# ENG

OPEN GROUP (Yuriy Biley, Pavlo Kovach Jr., Anton Varga)

We Were Somewhere Among You

Action, plane, banner with text, size 150 x 3300 cm

The sole project of Entangled Transposition that occurs outside the walls of the Hotel Intourist in Khabarovsk, Open Group’s iteration of their work WE WERE SOMEWHERE AMONG YOU visits the city of Khabarovsk with a number of questions. Having previously shown the work in Katowice, Poland in 2018, the transposition sees little formally altered: A local plane was contracted from the nearby airport to fly over the city from 15:30–17:00 on January 26th towing an aerial banner advertisement, bearing the titular phrase in Russian. Open Group has previously stated that the action poses questions about human presence/absence, as well as presenting an ambiguity about who is “we” and who is “you”. The group members themselves, who notably attended the arts festival in Katowice but left the day before the project’s previous installment, were never in Khabarovsk at all, further complicating any simple reading of this simple phrase.

Each of the complications produces an uneasy connection rather than a clear separation. If “we” and “you” are ambiguous, might they be interchangeable? And if positionality is the only attribute that establishes their distinction, then why does it feel as if they were so close? Because the authors themselves were never physically there, this “we” is free to embed itself in who “you” are, and vice versa. However viewers ought to be wary of shadows within such deductions as they track the flight path of this action. Given some of the more deep rooted aspects of the project’s context, there are risks in extrapolating the innuendos to certain ends. But this narrow field of vision is not the venue for appreciating Open Group’s work. The banner, trailing an aging but unflagging AN-2 biplane, sails lightly by above the knotted contradictions. There is more than just “we” and “you” in the relationship described by these fluttering words. There is, as always, the space and time between us, and what we choose to do with it.