



# DEMOCRACY IN MOTION



# 12 countries, 8.000 km, 1 goal

- a journey through South-East-Europe



This fall, OMNIBUS will embark on an 10-week journey spanning 12 countries across southeastern Europe following an invitation from the Goethe Institute Athens as well as the Goethe Institutes and local partners in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Thessaloniki, Athens, Istanbul, Bucharest, Belgrade, Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna and Munich.

OMNIBUS will travel through areas rich in history and cultural diversity. Stopping in each capitol, OMNIBUS establishes a forum for unbiased discussion exploring the topic of the relationship between politics and art. Together we would like to find answers on how we envision Europe and what tools we need to shape it.

As a key inspirational component of this journey, OMNIBUS will host two conferences, one in Athens and the other one in Istanbul accommodating participants from all over the world. All other stops of the tour will also evolve a vivid program. In Zagreb for example the OMNIBUS will meet with a student movement, in Sarajevo we will visit a school, we will be part of the German Cultural Week in Skopje and the Biennales in Thessaloniki, Athens and Istanbul. Many other interesting activities are in progress, currently being planned and realized with the help of local partners and the Goethe Institutes.

## OMNIBUS

For the past 22 years, OMNIBUS has been working to bring Direct Democracy to the people.

Based on the work of the German artist Joseph Beuys, OMNIBUS speaks to the common citizen and empowers them to affect political change. Essentially a double-decker mobile school of sovereignty.

OMNIBUS travels to more than one hundred German towns a year. Working in market-places, pedestrian zones, schools and universities its staff open a forum for free discussion on topics that shape society. These topics include art and culture, the economic and monetary system, schools and education. Further more, ecology and the european question are issues also adressed. OMNIBUS gives voice to the people.

[www.omnibus.org](http://www.omnibus.org)

## Mehr Demokratie

Is the driving force for referenda and better electoral law. Making every vote count equally and ensuring that everybody has the right to participate is what we stand for.

[www.mehr-demokratie.de](http://www.mehr-demokratie.de)



In Athens the conference will explore democracy at its birthplace. The Pnyx, scene of the first democratic acts in ancient times will be setting the stage for our discussion.



The conference in Istanbul will explore the compatibility of art and politics. By approaching the subject of democracy from an artistic perspective novel points of view might emerge.



Also, it will allow participants to reexamine the basic notions of democracy, as well as its cultural and philosophical implications. "Is democracy a universal value?" the forum will ask.



Discuss, Realize, Decide.



The OMNIBUS: transmitter & receiver

Culture of democracy means culture of dialogue.

The golden mean: the place where humanity belongs.

We are the people. Everywhere.

Finding new forms, designing and facilitating future.

This journey crossing borders will allow all of us to experience new impulses for networking and collaboration. Europe is growing day by day. The areas in need of work are numerous and complex. The evolving questions can only be solved by nurturing open dialogue and exchange. How can we support the evolution of democracy in a self-determined way and how does art inform democracy? How democratic are democracies and what role does democracy play on the European level? Is democracy a universal value? Our chance for shaping our society out of free and common grounds roots in animating and fostering dialogue and awareness. That is what this odyssey is for.

Right now, more than 20 members of the organizations "OMNIBUS" and "Mehr Demokratie" are working on the successful realization of this tour.



## Democracy & the Concept of Extended Art

Beuys defines his visionary idea of a peoples' co-action on a foundation of freedom and self-determination to be a social Sculpture. Every person becomes a responsible designer of the entire form, a shaper of a future social order.

In 1971 he founded the "Organization for Direct Democracy Through Referendum". During the 100 days of "Documenta 5" he discussed his vision of extended Art and the necessity of direct democracy as a basis for a successful social sculpture's implementation.

Following his work and legacy we make the journey through south-east Europe for "Extended Democracy".

## Players

BRIGITTE KRENKERS



Initiator of the first Omnibus in 1987. Shareholder and Tour-Manager.

JOHANNES STÜTTGEN



Master student of Joseph Beuys, spin doctor & shareholder in OMNIBUS.

WERNER KÜPPERS



Vehicle operator guiding the white OMNIBUS for over eight years already.

MICHAEL VON DER LOHE



Executive Director of OMNIBUS gGmbH (limited company operating as a public utility)

CLAUDINE NIERTH



Member, "Mehr Demokratie" Directors' Board and Initiator of the white OMNIBUS.

ROMAN HUBER



Executive Manager, "Mehr Demokratie" Association.

GERALD HÄFNER



Member, "Mehr Demokratie" Directors' Board, member of European Parliament.



## Tour-Plan

- 07.09. Wiesbaden
- 09.09.-10.09. Ljubljana
- 11.09.-12.09. Zagreb
- 14.09.-15.09. Sarajevo
- 17.09.-20.09. Sofia
- 20.09.-23.09. Skopje
- 24.09.-26.09. Thessaloniki
- 27.09.-28.09. Delphi
- 29.09.-08.10. Athens (Conference)
- 10.10.-14.10. Leptokaria
- 15.10.-18.10. Thessaloniki
- 21.10.-25.10. Istanbul
- 28.10.-31.11. Bucharest
- 02.11.-04.11. Belgrade
- 05.11.-07.11. Budapest
- 08.11.-10.11. Bratislava
- 11.11.-12.11. Vienna
- 14.11. Munich