

A video archive 89 VHS tapes, each with 3 hours of footage

In the early 1990s in Tskaltubo in Georgia - a village near Kutaisi, capital of the Imeret region. Stalin, who loved to stay here during the heyday, also loved this health resort, known in the country - between 1939 and 1955 the historic building complexes were expanded in the style of a neo-classicism favored by Stalin. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the walls and social structure also fell apart. In 1992, around 10,000 of the 250,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had fled and been displaced in the breakaway region of Abkhazia moved to hotels, sanatoriums and rest homes in Tskaltubo. As a young documentarist, Ioseb Tsibadze filmed this political change and the associated changes in village life in a poetically observing manner. The images show how a rural community in the country finds itself and is reorganized. Diana Tsibadze was the lead journalist for this. She shapes the pictures in the conversation with the residents of Tskaltubo as an ever present and questioning figure in and next to the scene.

"Make something out of it!" Says Tsibadze when he hands me the material.

The closet in his office is locked. Here are the VHS tapes. It is valuable the material. In a handshake cooperation agreement, Ioseb Tsibadze can digitize the film recordings 2018 by hand (thanks to financial support from the Thurgau Cultural Foundation for the project). I will receive the hard drives in spring 2019. The work of reviewing the documents begins. The content is so varied and rich that an attentive look at it is necessary. A lively exchange with Georgians I know leads to new insights for a rough understanding, also from afar, for the repositioning of Georgian society since the beginning of the 90s.

Exhibition in Thurgau 2019

For an initial publication and representative of the entire material, the interview with Otia Iosseliani 1997 will be shown at the Werkschau Thurgau 2019. This is about the Georgian language, which is to be preserved or specially protected due to an office newly introduced by a state decree. This cutout has already been finished by Tsibadze. In addition to the translation (Marika Lapauri Burk & Robin Burk), the dubbing voice (Sascha Schäfke) is an acting addition. There is an artistic act here (editing: Gunnar Fleischer) to do justice to the material if it is to be understood with our historical-geographical distance. "You can only do that with humor, encounter this lot of pictures. We had enough of them here and

would love to leave them behind!" a friend from Tbilisi told me.

News from Tskaltubo

The lost Objective is a recurring phenomenon in all societies. Some found it again in a short time, others take longer, experience political transformation as a brittle time with many obstacles, liberating or even under new constraints. In Tsibadze's material, this phenomenon can be explored in the smallest and at the same time on a large scale.

THE LOST OBJECTIVE (working title) is a project in process. A publication will appear in 2022 with the financial support of the Kulturwerk Bonn Foundation. The further course is always updated here. Hamburg, March 2021

A password can be requested from mail@evazulauf.ch to view the trailer!