

## **8th festival garage Stralsund 2004**

### **Interface – black box : white cube**

time: 23 July – 14 August 2004

place: garage, Am Fährkanal 2, Hafeninsel, 18439 Stralsund, Germany

open daily: from 11am, concerts 9pm, opening Friday 23.07. 7pm

entrance: exhibition free, concerts 5 - 8 EUR, festival pass 60.- EUR

#### **garage**

garage is first of all a producing festival with a focus on the support and production of new, not yet realised concepts for and during the festival.

garage is platform for contemporary art and culture. The festival presents new concepts in production, presentation and discussion of cultural content. Every year artists, musicians and theorists from Germany and abroad are invited to develop and realise innovative projects. The focus lies on the search for possibilities of art and culture to contribute to a social and cultural developing process. The festival is funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the Cultural Ministry of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and the Town of Stralsund.

<http://www.garage-g.de>

#### **topic 2004: Interface - black box : white cube**

*black box*\_ something whose internal structure and internal functioning are unknown or not considered to be important

*white cube*\_ an ostensibly neutral space, wholly geared toward the presentation of "the artwork" and thus never unproblematic

The term interface can be translated in more than one way. It means the man-machine interface that allows us access to the binary data of the computer world. It also specifies the medium, i.e. the user interface. In the most basic sense, interfaces form transitions and enable the communication between various systems. The interface works as a translator that mediates between the two parties and helps to make both comprehensible to each other.

It's easy to extend the digital analogy to a more general level: user and content, individual and society, public and artist. Between all fields interfaces are used to enable flow of information and communication. black box and white cube can be defined in terms of the interface concept.

garage 04 will address various aspects of art production, presentation and public as well as questions of the contextualization and mediability of art. How great is the distance between producers and recipients? How can one manage to facilitate exchange and collaboration? How many or how few concessions is one prepared to make? Who or what is thereby served? And where is the public in all this? What are the limits of classical models of mediation? How is the interface concept in regard to the audience being further developed? How can the white cube be opened? What is the appeal of technical interfaces? What demands are thereby placed on them; how consciously do we deal with interfaces; how easily do we let ourselves be manipulated by surfaces ...? How should interfaces be created in order to generate communication and interaction, without falling into flat participatory kitsch or stereotypes of interaction?

black box : white cube is concerned with various aspects of the interface principle, between surface and source of friction, claim and actual function.

garage 04 is seeking positions in the artistic debate on this subject. This applies both to interesting technical interfaces for entering the black box and to the practice of communicating, presenting and producing art, as well as the conditions under which it is received, oriented equally toward artists, producers/curators and the public.