

steirischer herbst 2007

29/09 – 14/10

Exhibition- and visual arts programme

There will be press talks and –previews on Friday 21/09. The official vernissages are taking place on Sat 22/09. For further information please contact steirischer herbst press office (contact at the end of this document).

Reading Back And Forth

fourty years of steirischer herbst: public, politics, recollection, revolts

22/09 - 04/11, stadtmuseumgraz

Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

With Maria Eichhorn (D), famed (D), Annika Eriksson (S), Willem Oorebeek (B), Joke Robaard (NL), Michael Schuster (A) & Manuela Zechner (A/GB)

Curated by Reinhard Braun (A)

In the forty ears of its existence, the question of the relationship between art and the public has always been of key importance to steirischer herbst: After all, a contemporary, pugnacious festival that is on the one hand aligned to an international audience and on the other hand firmly rooted in the local setting, operates in controversial areas of public spheres – between love and scandal.

Has steirischer herbst, then, set something in motion that has shaken the borderlines between art and public spheres at least temporarily? Or are these myths? A history that may not repeat itself?

„Reading Back And Forth“ invites seven artists from very different backgrounds to explore these questions and to develop specific readings of the history and the presence of the festival in commissioned works: By interventions in the public space or within the exhibition space, they describe mechanisms of production, they are referring back to artistic strategies from the early days of the festival or examining the relationship between politics and culture. Where are the borders, the contradictions or exclusions of an institution located that has always devoted itself to the risk of enabling artistic processes? Such questions do not aggrandise the history of the festival nor do they relativise its importance. Instead, they re-view models of production and mediation that are taken for granted, so as to examine their impact on artistic practices and strategies. Looking not so much into the past as into the present.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & stadtmuseumgraz

International Festival (S)

"The Theatre" – steirischer herbst festival centre 2007

Première

21/09 - 14/10, Karmeliterplatz / Graz

Sun - Thu 10 am - 1 am, Fri & Sat 10 am - 3 am

The festival's homebase this year is an extraordinary festival centre: "The Theatre" – an temporary intervention by International Festival (a Swedish based artists-collective) at Karmeliterplatz in Graz. It is performance and architecture, it is show, interaction and social structure. After the première at steirischer herbst, "The Theatre" will (as a successful performance should) embark on an international tour ... to Zagreb, London, Stockholm, Montpellier and beyond ...

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plan b (D/GB)

Fortysomething

A GPS audio tour of forty years of art on the streets of Graz

By plan b / Sophia New & Daniel Belasco Rogers (D/GB)

The equipment is available at stadtmuseumgraz and at festival centre The Theatre

Forty years of steirischer herbst have not only written a little bit of history, but also a whole lot of stories. The stories are the material from which the English artist duo plan b (Sophia New and Daniel Belasco Rogers) develop their GPS-controlled audio tour, mapping, investigating and uncovering the events that have taken place on the streets of Graz during the festival: Art in public space, sculptures, performances, happenings and concerts reappear where they once took place. Subjective mingles with factual, believed with experienced, former makers, artists and visitors of steirischer herbst have their say along with barkeepers, taxi drivers, baker's wives or policemen ... What traces has steirischer herbst left behind – not only in art history but also in personal biographies?

On the basis of forty different stories, there evolves an acoustic landscape that festival visitors can traverse as they experience the city from a new angle. With the aid of ingenious GPS technology, it is possible to move around the city centre of Graz independently and along your own routes (avoiding areas with no reception), following the voices of the past. The subjective stories thus become new walks, combinations, experiences: Everyone who sets out will experience a different history of steirischer herbst – depending on what routes she or he follows.

Commissioned by steirischer herbst, Co-produced by stadtmuseumgraz.

SoS – State of Sabotage

21/09 - 14/10, Consulate car park of SoS state, Karmeliterplatz / Paulustorgasse

Fri 21/09, 9.30 pm, Inauguration of the car park

Sat 22/09, 2 - 4 pm Business hours with the founder of the state, Robert Jelinek (A), The Theatre

22/09 - 12/10 Consulate in The Theatre, Business hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 2 - 4 pm

Sun 14/10, 11.30 a Disassembly of the car park

Information about applying for SoS citizenship: www.sabotage.at

"SoS – State of Sabotage" was founded by Austrian artist Robert Jelinek four years ago. A real state, but one that is everywhere: a territorial phantom then, a state with no defined territory. SoS citizens are nomadic groups. Wherever "SoS – State of Sabotage" manifests itself – from Australia to Austria – it undermines existing systems by cancelling state-controlled land-holdings and frontiers.

