

HUSEYIN ALPTEKIN

Hüseyin Alptekin's work is all about mobility: he uses materials circulating in our daily lives, such as postcards, cigarette boxes, plastic footballs, toy trucks. He established the overarching project the "Sea Elephant Travel Agency" in which is a non-profit artist collective through which he undertakes his varied projects. These include Sea Elephant Travel Agency, The Bunker Research Project and Art:ist.

Sea Elephant Travel Agency

In the Sea Elephant Travel Agency he reactivates Jules Verne's novel "Kéraban-le-Têtu", in which the main protagonist travels the entire Black Sea belt in order to get to the other side of the Bosphorus; he points at the ways in which the signs of low and high culture bleed into each other; he refers to the not much discussed social dynamics which he calls B-Facts (the territories around the Black, Baltic and Barents Seas, and the Balkans); he depicts the phantasmagoric flow of cities' names in other geographies; to mention just a few of his topics.

Art:ist

The magazine art:ist is an occasional publication produced by the artists Halil Altindere and Vahit Tuna. It has been produced in connection with local and inter-regional contexts. Alptekin has been writer, translator, promoter and representative of Balkans, Black Sea, Scandinavia, Russia and France, until 2004.

"Bunker Research Group" Project

One of Alptekin's recent projects is to re-appropriate a dysfunctional social object, the bunkers that were produced in numbers by the paranoid regime of Enver Hoxa in Albania against a fictional, or at least exaggerated, enemy. These massive and obsessive objects are to be transferred into other non-functional contexts, such as art institutions, and to other cultural environments unfamiliar with that type of militaristic furniture on the public field, and offer an uncanny sort of social space. BRG project welcomes the artists to experiment the collaborative artistic investigations as an active survey in progress.