

"I was using the camera to lift up stones and to reveal stuff."

Mark Saunders



This booklet is about Mark and INURA. It is for Ilga, Teo, Leon, Mark's mom and all who knew and loved Mark.

The images and texts are memories from Mark's friends and colleagues, mates, buddies, partners, fellow activists, passivists, film makers, researchers, practitioners, theorists, academics associated with INURA, the International Network for Urban Research and Action.

Mark was a founding member of INURA, a regular participant of the annual INURA conferences, and maintained many bi- and multilateral relations with members around the globe.

He will always be remembered.

PORTRAITS



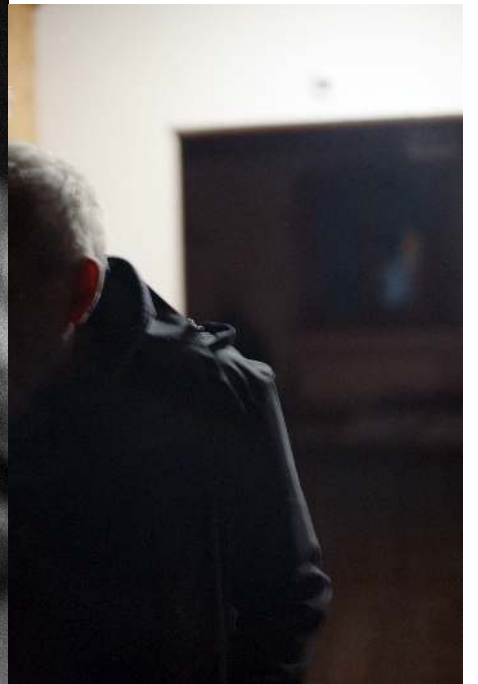
Athens, 2015

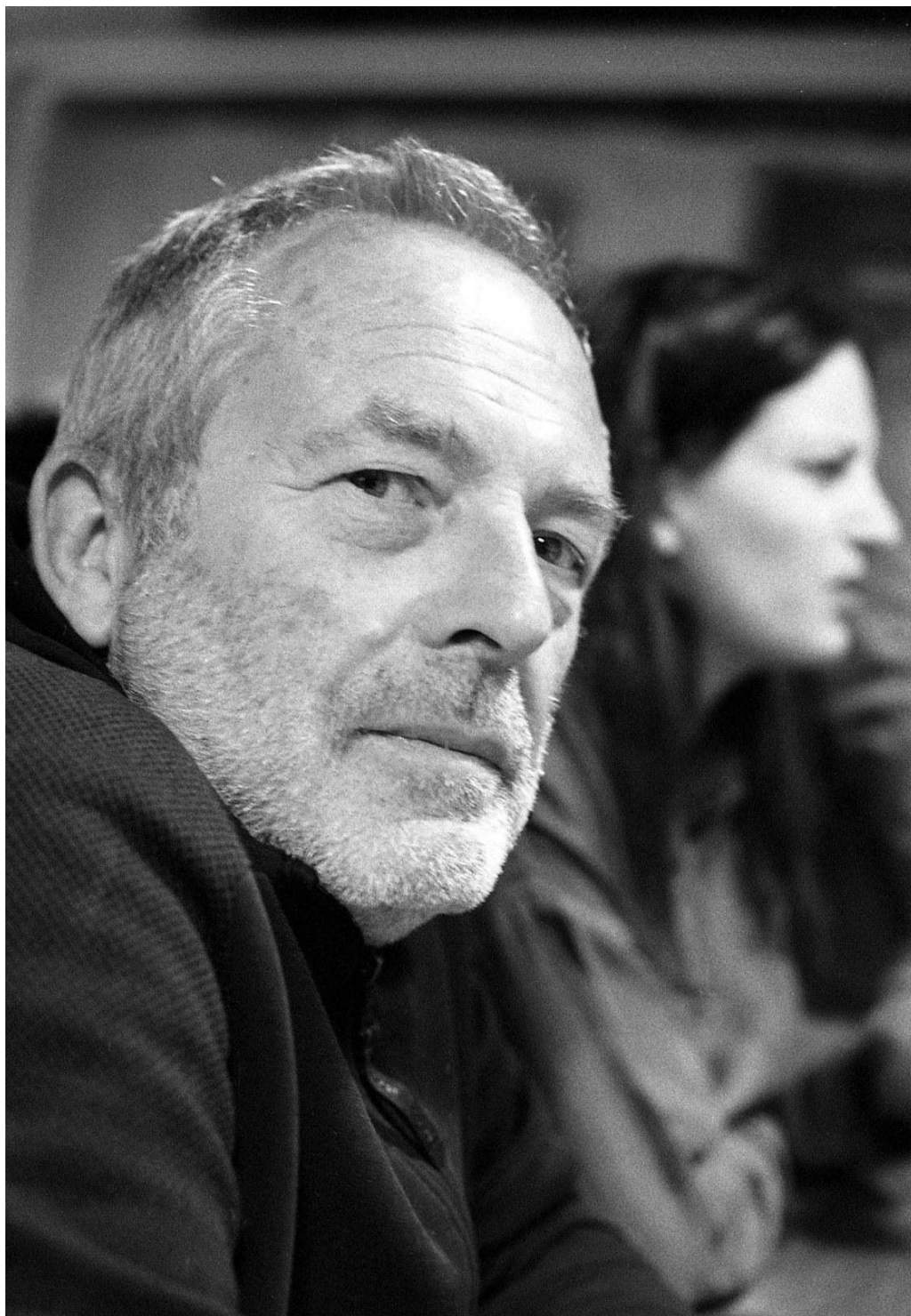


Zurich, 2023 - Zagreb, 2019 - Antequera, 2024



London, 2007 - Bucharest, 2016





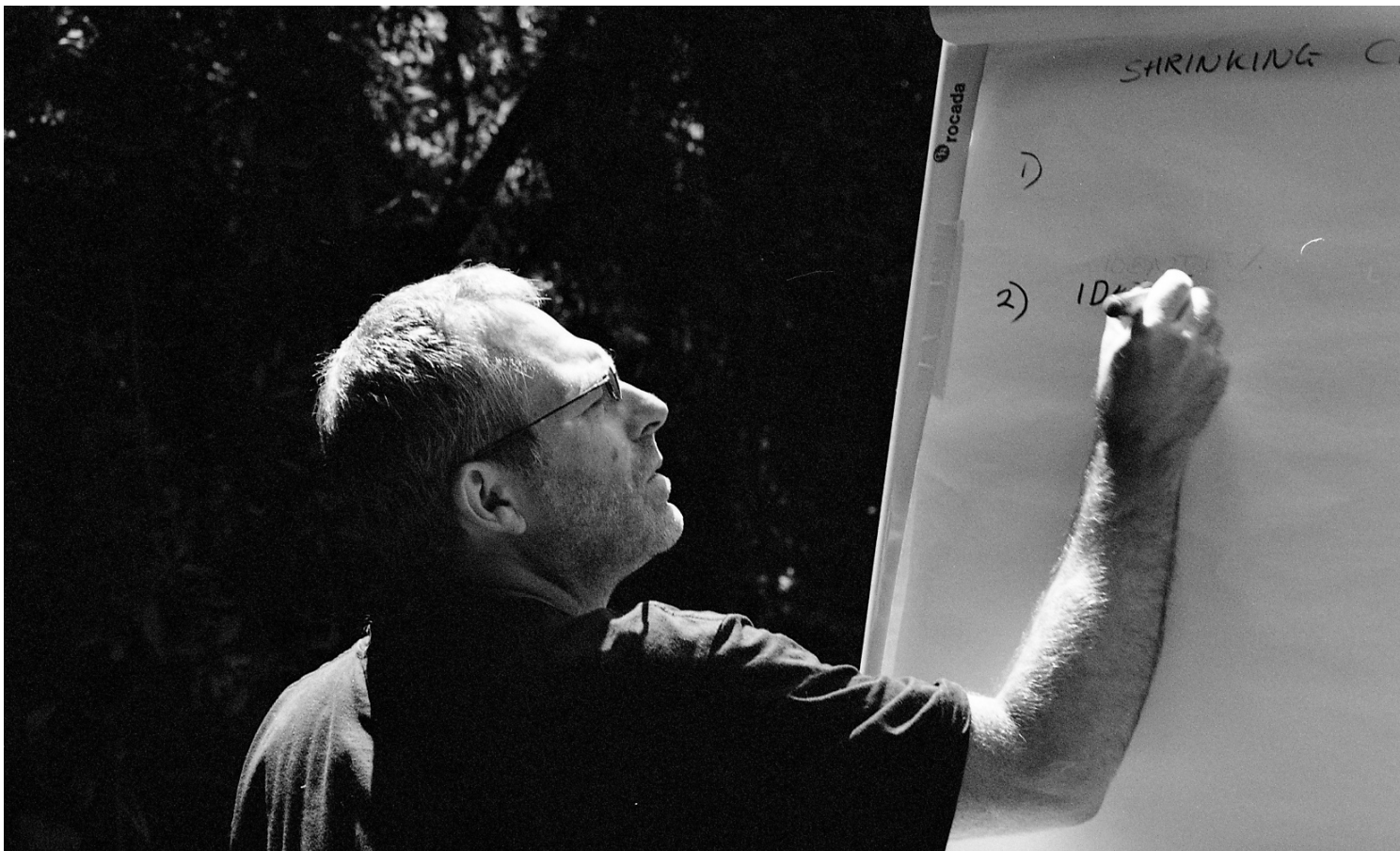
Salecina, 2023



Malaga, 2024



Deptford Creek, 2016 - Bucharest, 2016



LEISURE TIME AND WORKING



With Britta and Larry in Berlin, 2019





Richard W., Michael E. and Mark. London, 2007



Ilga, Teo, and Mark at Lake Türlensee near Zurich, 2017



Ilga, Teo, and Mark, Peckham, 2016



MARK AMONGST HIS OUR FRIENDS



Pori, 2025



Orhan, Marvi, Mark, Christian, Britta and Matti. Pori, 2025

I am devastated by the news of Mark's death. It is a great loss, because he was a friend and a comrade of great value.

The libertarian, anarchist and self-managing heart of INURA. Who contributed to keeping INURA on the good track: self-management, solidarity, and struggles.

In the retreat this year many of us expressed concern about the international geopolitical situation but he, I want to remember, with an admirable optimism said, at the end of the discussion: The harder they come, the harder they fall (as said in the song by Peter Tosh).

Let us keep his spirit, which is also that of INURA, the best part of INURA.

Love to you Mark.

