

UDC 7.038.55

DOI: 10.34670/AR.2021.96.90.003

Youth forums as a creative space for producing art objects (a case study of the 2020 Taurida Forum)

Ekaterina V. Dragunova

Independent Researcher,
101000, Moscow, Russian Federation;
e-mail: E.V.Dragunova.researches@gmail.com

Abstract

The article deals with the art space of the Taurida Youth Forum as a productive environment for creating art projects in the open air. The forum has been held in Kapsel Bay near Sudak (Crimea) since 2019, and this picturesque space has become a good background for creating unique art objects in the area. The author of the article carries out an analysis of the process of creating a number of objects and makes an attempt to identify their place in the Taurida Art Park, which is planned to be open to the public. The Taurida Forum as a place of youth creativity is viewed as a unique space for collaboration among various creative groups and specialists. The article points out that the Taurida Forum carries a powerful impulse of creative development for young people, enriching their experience in interdisciplinary practices. The forum is quite actively implementing its tasks specified in Order of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs No. 86 of March 20, 2020 "On holding the Taurida Forum for young culture and art luminaries in 2020", including the provision of resources for the development and implementation of creative projects in the field of culture and arts (grant support, internships, employment, casting platforms).

For citation

Dragunova E.V. (2021) Youth forums as a creative space for producing art objects (a case study of the 2020 Taurida Forum). *Yazyk. Slovesnost'. Kul'tura* [Language. Philology. Culture], 11 (1-2), pp. 21-30. DOI: 10.34670/AR.2021.96.90.003

Keywords

Taurida Art Park, Taurida Forum, street art, conceptual art, art object, landscape art, youth creativity.

Introduction

The creative sector is becoming more and more widespread in Russia: almost every major city today has creative art spaces or lofts, various festivals are held, including ones with the participation of private, non-governmental associations and youth [Grigoryan, 2019]. The creative young community is supported through forums and festivals, and the development of youth creativity is to some extent promoted by such forums as the Territory of Meanings, the Baltic Artek, the Amur Forum, the Mashuk Forum, the Seliger Forum, etc. [Metsker, Kibardin, 2020, 10; Starshov, 2018].

Crimea was incorporated into Russia in 2014, the annual Taurida Festival has become the central event of youth policy; the festival in many ways "creates the image of the region – the Republic of Crimea" [Kirkacheva-Muratova, Smeyukha, 2020, 87].

Research results

The Taurida Festival and Art Forum, an annual cultural event in Crimea, aims to develop contemporary art and encourage creativity in young artists: "The forum is the main Russian platform for creative youth. Its main tasks include creating professional communities of young culture luminaries, ensuring conditions for their self-actualization, helping young people to fulfill their career aspirations, and fostering traditional family values" [Shashkina, Shashkin, 2019, 518].

According to the researchers, "the Taurida-ART Festival is an absolutely nonclassical event; it is a symbiosis of two main leisure areas of creative development of young people—the forum and the festival. First of all, this is a festival that allows you to go to dozens of auditions, attend hundreds of new performances, exhibitions, and watch hundreds of films. The Taurida-ART Festival gives young people the opportunity not only to have a good time, but also to unleash their creative potential to the fullest. At the same time, if compared with any other forum, this big event is famed for its numerous grants, lectures, and master classes" [Metsker, Kibardin, 2020, 11].

The forum venue is decorated with new art objects every year, and the works of young luminaries neighbor upon the works of famous artists.

Art objects in the open air constitute an important part of the atmosphere of the Taurida Forum. They are being created at the venue near Sudak for the second time; some of them are made by distinguished artists and the others are designed by young people. Thus, the art object "Spinning Top" has been built by students under the guidance of the artist Roman Ermakov and the joiner Cheslav Shvaykov (Figure 1).

The shaping of this sculpture is based on the transformation of the energy of the rotation of a spinning top. The concept of the sculpture was developed at a workshop for the Taurida-ART Festival in June 2020. The materials included glued laminated timber, putty, and paint. This construction made of wood is 6 meters high and weighs about 3 tons.

Here is what Cheslav Shvaykov says about the process of creating the sculpture: "Our team recruited at the workshop mainly consists of recently graduated designers, architects, and specialists in related fields, e. g., theater and fashion. <...> The team developed the concept and appearance of the art object during a number of online sessions. We knew the location only from photographs and the general plan. None of us have ever been to the venue. So, we can say, we were thrashing about in the dark. Initially, the sculpture was supposed to be located in the lowlands. But when we arrived at Taurida, we chose another place—the top of the hill. ...our task was to make a monolithic construction out of wood. <...> The sculpture foundation was assembled on the spot and also became a monolithic platform" [Bobrova, www].



Figure 1 - Roman Ermakov, Timur Baiguzin, Valeria Andreeva, Alexey Smirnov, Irina Mikheishina, Valeria Podakova, Maria Kharchenko, Daria Setevinets in collaboration with "Mekhanicheskie Derevyannye Shesterenki" ("Mechanical Wooden Gears") and Cheslav Shvaykov. Spinning Top. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park¹

Young people learned not only to develop a project and turn an idea into a concept, but also to build their own objects at such interdisciplinary workshops. For example, the art object "Taurida Stream", which was built by the Artel of Free Artists, was very difficult to construct because of the winds and the inexperience of the participants in the construction of such objects (Figure 2).