During steirischer herbst, an SoS consulate will open in The Theatre at Karmeliterplatz and a city-centre car parking spot will be converted into the official consulate car park, for free use by SoS citizens using a specially created parking-meter. By installing official signs indicating "Except SoS state vehicles", the urban and state territory will be re-marked. The SoS car park is a shift of state borders (Austria), a new state marker (SoS), and artistic sculpture by Robert Jelinek: a transnational entrance on national territory.

During the festival you can apply for citizenship at the SoS consulate in the festival centre.

Active Agents

22/09 - 24/11, Kunstverein Medienturm

Tue - Fri 2 - 6 pm, Sat 10 am - 2 pm

With Maria Hahnenkamp (A), Zilla Leutenegger (CH), Ulrike Lienbacher (A), Manuela Mark (A), Mara Mattuschka/ Chris Haring/ Gabriele Szekatsch (BG/A) & Eva Stern (D) - Curated by Sandro Droschl (A)

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The relationship between corporeality and technology has undergone marked change in recent years. More and more, bodies are coming under the pressure of a technology that is increasingly blurring the borders of bodies. And technological objects and technological processes are increasingly defining what we understand as our subjectivity. So what potential of action must already be conceded to technological objects? What "images" of the subject can we still make out? "Active Agents" explores current technoculture as to how the distinction between technology and society has been blurred and to what extent this blurring must be seen as a political project. The focus, then, is also on the question as to the profile of cultural territories in which the "machine" would already seem to be undecidably inscribed – and thus equally on the conditions and possibilities of action. And on models or even utopias of coexistence.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Kunstverein Medienturm

Volksgarten
Politics of belonging

22/09 - 13/01/08, Kunsthau Graz, Space02 / public space
Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

With Airline (CH), Pawel Althamer (PL), Kutlug Ataman (TR), Bik van der Pol (NL), Los Carpinteros (CU), Thomas Hirschhorn (CH), Helmut & Johanna Kandl (A), Sharon Lockhart (USA), Maria Papadimitriou (GR), Daniel Roth (D), Manfred Willmann (A) et al. - Curated by Adam Budak (A/PL), Peter Pakesch (A) & Katia Schurl (A)

"Volksgarten" aims to achieve a comprehensive portrait of the districts of Lend and Gries, at the intersection of which Kunsthau Graz is located. "Volksgarten" implies the abstract and the concrete positioning of an open and democratic space, in which manifold identities are formed and negotiated. In their multicultural make-up and their ethnic, social diversity, Lend and Gries serve as a metaphor of urban, political, cultural and national change. The exhibition explores identification systems and strategies of belonging within certain communities. What forms of coexistence can be found? How are social utopias constructed? What possible scenarios of collective and communal living are there? "Volksgarten" is a playground in which to produce multi-layered social space.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Kunsthau Graz

What We Bought

22/09 - 18/11, Camera Austria
Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

With John Armleder (CH), Olaf Breuning (CH), Svetlana Heger (A/CZ), Piotr Uklanski (PL), Manfred Willmann (A) et al.
Curated by Christine Frisinghelli (A) & Maren Lübbke-Tidow (D)

Everyday scrap, mass-produced goods, fetishes of our consumer culture: The exhibition "What We Bought" (the title refers to the artist book by Robert Adams) shows in photographs, films and installations the excesses of consumer and throw-away society – albeit not as a criticism of capitalism, but rather with an affirmative fascination with the never-ending flow of commodities, mass and surface, staged with a disconcerting hyperpresence of the real.

