



## **Open Call for B\_Tours Berlin & B\_Tours Leipzig 2015**

B\_Tour is a platform to examine current needs of urban life and how art can be used as a tool to explore possible answers to these needs. We curate, commission and develop artistic guided tours in urban environments. These tours, B\_Tours, provide locals with a new perspective of their city and inspire community life and civil participation. We aim to trigger our audiences' imagination in order to generate the cities we would like to live in and the societies we would like to be part of.

We work with local and international artists, academics and experts of everyday life who create tours that rethink storytelling and suggest innovative, experimental approaches to the conventional format of a guided tour. B\_Tours refer aesthetically and in their use of media and new communication technologies (text messages, Apps, GPRS, geocaching etc) to our urban habits and lifestyles. The tours are lead either by the artists in person or the artists' narrations in the form of audio tours, instruction guides/texts or maps through different neighborhoods.

Over the past two years, artists from 19 countries showed over 40 B\_Tours to more than 1200 festival visitors in two European cities. **This year, B\_Tours Berlin's third edition will take place between the 26-28 June 2015; and for the first time we will present B\_Tours Leipzig between the 2 – 12 July 2015.**

This year, B\_Tour explores the notion of "**periphery**". **This term underlies two current discourses: the global mass-urbanisation process as well as the contemporary struggle over the self-definition of local and national identities. What is defined as 'periphery' in geographical, cultural and socio-economic terms? Who determines what is considered to be center and what is periphery? How does this categorization impact both the residents of a certain urban area and its environmental or built profile? What impact has life in border and central areas on the self- and public perception of its inhabitants?**

Here are a few more terms that suggest further research directions: **#branding #stereotypes #decentralised #hierarchy #hegemony #de-industrialisation #diaspora #areas in transition #gentrification #urban/rural**

Please have a look at the following checklist and the [A\\_BOUT](#) as well as the [B\\_GLOSSARY](#) sections on our website to make sure your project fits B\_Tour.

### **Checklist: What is a B\_Tour?**

- A B\_Tour is an artwork in itself.
- A B\_Tour is based on a route that has a beginning, middle and an end both physically and conceptually.
- A B\_Tour is a platform for an interaction between a guide/artist, an audience and a space.
- B\_Tours are engaging in the sense that they call for participation and enable exchange.
- A B\_Tour questions the convention of a guided-tour and challenges its format **but it is not an "alternative city touristic tour" because it:**



- a. Is aware and is critical towards the contribution of conventional tourism to the processes of the universalisation of international culture.
- b. Encourages sustainability and is environmentally friendly.
- c. Aims to be an empowering tool for the creation of better, more equal and safer cities both for locals and visitors.

- A B\_Tour is conscious of the existence of multiple narratives and truths of a site. Therefore, a B\_Tour does not provide THE true perception of a it.

- A B\_Tour is not a spectacle and therefore customarily does not utilise visual/theatrical effects which temper with the space as it normally is.

### **Residency!**

This year we are very excited to be able to offer international artists wishing to realize their artistic projects during B\_Tours Berlin a B\_Residency in collaboration with Berlin Art House SomoS. B\_Tour offers an artist-in-residency program that includes activities such as: individual meetings, informal residents meetings, weekly open discussions, tours, communal dinners, screenings etc. Furthermore, B\_Tour team will keep the residents updated on events happening in the city and will support the residents with B\_Tour's network of collaboration partners to make the most of their research time in Berlin. The aim of this residency is to provide a professional development opportunity for artists working in the field of urban/public art.

The **dates of the residency are 1st - 29th June 2015**. The residency, located at the heart of Kreuzkölln, Berlin, includes accommodation in shared rooms, co-working space, access to free wi-fi, bedding and towels. The cost of the residency is 400 EUR per person.

Please note, that only artists who apply to show a project in the festival will be able to apply for the residency. Nevertheless, you may still participate in the festival without taking up a residency, however taking part in this preparatory period is highly recommended.

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Here is the link to our online application: [http://b-tour.org/b\\_call-2015.html](http://b-tour.org/b_call-2015.html)

The **deadline to send in your proposal is 15 March 2015**.

If after reading the guidelines and concept paper you are still not sure if your project fits the festival, please don't hesitate to contact us at: [info@b-tour.org](mailto:info@b-tour.org).

We look forward to your submissions,

B\_Team