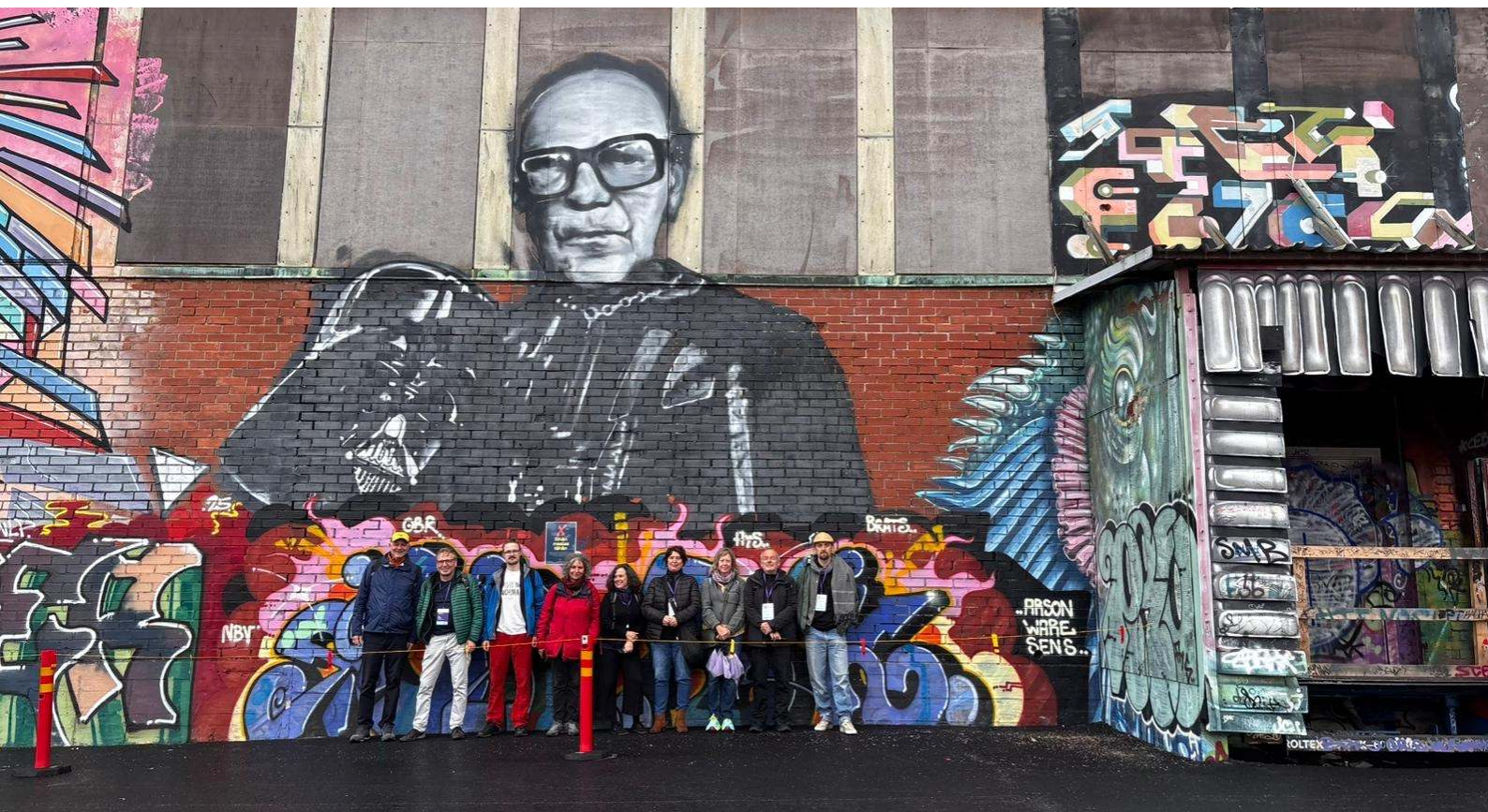
Marvi Maggio, Firenze



Mark, Marit, Libby and Ulrike in Malaga, 2024

Dear Mark, I know I can say this bluntly to you because we've always enjoyed being blunt with each other - it is very irresponsible of you to leave like this. I didn't have a chance to have another huge belly laugh with you or to put the world to rights over a beer (0% now of course...). You always managed to be serious and funny all at the same time, that was your special super-power and one of the things I loved most about you. I also loved your commitment to your work and what it needed to do in the world, your love of family which shone through all the time, your fierce rage at injustice. You are so loved and so terribly missed.

Libby, Melbourne



Field trip. Tampere, 2025

The first time I talked to Mark was in Caen in 2002. It was my first INURA meeting and I didn't know anyone. He and Alun were sitting on the grass together and I thought they looked interesting but didn't know how to approach them. So after a bit I walked up to them and said "Is it true there are 40 words for brown in Welsh?" (I think Alun was Welsh). They both just looked at me. I'd completely interrupted whatever conversation they were having. Then Mark burst out laughing, and made room on the grass. I thought, phew, I'm in, and that was it.

He was the best person to be with on INURA city tours. Not only did he find humour in everything but his analyses were skewering. He listened, heard, thought, responded, and was always right on. He was solid. I would

get distracted or dawdle and kept losing the group and getting lost, but when he was there he would form a little bridge and somehow manage to keep the group and me in sight at the same time. He was caring, calm, reliable, utterly trustworthy ... he carried the weight of the world, sometimes I thought, for all of us. His presence was a comfort, a safe pair of hands.

Leo, I know what a great dad he was to you, and Ilga, such a loving, protective partner, he talked about you both with such tenderness. The loss must be immense.

Many of us loved Mark, and through him, you two. Our hearts will ever be with him and with you.

Kate, Melbourne

For me, Mark was one of the most important and finest people at INURA, and his absence will be greatly felt.

