



KALACH'S SOUNDSCAPE FOR CITIZENS

A project by Jesús Palomino

in collaboration with the 3 rd. Ural Biennial of Industrial Art 2015



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ABSTRACT OF THE PROJECT

Kalach's Soundscape for Citizens is a participatory art project that proposes to bring the *soundscape* experience into the everyday life of citizens in the factories at the Ural Region.

The recording of natural sounds taken from the environmental sites in Kalach will be played at several accurately selected working sites at those factories in collaboration with the 3rd. Ural Biennial of Industrial Art 2015.



Kalach is a city at the end of the Apalayeusk narrow gauge railway line. The project proposes to do an 8 hours recording of natural sites at the forest in Kalach. This *soundscape* recording will be done with the help of professional sound equipment and a professional sound technician on the spot at Kalach's forest.

To reach Kalach, we shall use Apalayeusk narrow gauge railway. The whole experience of travelling to Kalach, the experience of recording nature in the forest, and the performance of the *soundscape* at the working sites in the factories, will be registered in a video that will explain and document the whole journey.



Kalach's soundscape for citizens is an *Acoustic Ecology* proposal and a participatory art project that could take two complementary forms:

1. It will be a sound installation that could be played at any place, whether a conventional art space of the Biennial, whether a selected working factory space.
2. It will be as well a video that will communicate and document the whole process of travelling, recording and performance. The video will show the story of the own making of the project.

JESÚS PALOMINO. Bamberg, Germany. January 2015.



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Alapayevsk narrow gauge train is the most extended narrow gauge network of the Russian Federation, that in its best times reached an extension of approximately 620 kilometres. Alapayevsk railway has been for years the main means of transportation in this area operating both passenger and freight trains.

It should be fair to say that this railway Co. has operated a singular role among the remote villages in the Ural forestry areas, helping to the sustainable social, cultural and economic development at Sverdlosk Oblast. My interest in proposing Alapayevsk trains as part of my project, has to be in fact with this human, industrial and historical transmission operated already longer than a century.



The project will proceed in three phases: 1, we shall reach Kalach by train to record the sound of the forest; 2, we shall bring back by train this *soundscape* to install it within working spaces at factories. 3, a video will be filmed out of this journey.

Once again, the train will bring from Nature what we appreciate the most, not only as profitable natural resources, but as an *aesthetical* experience through a compensatory sound performance of symbolic wealthiness.

I consider that bringing *soundscapes* into working spaces at Ural factories could trigger a challenging *aesthetical* experience of dialogue between industrial human activities and our contemporary sense of nature.

As an artist, it is essential for myself to stress that nowadays any social dialogue addressing human economical activity, nature and industry, should be concerned with ideas of Human Ecology and sustainable development.



INDUSTRY, HUMAN ECOLOGY and SUSTAINABILITY

In contrast to other forestry railways, the Alapayevsk system is operated by an independent railway company, owned by the regional communities. A large part of its forestry railway network (300 km) has survived until now. Many lines are still in service for both passenger and freight traffic; the passenger service is well frequented.