Calculated moments of unreasonableness; material-emphasising and often sweeping and extravagant, but precisely staged. The ostensible lack of distance results from a very close observation of the respective environment and the respective consumer culture. By refusing to be productive, the artists accumulate pure surface, thus appropriating aesthetic phenomena that have become part of our everyday Western cultural and consumer life.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Camera Austria

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Architecture 24/7
An everyday relationship

22/09 - 13/11, HDA
Mon - Fri 10 am - 6 pm

With Domenig & Wallner ZT GmbH (A), Feichtinger Architectes (A/F), Hans Gangoly (A), Ernst Giselbrecht + Partner ZT GmbH (A), Eilfried Huth (A), INNOCAD (A), polar ÷ (A), ppag architects ztgmbh (A), TEAM A GRAZ (A), Riegler Riewe (A), YES architecture (A), Irmfried Windbichler (A) et al. - Programme Markus Bogensberger (A) & Gabu Heindl (A)

Wed 10/10, 7.30 pm

Discussion with Gerrit Confurius (D), Otto Kapfinger (A), Martina Löw (D), Klemens Ortmeier (D), Riklef Rambow (D) et al.

Architecture is everyday life, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. But if everyday life, as Walter Benjamin writes, is Here, which is built, and Now, which is lived, it is precisely this living that is usually not depicted in architectural photography: Representative photos of buildings often create the impression as if their occupants are away on holiday so as not to detract from the architecture.

To make everyday life appear as an image, HDA presents numerous photos from life with architecture. Architects are asked to take one picture of their buildings and landscapes that shows them in use as they see it. HDA does not curate these pictures by making a selection, but instead comments on them in the form of statements and pictures of occupants and users.

This contrast of perspectives on architecture illustrates different kinds of closeness and distance to it: How close to or how far away is a building from those who planned it and those who spend their everyday life in it?

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & HDA – Haus der Architektur Graz

With kind support from Kammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten für Steiermark und Kärnten

Moskau-Graz
Affection and alienation

22/09 - 21/10, Forum Stadtpark
Tue - Fri 10 am - 6 pm, Sat & Sun 2 - 6 pm

With: Aristarch C'ernyšev (RU), Vladislav Efimov (RU), G.R.A.M. (A), Vladimir Salnikov (RU), Bernhard Wolf (A) et al.
Curated by Irina Gorlova (RU) & Herwig G. Höller (A)

It was in Graz of all places that Ilja Kabakov, the internationally most successful contemporary Russian artist, began his world career. Since then, the late eighties, the city has proved again and again to be a suitable place for encounters of artists from Moscow and Graz – encounters that left lasting marks above all in Styria but also in the Russian capital. But what connects two so different cities and their art scenes? Moscow is at least fifty times the size of Graz. And the existing relations also make little sense in terms of institutional logic ...

"Moscow-Graz" is complementary to the "Graz-Moscow" exhibition that took place in Moscow in 2005, and sets out to explore the paths of intersections and points of contact between those artists exposed to direct mutual influence and those who were close to each other unexpectedly, and indeed contrary to expectation.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Forum Stadtpark. In co-operation with National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Moskau

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Gestures of Infinity

On too much and too little emotion and religion in a globalised world

22/09 - 20/10, Minoriten-Galerien Graz im Priesterseminar

Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm, Thu 10 am - 8 pm

With Zlatko Kopljarić (HR), Robert Ruma (PL), Manfred Erjautz (A), Abigail O'Brien (IR), Marta Deskur (PL), Kimsooja (Korea/USA), Gor Chahal (RU), Hannes Priesch (A/USA), Grazia Toderi (I), Artur Zmijewski (PL) et al.
Curated by Johannes Rauchenberger (A) & Alois Kölbl (A)

The constant state of being online, splitting or multiplying our identities in different milieus is often followed by a sense of being helplessly exposed that gives rise to both intricate worlds and overly simple solutions. Can the tension that arises from the globalised world be shifted into the emotions of our self?

"Gestures of Infinity" proceeds on the basis of emotionalism to process artistic gestures borrowed or developed from the repertory of religion. What is the role of religion that people often seek in fundamentalism and violence, in a geopolitical situation characterised by widely divergent interpretations of the world? But the question is also as to the relationship of religion to an artistic post-post-modernism, that reflects on and at the same time enjoys its "false infinity" (Hegel).

Co-produced by steirischer herbst, Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten, AAI (Projekt Crossing Cultures) & KHG-Galerie

The Blue Flower (Die Blaue Blume)

22/09 - 15/12, Grazer Kunstverein

Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm, Thu 10 am - 8 pm

With Saim Demircan (D/UK), Heidrun Holzfeind (A), Katarsina Kobro (PL), Hilary Lloyd (UK), Vaclav Pozarek (CH/CZ), Florian Roithmayr (UK/D), Lasse Schmidt Hansen (D/DK), Juliane Solmsdorf (D) - Curated by Søren Grammel (A/D)

At the beginning of the twentieth century, artistic avant-gardes demonstrated that new awareness gives rise to new forms. Some assumed that this process is reversible: from distribution of a form to new general awareness. The construction of a new understanding of space as an allegory of work on a new reality. But when do forms become authoritarian ornaments? Formalisms that organise common mind-sets so as to choreograph society as a mass?