Mark was one of the first people - or perhaps the first? - I met and spoke to at my very first INURA conference which took place in Rome in 2005. We got chatting when we left for the first city trip. I was awestruck when I realized that he was one of the film makers of The truth lies in Rostock - a documentary that I had watched about a decade earlier and that I would never forget. Mark was then - in 2005 - as he always has been until right now: kind, considerate, open, curious, welcoming to newcomers, full of humour - and at the same time sharp, radical and clear in his political analysis.

Mark was a constant at the INURA conferences I went to in the past 20 years. His contribution and commitment to the spirit of the conferences and to INURA as a whole is immeasurable. Never putting himself at centre stage, he had a strong presence. We could always rely on his keen interest in the ongoing debates, his support and his astute observations.

His sudden death comes as a great shock. I still find it hard to believe. I just can't picture an INURA without him. It will not be the same. We all miss him terribly.

Marit, Würzburg



Ulrike, Kate, Mark and Marit. Malaga, 2024



Kanishka, Mark and Margit. Zurich, 2023
Group picture of INURA founders. Salecina, 2023





Mark, Ileana and Richard W.. Zagreb 2019

Dear Mark,

As you already knew, here continues the tightrope dance trying to keep some balance like boats against the current at times pulled back towards the past.

And once again you offer your witty smile, with a deep breath asking a question leading to action, dreaming of the future.
Your voice follows the rhythm of sea waves slowly retreating into the depths, to join the whirlwind, the beginning of things.

Ileana, Zurich

Raspberry, sage, damiana, mint - what sounds like tea are some of the weeds Mark tried over the years to replace tobacco. I thought this a smart move as he knew his poisons but would never give up where his heart lies. In a nutshell, this changing mix of the pouchbag shines a light on how I got to know and deeply appreciate Mark. He was a constant, utterly reliable lighthouse in Inura who embodied so well what such a network needs to live and flourish: a deep curiosity, a willing to share and explore how cities and people evolve and struggle. And Mark liked people. I felt always welcomed by him and every year I knew that when we exchange, comment on the place and the people we are with and also our changing facets of life, sooner than later a joke will be cracked with this unique, unforgettable, rolling crackle of his laughter. I will miss you Mark.

Manuel, Berlin



Cristina, Manuel, Tino and Mark. Brijuni, 2019

I can't help but hear Mark's laughter echoing.

I remember, decades ago, he stayed in Florence for a few days, a guest at the Oginoknauss studio, I recall the time he first heard the word 'agriturismo'. He began to laugh in a mixture of amazement and disbelief at the idea of rural life marketed as a tourist commodity. Days later I still caught him mumbling agritourism and snickering. For us that concept was just an acquired banality, he had the ability to see without filters the absurdity of the world in which we are immersed. Like in his beautiful video on Mc Donalds, in which he simply put a BigMac in front of the camera and dissected it as in an autopsy, revealing the implicit absurdity and filth of the product.

Rest in power and laughter, Mark.

I will be happy to contribute to any venture to preserve the Spectacle video archive. We spent a huge amount of time talking together of projects like the "Active Archive", discussing ideas to fund, preserve and put at work all the materials that both Spectacle and our modest cousin project in Firenze have been assembling, especially in the 90s and early 2000s.

Lorenzo, Florence

The video of Mc Donalds by Mark, mentioned by Lorenzo, was the one that was shown at the University of Florence many, many years ago. I didn't know anything about INURA at the time. I was a student and uninvited, I peeped through the door of the room where the video was presented. This was eye opening for curiosity towards a world of new discussions, projects and ideas, meaningful conversations, that I would get to know about in the years to come, due to INURA. I thank Mark for this and I want other people to be inspired by his great work. So, nothing more than helping out to keep his legacy of Spectacle and share his work would make me, and us, come to term with this loss. It is hard to make sense of losses, and this one is very painful, it is unjust.

To know that Mark was coming to INURA, at our annual meetings, meant a reason more to join. I wanted to sit close to Mark, and as all of us,

enjoy and absorb his witty and sharp intelligence, his humanity and his adorable laugh.

My thoughts go to Ilga and Teo. He talked about you so dearly.

Laura, Florence



Lorenzo, Laura and Mark amongst others enjoying a break. Zagreb, 2019

I met Mark the first time in 1997 at the INURA conference in Zurich. There is a beautiful documentary by Heinz Nigg as part of the Rebelvideo project: <https://www.rebelvideo.ch/portraits/another-vision-of-change/> Perhaps it will comfort some of you to listen to Marc talk about his life.

We will never forget you, Marc. Rest in peace!

Love

Andreas W., Zurich



Teresa, Mark, Mariia. Pori, 2025

The only thing Mark and I ever disagreed on was 'the circle' - I never wanted to sit in the circle, but he would insist. He would say something like: There is no hiding; everyone is important. That was how he was: He was inclusive and stood for equality.

In Mark's corner of INURA everyone was welcome. And it was a great invitation too, because he was so funny. Mark always made space for others, and he was so full laughs.

It's still hard to digest that he is elsewhere.

All my thoughts are with Ilga and Teo.

Connie, Luxemburg



The men in black: Mark, Lorenzo and Andreas W. Sibiu ,2016

I have only one good picture of Mark - taken in Sibiu in Romania at the retreat after Bucharest in 2016. The men in black...

One good reason is that the rest of the time we were too busy talking about our concerns - urban or otherwise - but especially joking. The record for how long we could keep joking goes to the conference in Luxembourg - along with Fred Robinson. So no selfies or very good pictures of Mark - just a deep feeling of the loss of a really special person that has left us so suddenly...