Natalia Ermakova, the manager of the art park, said: "The object is craft, original, as that was the purpose of the workshop. The guys were given the chance to understand how concrete is poured, parts are made and glued together, and lights are installed and to try doing this. <...> It was hard to glue patterns together during the last week of construction, as strong winds were sweeping everything in their path. One construction had to be changed. Initially, the construction was designed in a different shape, the installation was supposed to sing in the wind, but it was the wind that hindered the construction. It turned out to be very difficult to make, install and weld the parts together under local conditions. It was dangerous in such a wind—the welded construction was flying apart. In addition, there was not enough time; we went all out for fixing polycarbonate and plywood parts. We thought about how to adapt the design to these realities and carry out major works with the participants, so it was decided to simplify the construction" [Ibidem].

The art group "Keshyu" ("Cashew") worked with metal and welding to create the art object "There-There" (Figure 3).

¹ <https://premiya.ariwood.com/upload/iblock/e7d/e7dc96fef8ffdbccd3ae29d31435b25d.JPG>



Figure 2 - The Artel of Free Artists. The art object "Taurida Stream" under construction. Concrete, polycarbonate, plywood, metal. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park. 2020²



Figure 3 - The art group "Keshyu" ("Cashew"). There-There. 310×264×294 cm. Stainless steel. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park. 2020³

² https://academycrafts.ru/upload/medialibrary/734/IMG_1595.JPEG

³ <https://sun9-6.userapi.com/impf/c854320/v854320630/24924c/GPUo8Trott8.jpg?size=799x807&quality=96&sign=3e15237700ad59f038cccd1dded3567c&type=album>

Some of the art objects were created during workshops, but the others won the contests [Chernokon', www], e. g., the art object "Druse" designed by the Moscow artists Natalia Tinyaeva and Viktoria Pogosyan and intended for enjoying privacy on the seashore in the play of light and shadow (Figure 4).

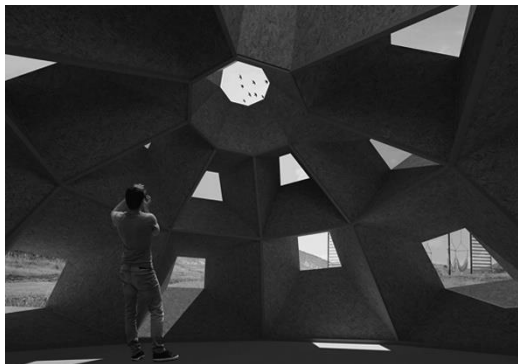


Figure 4 - Natalia Tinyaeva and Viktoria Pogosyan. Druse.
On the left: the project of the art object⁴. On the right: the object in
the art park. Timber, plastic. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park. 2020⁵

Second place in the art competition went to Anastasia Timchuk from Orenburg with the project "A Disco Ball with a DJ Stand" (Figure 5).



Figure 5 - Anastasia Timchuk, Orenburg. A Disco Ball with a DJ Stand. Project⁶

⁴ https://vk.com/doc34642742_538223297?hash=ur4poAzIio6QiCzgfCw15wnVFJLNzGBEmFYVp465aYX&dl=alWhReCML5nTZQBnZf2UJIXSW8RymKhDSFosO9fkyk8

⁵ <https://img2.fedpress.ru/thumbs/800/2020/09/2018/58201a9371e6ee82567098376477a8d0.jpeg>

⁶ https://static.tildacdn.com/tild3330-6530-4364-a230-653035343964/___03.jpg

Several art objects were created by the famous artist and set designer Sergey Pauker-Bravin. Pauker-Bravin designed the art object "A Man Looking at the Sea" in woven metal on Kapsel Bay last year, and this year he made the art object "Assol"—a delicate girl standing on the seashore and waiting for scarlet sails. The artist created an openwork metal sculpture that is 13 meters high. External illumination makes the silhouette look particularly spectacular at night (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Sergey Pauker-Bravin. Assol. Metal. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park. 2020⁷

Pauker-Bravin also created the art object "Phoenix"—a luminous polygonal metal sculpture with easily readable symbols of rebirth. The artist dedicated his work to the history of Russia, which has been conquered several times, but has always revived (Figure 7).



Figure 7. Sergey Pauker-Bravin. Phoenix. Metal. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park. 2020⁸

⁷ https://sun9-30.userapi.com/impf/Hn37luHqyTArwiDG-gBxLnDdWtM_d0YhGYvJ9g/yfS1YUUS5wU.jpg?size=807x538&quality=96&sign=c6ad7c730cef102f82a1e46ba6328295&type=album

⁸ <https://sun9-24.userapi.com/impf/F7Chbe648BE-e12Kj5w3pZ7EktArwoL0pp-dvw/v0iH7p9votI.jpg?size=807x538&quality=96&sign=5f91eb458396912585020770c9a02dd5&type=album>

The art object "Seashell" designed by Pauker-Bravin symbolizes silence and solitude, as well as the mystery of the birth of a new life and new ideas. The parts of the art object were assembled on the spot (Figure 8).