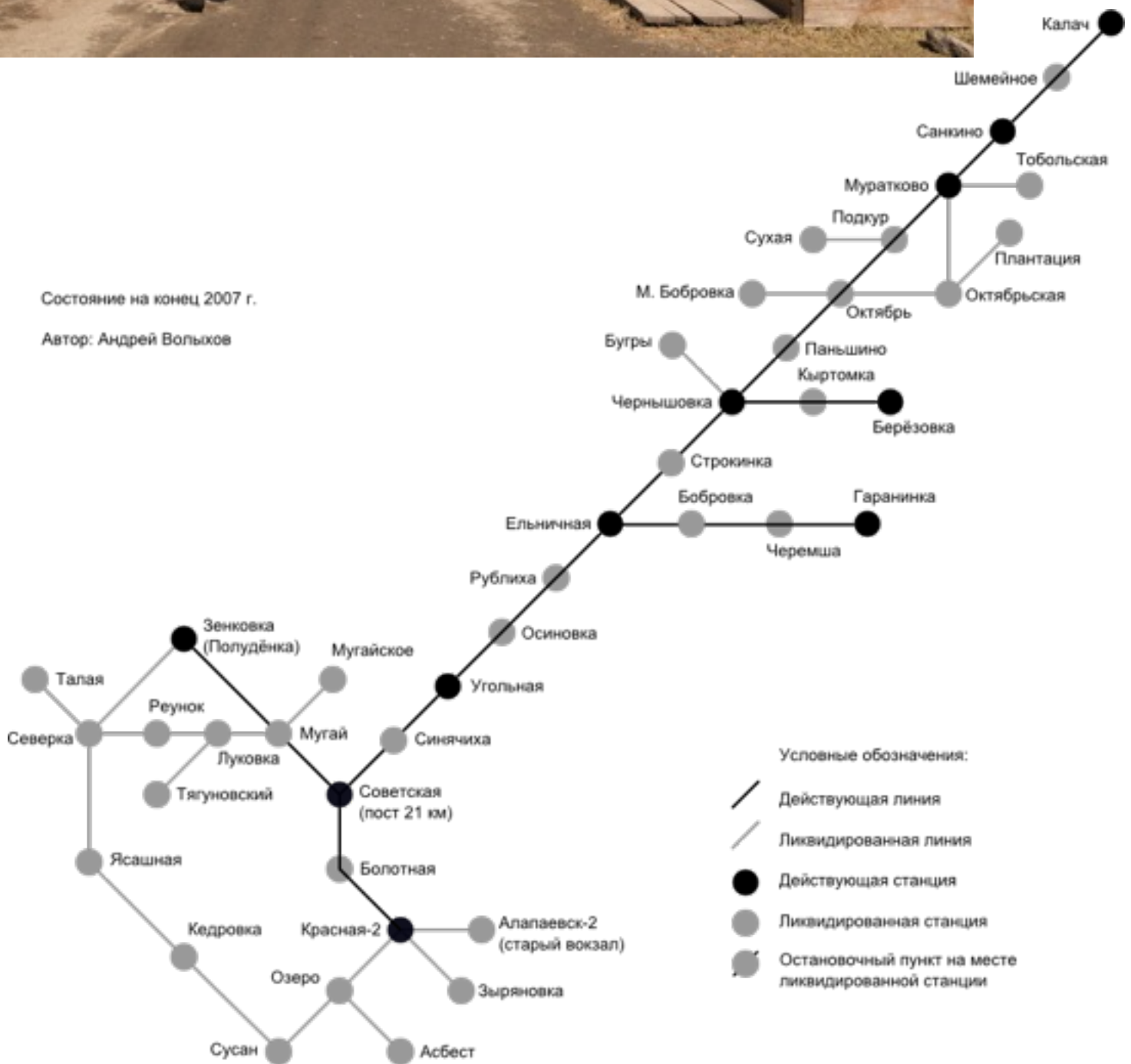
All those human and industrial ingredients make Alapayevsk narrow gauge trains quite suitable for this project because, in fact, the History of this Railway Co. seems to be a well balanced combination of respectful attitude towards Nature, and for years, favouring sustainable human economical activities. I guess, that's why Alapayevsk trains transmit such an affective and warmth feeling of humanity. It seems to be a People's train.

In such an interesting social environment, I would like to propose this project that has a great concern with *Human Ecology* and *Acoustic Ecology* too.



Состояние на конец 2007 г.

Автор: Андрей Вольхов





ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY

Acoustic Ecology concepts and experiences were first coined and performed by the Canadian composer Murray Schafer. He defines *Acoustic Ecology* as “the inquiry to find solutions for an ecologically balanced soundscape where the relations between the human community and its sonic environment is in Harmony”.

In fact, the practical manifestation of *Acoustic Ecology* proposes a wider education and sensibility towards sounds and noise pollution. But it is interested too in the recording and cataloguing of *soundscapes* with its focus on preservation of soundmarks and particular sound environments. All those interesting ideas by Schafer are beautifully expressed in his essay “*The Tuning of the World*” (1977).

My project has to do with all those ingredients of human industrial activity, Nature and *Acoustic Ecology* within the social reality of Ural factories at the present.



PROJECT OUTPUTS*

The project could be presented taking different forms and presented as a:

- Sound installation at any conventional gallery space;
- Video projection that will narrate the whole journey of the project;
- Documentary to show at any local or national TV channel.
- Radio broadcasting in local or national radio stations at Yekaterinburg or other cities;

* (Any final definition about the better presentation and communication of the project should be discussed and defined in any case together with the curatorial board.)

ESTIMATE BUDGET* & PRODUCTION NEEDS

- Professional sound technician with professional recording equipment
- Professional video producer
- Sound system installation at the factory
- Train tickets for 3 persons to Kalach
- Per diem for 3 persons (3 days)
- Hotel for 3 persons (2 nights)
- Video projector and installation at the show in Yekaterinburg
- Sound installation at the show in Yekaterinburg

* (Since I really do not know about working fares and wages in Russia, I just present a list of production needs without precise amounts of money for the production.)

I hope this project proposal gets a positive support by the Curatorial Board of the 3 rd. Ural Biennial of Industrial Art 2015.

For me personally, it could be a really enriching artistic and *aesthetical* challenge to have the chance of seeing this proposal positively done and presented.

Yours Sincerely.

JESÚS PALOMINO

Bamberg, Germany. January 2015



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