I feel that he has left a huge legacy - off course through his work with Spectacle - and for me especially through the special relation between people that the Inura network can spark and makes it so special.

Jens, Copenhagen



Last night in Helsinki Harry and me went left, Mark and Iacopo went right, sure to see us next year again.
For me Mark was in a kind of the cultural heartbeat of INURA.
Transferring political and social action in a cultural expression.
Manifesting the necessary to remind it for the future and hold it on the political agenda.
Meeting Mark felt very comfortable. Talking, listening, watching movies, I enjoyed it everytime.
I will always remember you in the way.

Andreas B., Münster



Bucharest, 2016



Linda, Philipp, Connie, Mark and Richard. Tampere 2025

I met Mark through the Inura conferences, my first time attending was 2014. What I noticed from the beginning, was that Mark had a special way of making people feel welcome, and making individuals feel that they were part of something - like you were part of the in(ura) crowd.

Mark's brilliant sense of humor - his super witty, dry jokes - brought on uncontrollable laughter. Supposedly, science says that funnier people have higher IQs, and higher emotional IQs - this is the embodiment of Mark!

Mark is such an integral part of Inura to me, I still can't really believe he's gone. We were lucky to know him, and to be welcomed in by him, his spirit will always have a place in our hearts.

Linda, Zurich



Bucharest, 2016

Ah Mark, dear Mark. What a lovely man and what a star.

I remember when I met him, at the very first INURA meeting in Salecina. Everyone else was dressed for the cold weather. Not Mark. He arrived in a suit, trying not to show how cold he was. And poking fun at the perfect mountains of Switzerland. From the start, I could see why he was invited: a very special person, with his own take on things. Funny, with a quirky sense of humour (quirky even by British standards!) His style was not so much to speak truth to power, but rather, to laugh at the powerful and disarm them with wit. He couldn't understand why the powerful, as fellow human beings, could be so stupid, and nasty with it.

I will always see Mark in my mind's eye. That nervous, knowing, insightful laugh, like no other.

We'll all miss him, a lot. But hold the memory of him - his personality, his humanity, kindness and decency - in our hearts. Mark lives on in our memories. We have all gained so much through knowing him.

Mark, rest in peace.

Fred, Durham



Fred and Chris. Warsaw, 2018



Christian, Philipp, Mark, Richard and Andreas H.. Zurich, 2000

There were all these impressive movies by Mark. One of the later ones he showed at INURA retreat in Sibiel 2016. It was on the Battersea Power Station. He has been talking about Battersea ever since I had known him. What a brilliant analysis of the history of the building and the fight against all the plans! The whole conversion, Malaysian Pension Funds investing, Techcompanies moving in etc. he showed in a very clear way, And the ridiculous role of the cultural / industrial heritage ministry, and of course interviews with the people resisting the developments.

Through the close friendship with Richard, Mark has been visiting Zurich often and thus we met also often. He once visited also in the old cooperative former farmhouse I used to live with my family for 15 years outside Zurich. I also was always welcomed in Peckham, playing football with Teo and my daughter, having a great fish barbeque altogether with Ilga and Mark.

In December 2000 Mark visited Zurich and we - Christian, Richi, Stef De Corte (who took the fotos) and me - got a tour from Andreas Hofer through the first Kraftwerk1 building when it was still under construction (see pics below). It was this feeling of pioneers and doing something very special, coming together from different cities, having a common network and Mark filming made it an extra excitement!

In the last years I now and then visited the Spectacle INURA archive. Apart from many shots of events, interviews, talks, visits, ... there are quite some takes from me playing the violin. They are for me very valuable, seeing / listening how I used to play and where and when. I am very thankful to Mark that he took these and he like many other INURA friends shared heart and spirit and like mindedness with my nonconformist insitu instant violin playing.

This is just to add shortly personal stories to all your wonderful memories, thank you all.

Love, Philipp, Zurich



Zurich, 2000



Our last INURA retreat together with Mark. Pori, 2025

MARKAD ...

Memories of Mark

Mark is not here anymore, he has left us. It's hard to believe that we won't see Mark again, neither in London nor privately in Zurich or at any of the coming INURA conferences. I'm so sad.

In the past few years, whenever I came to London, I stayed with Mark, Ilga, and Teo in Peckham. I had my own beautiful room, facing the back garden which Mark also loved so much, very English. He had his fox friend Ralph there who visited regularly, sometimes coming right up to the backdoor of the house and peering in. Keeping an eye on Ralph, Mark would go to his computer and the CD shelf to select some music, perhaps a CD bought at a local boot sale. We had a cup of tea, sat down, everything was always very relaxing, and we would talk and talk about everything under the sun, mostly politics, social issues, worldwide or in Peckham, and a lot of personal stuff. Until he said: „Let's get up. I'll show you a few things in the neighbourhood". And off we were, on endless walks through his city, to Battersea Park or all the way down to Greenwich. We enjoyed the fun of discovering, observing, analysing and commenting everything we saw wherever we met. He was tireless. I'm not a bad city walker myself, but he regularly outdid me. Until the very last time in Tampere, where again it was I who said: „Ok, Mark, I think it's enough, let's turn around".

I will never forget the hot and sunny summer holidays, when Mark, Ilga and Teo came to visit my partner Talila and me in Switzerland. We were staying in the city council's holiday home, a beautiful villa in the forest near Zurich. Every day, we went swimming in either idyllic Lake Türlensee or in Lake Zurich. Mark was an excellent swimmer, a semi-professional in his youth. And we all got along very well, Teo enjoying the nearby playground and cuddling our dog Daisy.

