

“Grasping the Intangible”*

International Conference on the Importance of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Age of Globalisation Vienna, 13 – 14 October 2006



organised by Austrian Commission for UNESCO

in co-operation with

VIDC – kultureninbewegung. moving cultures • ADC – Austrian Development Cooperation
TQW - Tanzquartier Wien • Ö1 – Austrian Broadcasting Corporation

Venue: Tanzquartier Wien and Austrian Commission for UNESCO



Österreichische UNESCO-Kommission
Austrian Commission for UNESCO
Commission Autrichienne pour l'UNESCO



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Entwicklungszusammenarbeit



Draft Programme – “Grasping the Intangible”

Friday | 13 October 2006

9 am.	Registration	Tanzquartier Wien/Studios
10 am.	Opening and welcome Johann Marte President of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO Keynote Marc Jacobs Director of the Vlaams Centrum voor Volkscultuur “The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage”	Tanzquartier Wien/Studio 2
11 am.	Workshops I. UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage II. Culture & Development III. Performance between Dance, Theatre & Ritual	Tanzquartier Wien/Studios Austrian Commission for UNESCO Tanzquartier Wien/Studios
1 pm.	Lunch break	
2 pm.	Continuation of Workshops (I, II, III)	
5.30 pm.	Meeting of the rapporteurs of WS I, II, III	Tanzquartier Wien/Studios
8 pm.	Public Roundtable (in German only)	Tanzquartier Wien/Studio 2

Saturday | 14 October 2006

10 am.	Plenary Session Presentation of workshop results I,II,III Discussion	Tanzquartier Wien/Studio 2
12.30 pm.	Concluding remarks	
1 pm.	Closing of the Conference	

If not indicated otherwise the conference language is English (no interpretation)

Saturday | 14 October 2006

6.30 pm. Einführung in das Gèlèdè-Ritual mit der Ö1-Redakteurin Nora Aschacher und der Sozialanthropologin Ulrike Davis-Sulikowski
Tanzquartier Wien/Studios

8.30 pm. **Gèlèdè Performance**
Tanzquartier Wien/Halle E

Workshops

Workshop I

“The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage”

Chairs:

Marc Jacobs

Director of the Vlaams Centrum voor Volkscultuur

Maria Walcher

Head of the Department for Intangible Cultural Heritage,
Austrian Commission for UNESCO

While the concept of the intangible cultural heritage is still widely unknown in Austria, the themes that the Convention is intended to focus on are either institutionalised or given little appreciation. Facilities that provide for the promotion, documentation or custodianship of intangible cultural heritage are accorded to new responsibilities through the Convention. Upon initial consultations that took place last year, it became clear that intangible cultural heritage can make an important contribution to the social cohesion of a society and the courteous association of different cultures governed by mutual respect. This contribution should be given more public recognition and appreciation.

The workshop focuses on the international discourse involving the intangible cultural heritage and the various models of cultural policy management at a global, national and local level.

- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Intangible Cultural Heritage in the crosshairs of global, national and local cultural policy

Workshop II

Culture and Development

Chairs:

Peter Kuthan

Policy adviser, Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)

Christiane Tomke Lask

Professor for Cultural Anthropology, University of Liège

Kurt Luger

Professor for International and Intercultural Communication, University of Salzburg

The subject of culture and development has in recent years gained an increasing amount of attention. Where in the past local cultures and traditions were occasionally considered to be obstacles to development, it has now become internationally recognised that the cultural dimension is of crucial importance both for motivation and sustainability of development and that the cultural heritage thus needs to be seen as an enrichment and opportunity.

The consideration of intangible cultural heritage encourages respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. It is made visible and open for experience through oral history and a multiplicity of expressions, the performing arts, customs, rituals and celebrations, indigenous knowledge and practices involving nature and the universe, and the know-how of traditional crafts and skills.

How can intangible cultural heritage be properly considered in the practical context of development co-operation? Which concrete measures are taken within development co-operation to preserve and promote intangible cultural heritage, and what are the results? How does development co-operation handle issues of cultural hegemony and the erosion of cultural identities and diversity (e.g. through globalised mass tourism)? What is the role of the intangible cultural heritage as a development potential to generate income and reduce poverty (e.g. by way of cultural industries)?