"The Blue Flower" constitutes a quiet space in the festival, made up of some old and some new artistic works that seek utopia in form and that recognise a yearning for a different reality in abstraction.

The starting-point for this essayistic space-ensemble is the attempt to create a carpet, following in the vein of a graphic design by Bauhaus artist Anni Albers. What remains of the idea embodied by this design? Is there a representation of the self beyond its status as social capital?

Albers' carpet and the works surrounding it open up their own angles on the complex connection between formal questions and the desire for a good life, the search for the blue flower.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Grazer Kunstverein. With kind support from Muzeum Sztuki, Łódź

Un/Fair Trade

The art of fairness

22/09 - 25/11, Neue Galerie Graz

Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

With El Anatsui (GHA/NGA), Ecke Bonk (D/NZL), Werner Büttner (D), Neil Cummings / Marysia Lewandowska (GB), Stan Douglas (CAN), Elmgreen & Dragset (DK/N/D), Ismail Farouk (ZAF), Dionisio Gonzalez (E), Andreas Gursky (D), Jacqueline Hassink (NL/US), Romuald Hazoume (BJ), Kristian von Hornsleth (DK), Kcho (CUB), Casey McKee (US), Sebastian Lasinger (A),

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Fernando Morales (E), Vik Muniz (BR/US), M+M (D), Nguyen Manh Hung (VNM), June Bum Park (KOR), Esther Polak (NL), Christine S. Prantauer (A), Jan Schmelcher (D/JP), Santiago Sierra (E/MEX), Allan Sekula (US), Klaus Staeck (D), Gabriele Sturm (A), Wolfgang Temmel (A), Yuken Teruya (JP/US), Andrew Tshabangu (ZAF)
Curated by Peter Weibel (A) & Günther Holler-Schuster (A)
Scientific Curator Christian Eigner (A)

The inequality of the world is constantly growing. In addition to politics, business and trade are above all responsible for this development – “Un/Fair Trade” focuses particularly on these spheres, albeit not as a simple continuation of current criticism of globalisation. Instead, “Un/Fair Trade” takes a constructive look from various angles at fair trade or, more fundamentally, at fair exchange, presenting them as what they, increasingly, really are. The usually merely economic mega-issue around which discourses, alternative business practices and protests revolve, is turned back into a sociological issue. By adding the projection of fact-based websites to space installations, documentary material and exhibits, “Un/Fair Trade” links art and science in a newsroom scenario of tightly packed images of a different form of commerce.

Lectures

Wed 26/09, 7.30 pm Branko Milanovic (USA) / Thu 04/10, 7.30 pm Nico Stehr (D) / Thu 08/11, 7.30 pm Julian Nida-Rümelin (D)

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Neue Galerie Graz

Land of Human Rights

Take-away posters

With h. arta group (RO), Sanja Ivekovic (HR), Aydan Murteazoglu (TR), Isa Rosenberger (A)
Curated by Margarethe Makovec (A) & Anton Lederer (A)

The take-away posters are available at various locations in Graz and Europe.

“Land of Human Rights” is about the status quo of human rights in Europe from the viewpoint of the visual arts: analytical and visionary. The long-term activities in six countries – Slovenia, Croatia, Germany, Czechia, Hungary, Austria – draw attention to the fact that human rights are frequently not respected even in Europe. The multinational co-operation of artists, activists and theorists is the starting-point for an examination on a broad European scale. In Graz, the self-proclaimed city of human rights, “Land of Human Rights” kicks off with a set of four posters dealing with different aspects of the current human rights discourse.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst, < rotor > association for contemporary art, Galerija ŠKUC, Ljubljana, g-mk | galerija miroslav kraljevi , Zagreb, Trafó House of Contemporary Arts, Budapest, Faculty of Art and Design - JEPU, Ústí nad Labem & riesa efau / Motorenhalle, Dresden

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