her work "The⊠Wedding Dress." She printed personal correspondence with her future⊠husband spanning five years on a real wedding dress. "Where Dogs⊠Run" — an art group from Yekaterinburg⊠— approached the problem of temporal borders. Their mechanical⊠theat er

"Phobia⊠of the Other" shows how a smallpox vaccination scar — a stigma⊠ for people

who**⊠**grew up in the

Soviet Union — literally ■turns people into a different biological species.

Because ■ the artists work in a wide variety of genres,

the⊠theme

was covered

comprehensively: **\square** the

exhibition space™is filled with photographs, objects, performance

footage and videos.

■"One can see how different cultural

legacies **■**affect the

artists' work**⊠**in

many ways. But⊠borders are not

a given**⊠**or set forever.

They can **■**be

negotiated,"**™**Wege

said.■

Indeed, the very process of creation for the show involved crossing borders. Wege stressed in a statement that "one of the most beautiful results of the project was the chance to create a laboratory in Dortmund and bring the young artists together." Creating an art platform for cultural exchange was another goal of the program and a major step forward in crossing borders.

After⊠Moscow the show will tour to seven⊠cities, including the capitals of Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia in⊠2017, along with Dortmund. In 2018 the⊠project will continue its journey to Central Asia. The⊠Moscow part of the tour will run until Feb. 26.

Tsereteli⊠Art Gallery. 19 Ulitsa Prechistenka. Metro⊠Kropotkinskaya. eng.rah.ru

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