I first met Mark in May 1991, in Zurich. We were going to spend a week in a remote place called Salecina in the mountains, in a group of 21 people,



Richard and Mark on a long walk in Tampere, 2025

all interested in urban issues and social justice. At the end of the week we had founded a new network, INURA, the International Network for Urban Research and Action. The network is still existing. We meet once a year, every time in a different city, to exchange ideas for urban theory and action, advocating more social and environmental justice. Mark's role in INURA as a film maker working closely with community groups in urban settings was special. He combined political and social analysis with participatory methods empowering local people to tell and film their own stories. On occasions, I would accompany and assist him, carrying equipment across London to the Silwood estate or to a march for affordable housing in Peckham, or to hold the microphone at an Exodus rave.

Mark was a very active member of INURA. It was he who brought Luton's fantastic Exodus Collective, its incredible struggles and achievements to INURA. Over years, Mark documented INURA's conferences, tours and actions and he maintained intense working relations with film makers, activists and academics in cities such as Brussels or Rostock, where he shot and produced the historic film „The Truth Lies In Rostock“.

Yes, we were close friends, and I've lost one of my dearest soulmates. I'll never forget his humour, his calmness, his political comments, his intelligence, and empathy. In my mind, Mark will always remain alive even if I won't be able to see him, speak to him, or hug him anymore.

Richard W.
Zurich, September 2025



Mark and Panos during the retreat in Salecina, 2023

Mark died. He was a lucky person with a shiny star always on top of him. And at a moment in history when the most generous act of resistance is to die, he did it. Perfect timing, and style. No suffering, true love all around. You get what you give. Thank you Mark for everything, and see you soon.

Panos, Zurich



A friendly open mind
No alcohol, but a spliff now and then
Freemasons and psychogeography
A patient teacher and good videographer
Yes, conspiracies in the world of real estate
Corrupt politicians everywhere
We shared the music choice
My roommate in Tampere
I miss you

Arie, Amsterdam



London, 2007



Coffee time for Michael and Mark. Sibiu, 2016

My first encounter with Mark

I met Mark for the first time in March 1990 in London. Hansruedi Hitz, Richi Wolff and I were preparing "Capitales Fatales", a series of large public events at the cultural centre Rote Fabrik on urban struggles in the financial metropolises of London, Paris, Frankfurt and Zurich, which would become a catalyst for the foundation of the International Network for Urban Research and Action INURA. At the time, Hansruedi and I were in London for collecting information about urban activism on King's Cross and the Docklands, while I was also looking for films we could show at our event. An established London video maker gave me a tip: go to Despite TV, they are making videos on London, a kind of scratch videos, rough but very interesting. I went to an address at Whitechapel Road, but found no video collective. Finally, I entered a bookstore at the same address, and there, in the basement, I met Mark in the midst of his studio. I stayed for hours. Mark showed me a selection of the production of the Despite TV video collective, based on participatory video and community engagement. Most interesting for us was "Despite the City" a polemic, sarcastic and at the same time lucid and well informed one hour documentary on the reckless urban redevelopment of the London Docklands and its devastating effects on the local communities. Before Hansruedi and I left London after our successful research trip, we joined the huge demonstration against Margret Thatcher's poll tax. We learned only after our arrival in Zurich that this initially peaceful demonstration had turned into a heavy riot, after the police had attacked protesters. When, in October 1990, we showed "Despite the City" at our event in Zurich, Mark also brought with him a second, brand new video - "The Battle of Trafalgar". This film carefully reconstructs step-by-step how the riots erupted, combining footage from different angles of several parts of the march with a multitude of eyewitness accounts. The film shows in detail how this riot emerged from brutal police actions, thus radically contesting the dominant narrative by police, politics and mainstream media.

When our Zurich group, just some months later, sent out letters for an invitation to the initial INURA conference in Zurich and Salecina in Mai

1991, Mark answered with great enthusiasm. He became one of the founding members of INURA, and a dear friend to all of us. The history of INURA is deeply intertwined with his work as video activist and film maker. After the second INURA conference in Rostock, Mark and his team organised a video workshop with a group of young anti-fascist activists from Rostock. When in August of the same year a mob of fascists petrol bombed a refugee centre and the home of Vietnamese guest workers while thousands of spectators stood by and clapped, one of the group members filmed from inside the attacked house. Using this material, Mark and his team produced the film "The Truth lies in Rostock". In this shocking account, they tell the story of this terrible attack through interviews with anti-fascists, the Vietnamese guest workers, police, bureaucrats, neo-nazis and residents, unfolding a story of political collusion and fear.

In the same year, Mark and his colleagues founded the independent television production company "Spectacle". In 1985, he made the video "Exodus: Movement of Jah People". Exodus was a collective based in the old industrial city of Luton, north of London, which was part of the growing DIY culture that arose in response to unemployment, poverty and frustration amongst young people. With a philosophy marked by a strong spiritual strand, appealing to notion of community in its struggle for survival and renewal, the collective was fighting for the concrete utopia of regenerating their disaffected community by squatting and renovating decayed buildings. "Their regular raves brought ex-army, ex-estate agents, ex-shop assistants and ex-criminals together as Exodus, in a dance with new direction that presented a challenge to the status quo" (Mark's words). One year later, Mark co-organized the sixth INURA conference in London and brought us to Luton to meet the Exodus collective - an unforgettable encounter.

Like no other of our members, Mark accompanied the activities of INURA with his video productions, and strongly enriched and inspired our network. At every conference he showed us his newest video productions, creating moments of engagement and solidarity. His video archive is an invaluable treasure for activism, resistance and a different urban future. We will never forget him.