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage focuses on the aspect of passing on cultural practices and knowledge from one generation to the next. The Convention also fosters the collective importance of intangible cultural heritage as a moment of identity definition and social cohesion.

- General theoretical and cultural-anthropological approach
- culture and social development / culturalisation of social conflicts
- culture and development in a globalising world
- cultural dimensions of development and poverty reduction
- culture as part of the dialogue on development policy

Workshop III

Performance between Dance, Theatre and Ritual

Chairs:

Ulrike Davis-Sulikowski

Social Anthropologist, University of Vienna

Koffi Koko

International Choreographer

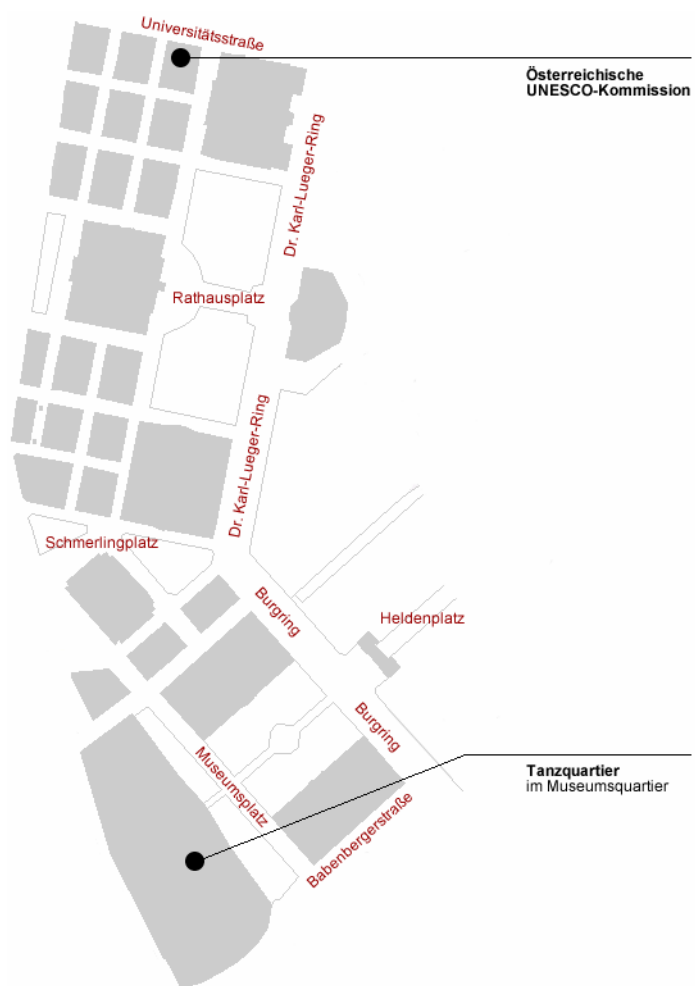
Gabriel Gbadamosi

Goldsmith College, London, cultural theorist and playwright, international festival director

The workshop delves into the area of the performing arts as an expression of the cultural entity. It is this area which teems with traditions covering a transition zone between the tangible and intangible heritage. Performance uses human actors and actresses as well as objects – it comprises both the sociocultural and the geographic environment, living of buildings and objects, masks, costumes, songs, dances, music and, most recently, also the integration of all the new media. Performance by way of dance, theatre and ritual is a blend of all elements, always containing an inter- and transcultural aspect. By including humans, performance is among the most enduring cultural areas. Through it, objects get a purpose, come and remain alive. Art forms from Africa in particular are highly elaborate and much more ancient than their European counterparts. Performance constitutes a central common forum for communication that serves to solve as well as act out conflicts. In this way it is possible to paraphrase social topics that otherwise could not be expressed in public.

- Modern contemporary art/dance/performance and tradition
- Performance and social transformation
- Transculturality
- Post-colonialism

Map



Venues

Tanzquartier Wien
im Museumsquartier MQ
Museumsplatz 1
1070 Wien

www.tanzquartier.at

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