Figure 8 - Sergey Pauker-Bravin. Seashell. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park. 2020⁹

The procedure for submitting projects to the open competition has become more transparent: projects are displayed on the official website of the competition at https://crki.art/art_objects. Here you can find many interesting objects. Although their justification often looks somewhat naive, the variety of ideas is impressive.

The art session for young painters and graphics specialists was also an interesting event for the development of the creative potential of young people: young artists and curators worked as part of a team led by such experts as the gallery owner Elena Kuprina-Lyakhovich and famous artists. The work resulted in selecting a number of art objects for the Taurida Constans Exhibition "Dotted Journey through the Artistic History of Crimea", which took place during the main session (Figure 9).



Figure 9 - Students' works at the Taurida Constans Exhibition. Crimea, Sudak, the Taurida Art Park. 2020¹⁰

⁹ https://scontent-arn2-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/117236933_321179575915386_7610718232003930756_o.jpg?_nc_cat=108&ccb=2&_nc_sid=730e14&_nc_eui2=AeHqfE1YPivavA7wqjfTzMIADUwEQqklsJENTARCqSWwka2HWzQ9x1rce9SVI6czl7jgUjy3JyvGAnui0m9js2o0&_nc_ohc=V-nxcVmMuaoAX-zz8pj&_nc_ht=scontent-arn2-2.xx&oh=e3ae89ca60f3c5249a203df052199557&oe=5FFDA918

¹⁰ <https://img2.fedpress.ru/thumbs/800/2020/09/2018/b2d8d3d59e3adbfc50b15c2ca6a839fc.jpeg>

It is necessary to pay attention to the fact that "the works designed by the participants in the Taurida Forum are placed in the hall with paintings by Ivan Aivazovsky and graphic works by Maximilian Voloshin. There is no difference between renowned artists and novice creators; the participants are even listed in the catalog alphabetically" [Ibidem].

The Taurida Forum and the Taurida-ART Festival help young specialists to change: "The festival gives artists plenty of opportunity to understand in a few days who they are, to once again discover their values and aspirations, to realize their unique place among thousands of active and talented young people with whom they constantly share tremendously useful experience, and it is the difference in the professional spheres of the participants that offers them a chance to get acquainted with completely new approaches in their work" [Timkova, 2019].

It is worth noting that "the successful realization of creative potential requires specific conditions, including a creative environment (art space), freedom of choice, group involvement, the possibility of co-authorship, gaining new experience and meeting new people, networking opportunities, and government support" [Metsker, Kibardin, 2020, 13]—and all this can be achieved through the Taurida format.

Conclusion

The Taurida Creative Youth Forum carries a powerful impulse of creative development for young people, enriching their experience in interdisciplinary practices. It is no accident that a year-round residence is planned to be built at Taurida, and the art park will be open to the public, which is common international practice for such art parks.

The Taurida Forum is quite actively implementing its tasks specified in Order of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs No. 86 of March 20, 2020 "On holding the Taurida Forum for young culture and art luminaries in 2020", including the provision of resources for the development and implementation of creative projects in the field of culture and arts (grant support, internships, employment, casting platforms).

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Молодежные форумы как творческое пространство создания арт-объектов (на примере «Тавриды-2020»)

Драгунова Екатерина Вячеславовна

Независимый исследователь,
101000, Российская Федерация, Москва;
e-mail: E.V.Dragunova.researches@gmail.com

Аннотация

Статья посвящена арт-пространству молодежного форума «Таврида» как продуктивной среде создания арт-проектов на местности (открытом пространстве). С 2019 г. «Таврида» проходит в бухте Капсель возле Судака (Крым), и это живописное пространство стало хорошим фоном для создания уникальных арт-объектов в ландшафте местности. Так, в 2020 г. на «Тавриде» в результате воркшопов и других форм работы были созданы арт-объекты, дополнившие арт-парк: «Юла» из дерева, многокомпонентный «Таврический поток», «Там-там» из металла, «Друза» из деревянного бруса и пластика, «Ассоль» и «Феникс» из металла, бетонная «Ракушка». Автор анализирует процесс создания ряда объектов и их место в арт-парке «Тавриды», который планируют открыть для всеобщего посещения. «Таврида» как место творчества молодых оказывается уникальным пространством коллаборации различных творческих групп и специалистов.

Для цитирования в научных исследованиях

Драгунова Е.В. Youth forums as a creative space for producing art objects (a case study of the 2020 Taurida Forum) // Язык. Словесность. Культура. 2021. Том 11. № 1-2. С. 21-30. DOI: 10.34670/AR.2021.96.90.003

Ключевые слова

Арт-парк «Таврида», форум «Таврида», стрит-арт, концептуальное искусство, арт-объект, ландшафтное искусство, творчество молодежи.

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