Christian Schmid
Zurich, September 2025



Christian and Mark on a boat tour on Lake Zurich, 2023



Belgrade, 2014

Uff, i am definitely lacking words, so i need to keep it short. knowing Mark, and sharing his passion, i have some idea what kind of weight was on his shoulders: struggling with activist ambitions, family obligations and precarious employment in the documentary world, which many appreciate but few pay. He always seemed immune to carry this weight but now reached limits. He was my rock in stormy waters, gifted story teller, personal hero and exceptional friend. i will miss him much!

Tino, Berlin



Harry, Marit and Mark taking a break. Tampere, 2025

From Wild to Wisdom

Mark came to INURA as the wild auteur documentarian, anticipating in his critical films the handheld aesthetics of music videos of our generation. He created radical subjects, first through tapes and later through digital pixels and brought them to our meetings on the screen and in person. Mark's London cool anarchist persona made us all look better. Increasingly replacing his youthful radicalism with an elder statesman attitude, he left us in this time of crisis when we needed him and his optimism the most. His wisdom, and even more his winning smile, will be dearly missed.

Ute and Roger, Toronto



Athens, 2015

I can't believe Mark passed away. This is very sad. I'll never forget him. His voice is engraved into my soul.

Stef, Brussels



Mark and Ute on a bus tour. Zagreb 2019
Mark and Roger. Rome, 2005

Dear Mark,

as soon as I got the terrible news that you had left us, hundreds of memories invaded my mind, and a lot of images of your wonderful smile, that used to calm me down, when I was in panic, as it transmitted serenity and strength, as it was the proof of a big conquer in a life that (due to the difficulties faced in the world of filmmaking and documentaries that you loved so much) was not a simple one. I especially remembered of when the house of a friend of mine in London (there was waiting for restauration) was squatted, and you generously offered your expertise for mediation...I was amazed by your help! In this moment I feel a huge void, and I cannot even imagine what Ilga, Teo and your closer friends are feeling when confronted with the daily absence of such a marvellous human being as you are. I leave here my last selfie with you in Malaga last year, as we shared the passion of being selfie-guys. You will always live in me, as in many other people who were so lucky to meet U.

