

BRIONI SUMMIT



www.ykon.org

BRIONI SUMMIT CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

FOR THE BRIONI TOP SUMMIT OF MICRONATIONS (AND OTHER ANTI-ANTI-UTOPIANS) HELD ON THE BRIONI ISLAND IN CROATIA IN THE YEAR 2013, YKON IS NOW CALLING FOR IDEAS, PROPOSALS, PAPERS, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (OR INDEPENDENCE), SECRET MESSAGES, ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, GOOD PRACTICES, LOVE LETTERS, HISTORIC TREATISES, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM THE FUTURE.

We call YOU: peaceful mediators, psychedelic facilitators, social inventors, alien helpers, micronational achievers, autonomous space-invaders, co-operative bolo bolos, stealth designers, committed magicians, pensioned spies, utopian world-champions, transnational citizens, optimistic panarchists, light-hearted architects, participatory economists, libertarian municipalists, non-aligned revolutionaries, cross-disciplinary tinkerers, innocent visionaries, communal transcendentalists, voting-system plumbers, footnotes of history... and all those in search of the blueprints for the future.

WE INVITE YOU TO CREATE THE BRIONI SUMMIT OF MICRONATIONS TOGETHER WITH US!

BACKGROUND

In August 2003 the First Summit of Micronations took place in Helsinki at Finlandia Hall, appropriating the site of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) 30 years ago. The summit was attended by delegations of the Principality of Sealand, the Kingdoms of Elgaland & Vargaland, NSK-State in Time, the Remony of Ladonia, Transnational Republic, and the State of Sabotage.

Strategies of “subversive affirmation” interspersed into absurdist choreographies of state rituals toyed with people’s most embedded relationships to the state. The summit opened the space for a playful reconquest of political discourses on autonomy, utopia and self-realisation. It imploded the mind numbing limitations of “Realpolitik” by acknowledging that we human beings are full of obscurity, of unresolved personal and historical passions. The summit acted as reminder that nationality and state are very recent mental and social-historical constructs that can be replaced by other forms of spacial commitment and identity.

The question, how the imaginative and experimental politics of micronations could be turned into a real transformative force, how micronations could behave “as agents of change” required further elaboration. The delegates of the Helsinki Summit therefore unanimously voted to hold a 2nd Summit and placed their host in charge. As a suitable location for the next Summit of Micronations Ivan Novak from NSK-State suggested the Brioni Islands in Croatia. The non-profit group YKON was found with the purpose to organize the Brioni Summit in the year 2013.

YKON is an artist-run non-profit advocacy group for experimental countries and utopian thinkers. Curiosity about utopian fantasy productions and the emergence and drying-up of alternative architectures of society are core interests of the group. YKON evolved from the “Summit of Micronations”. The current members are Sasha Huber, Tellervo Kalleinen, Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen, Petri Saarikko and Tomas Ivan Träskman. www.ykon.org



www.ykon.org

Short History of the Brioni Islands

1 Brioni was first inhabited by dinosaurs during the Cretaceous Period. Further findings from the period of the Roman Republic and Empire, Late Antiquity, Eastern Goths, Byzantium, Carolingian period and Venice testify to the long time settlement. The large ruins in Verige Bay are remains of the Imperial Roman summer residences dating back to the 1st century AD.

2 During Augustus' rule a villa rustica was erected in Dobrika Bay. Life within the villa went on until the end of the 4th century when the villa grew into a closely-built-type settlement with houses, olive and grapes processing plants, storage rooms, workshops, blacksmith workshop, ovens, briefly, all elements necessary for an independent life of a community. It was later turned into a Byzantine Castrum.

3 From the Middle Ages Brioni belonged to Venice, and stone from the islands' quarries was used to build the palaces and bridges of the “Queen of the Adriatic”. The islands became then part of Napoleon's Illyrian Provinces for a brief period.

In 1815 the Austrian Empire took over Brioni. During this period the islands' quarries supplied stone to Vienna and Berlin. The Austrians built a strong fortress on Brioni Island. The Austro-Hungarian Navy abandoned the fortress and in 1893 the Viennese business magnate Paul Kupelwieser bought the whole archipelago and created an exclusive beach resort for the World's high society. The curing of the archipelago from malaria during this time is credited to the German bacteriologist Robert Koch.

In 1918 after World War I Brioni became part of Italy. Karl Kupelwieser, the son of the founder of the estate tried to maintain the former splendor but after the economic crisis following Black Friday, the estate went bankrupt and Karl committed suicide. By 1930 the islands were acquired by the Italian state.

4 In 1945 after World War II Brioni became part of Yugoslavia and communist state leader Josip Broz Tito made Brioni Islands his personal State Summer Residence. The islands played a crucial role in the forging of the non-aligned movement (NAM). In a number of tripartite (Tito-Nasser-Nehru) meetings on Brioni the idea of non-alignment was hammered out. The movement attempted to create an independent path in world politics that would not result in Member States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major powers. A joined statement of Tito-Nehru declares: “The President and the Prime Minister desire to proclaim that the policy of non-alignment adopted and pursued by their respective countries is not ‘neutrality’ or neutralism and therefore passivity, but is a positive, active and constructive policy seeking to lead to a collective peace on which alone collective security can really rest... The President and the Prime Minister therefore repudiate the erroneous conception which has become prevalent in some quarters of a ‘third bloc’ or ‘third force’ of non-aligned countries. This is a contradiction in terms because such a bloc would involve them in the very system of alignments which they regard as undesirable.” (New York Times, 24.12.1954).

4a July 1956 tripartite (Tito-Nasser-Nehru) meeting at Brioni.

4b 1st Summit of the Non-aligned Movement, Belgrade, 1961.

4c Member states of NAM, currently 118.

5 Almost 100 foreign heads of state visited Tito on his islands, along with film stars including Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Sophia Loren, Carlo Ponti, and Gina Lollobrigida. Tito loved to watch movies at an open air cinema together with his famous guest. In the currently abandoned projector room the filmprogram of the Summer 1971 was salvaged: Teksas Express, Pirati u Metrou, Amerikan Grifit, Kalibar br.9, Romanticka Engleskinja to mention a few.

6 Tito died in 1980, and by 1983 the islands were declared a National Park of Yugoslavia. Tito's favourite pet – the parrot Cookie – remained on the island. Cookie met in person many of the head of states visiting Brioni. His speech imitates that of the late Tito.

7 The now defunct armchair located in a bamboo hut facing a small pond served for Tito's short solemn moments of meditation during dawn. The Brioni Agreement was signed on July 7, 1991 ending the Slovenian War. In 1991 Croatia gained independence and made Brijuni Islands an International Conference Center.