Much Much. Love. Giovanni Allegretti



Bucharest, 2016



Impressions from our last evening in Malaga, 2024

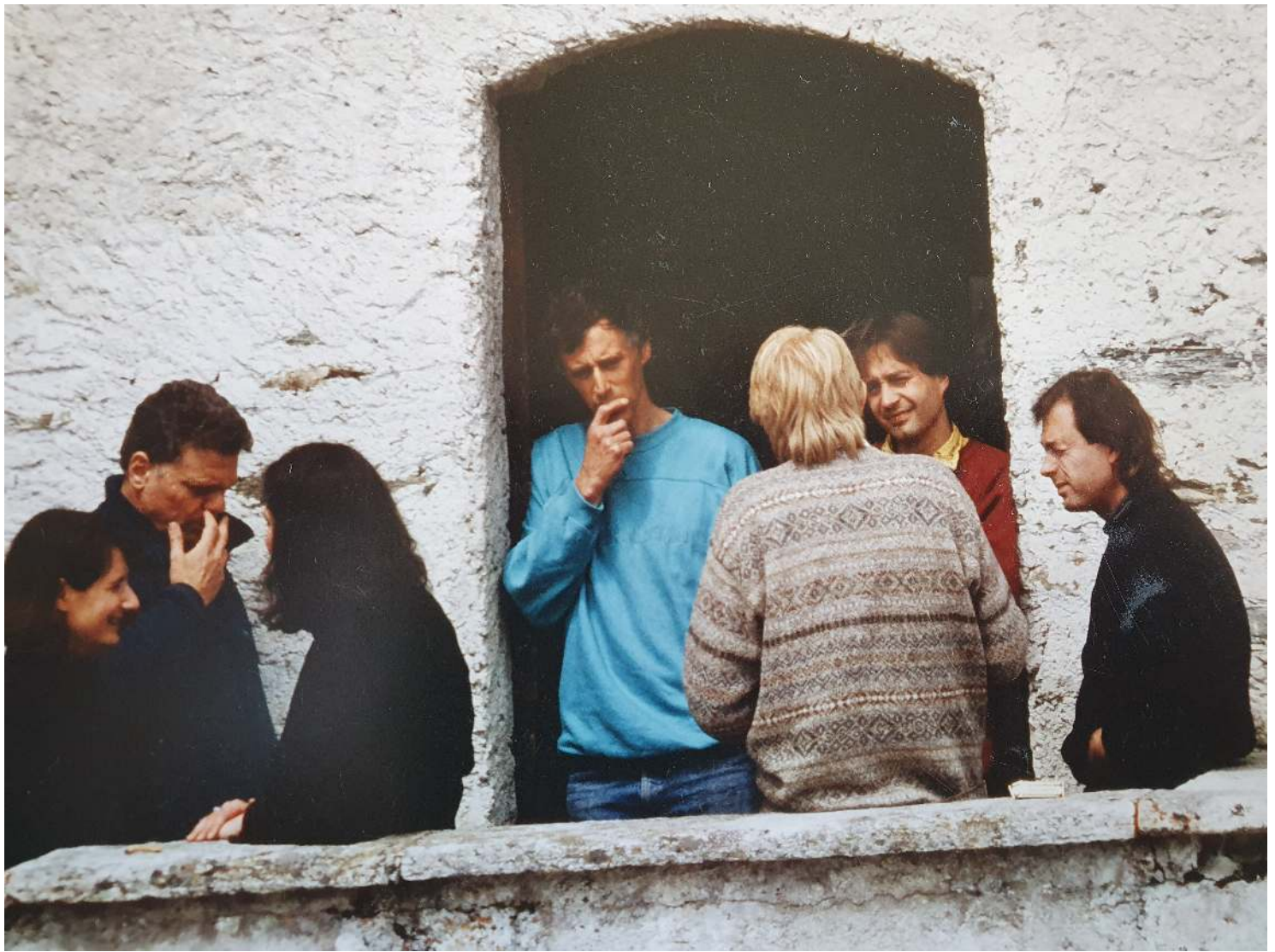


Ute and Mark listening to a presentation of a tour guide. Belgrade, 2014

MARK AND MURRAY OVER TIME



Salecina, 1991



Salecina, 1991



Luton, 1996



Oxbow Lodge, 1998



Luxemburg, 2022



Sibiu, 2016

Mark's passing away is a traumatic disappearance for the level of deep positivity that Mark, with his smile, always managed to express because it was part of his lovable nature. For the emotional closeness, manifested with lightness, that over time has remained intact with many of us. It leaves a sense of intense and particular emptiness.

Raffaele, Florence

On Sunday evening, after our trip back from Tampere to Helsinki, we spent some pleasant time, sitting on the seafront near Kaivopuisto, with our drinks (non-alcoholic for Mark, alcoholic for Britta, Katerina and me). The sun illuminated the beginning of the night and our conversations about the world and our memories. It was a great moment, and a chance to spend some more time together and appreciate Mark's friendship, sense of humour and kindness once again.

Perhaps I will forget some of the moments we shared together over time, but I am sure I won't forget this one.

Ciao Mark, and thank you for sharing a bit of your journey with us.

Iacopo, Florence



Brijuni, 2019



Florence, 2001

What a loss for this world! And how very sad for me personally. He came to the Güterbahnhof (one of our temporary uses in Zurich) and his shoes broke down - Mark was a principled person, who put the good in the world before his personal gain. I never will forget his "Exodus" film, in which he documented an unbelievable project for and by the people, which improved their life.

I very much hope his spirit will stay with us. And all the very best to you, dear Mark, where ever you may be now.

Vesna, Zurich

After the worst experience of my life when applying for a media course at a well renowned college in London the very same evening a handful of applicants were met without prejudgement and as they were and invited to the co-op introduction into Despite TV by Mark. I was one of them. Despite TV was Marks brain child that evolved out of the writers group at Tower Hamlets Arts Project situated at the bookshop in Whitechapel. So after the worst experience in my life the very same day I was elated and invited to be able to fulfil my passion for the art of film making. So here we were learning in a playful way to get familiar with the equipment and to be able to operating it with a cash course of investigative Journalism thrown in.

When Cannel Four was launched professional film-making equipment was handed out to community arts groups and the likes to get ideas for programmes. Despite TV's production equipment was accommodated in the bookshop's basement. When the time came to make a Documentary about the poll tax we were asked then to hand over all our tapes to Channel Four as they wanted to make that programme themselves. Mark didn't want to let go and the programme was produced by the collective.

Mark had all the pleasant virtues and manners that mankind has to offer combined and it felt good to be around him. Furthermore he had the ability and managed to see a funny side in the most dire situations. At times we had extended sessions of laughter about imaginary spun stories and scenarios.

To find the truth was his goal.

He will be missed badly

Frank Müller



Sibiu, 2016 - London, 2007 - Evia island, 2015



I wish we would have created this booklet for Mark's 70th birthday. When he told me in Tampere in June that he would turn 70 next year, I could hardly believe it. Mark never complained about getting older, like so many of us do. Although he was a precise observer of the generally disastrous (geo)political developments, he seemed at peace with himself and his life. I think this is because of you, Ilga and Teo, who he loved very much, and because of his fulfilling work as a filmmaker, teacher, and media activist.

I knew Mark before I first met him personally in 1997 at an INURA conference in Zurich, through his legendary film "The Truth Lies in Rostock" mentioned several times in this booklet, a documentary on the 1992 pogrom in Lichtenhagen. This was a very important film document for young leftists like me, who, during the so-called "baseball bat years" in Germany, were trying to resist the nationalism and racism that had emerged after reunification. It showed how the state was colluding with right-wing extremists.

We saw each other almost every year at the INURA conferences somewhere in Europe, but Mark also regularly visited Berlin or Rostock because he was invited to many commemorative and informational events, and because he maintained contact with former comrades. This seems to have been another special trait of Mark's: an impressive loyalty and continuity in his work and his personal relationships. On one of our last walks along the Spree, we talked a lot about the war in Ukraine, about the disinterest of large parts of the left in the situation there and the imperial ambitions of the Putin regime. This, too, connected us and will always shape my image of him: He was a smart independent and critical thinker, who saw all the contradictions, challenges and dangers but didn't give up ... As someone else, I think Fred, has put it: We have all gained so much through knowing him.

Britta, Berlin



Amsterdam, 2004





Pori, 2025 - Salecina, 2023



For Mark

You taught a camera to listen -
You walked the seam of city and struggle,

Now the reel lifts to light -
not an ending, a handover.
We shoulder your tripod of care,
set focus on the uncounted.

In the dark, your rushes breathe:
street, shelter, laughter, smoke.
Radical friend, keep rolling -
we'll meet you in the next frame.

In solidarity, love, and gratitude,

Nitin, Zurich

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