

steirischer herbst 24/09 – 18/10/2009

Overview exhibitions

Information and tickets:

p +43 316 81 6070, info@steirischerherbst.at, www.steirischerherbst.at

Vernissages

Fri 25/09

- 4 pm Hauptplatz TextBild MMIX
- 5 pm Schloßbergplatz (out)
- 6 pm Platz der Freiwilligen Schützen (Bad zur Sonne)
Utopia and Monument I
- 7 pm Festival centre Schauhaus 09

Sat 26/09

- 10 am Kunstverein Medienturm talk talk
- 11 am Kunsthaus Graz Screening Real
- 12 am Camera Austria Artur Żmijewski
- 1 pm Grazer Kunstverein Provisional Yoga
- 2 pm Medienkunstlabor The Trend Is Your Friend
- 3 pm Minoriten Galerien Light Tower
- 4 pm ESC im LABOR Dass es so weitergeht, ist die Katastrophe! (The disaster is that it goes on like this!)
- 5 pm Forum Stadtpark Real Energy World / NIGER DELTA
- 6 pm < rotor > Annenviertel

Sat 03/10

- 5 pm Service Center Gleisdorf next code: crossing
(4.15 pm Shuttle-Bus transfer to Gleisdorf, meeting point festival centre, return 7 pm)
- 7 pm Pavelhaus / Pavlova hiša Unbedingt (Unconditional)
(5.30 pm Shuttle-Bus transfer to Laafeld, meeting point festival centre, return 10 pm)

Utopia and Monument I

On the validity of art between privatisation and the public sphere

25/09 - 18/10 Public space / Exhibition pavilion: Platz der Freiwilligen Schützen (Bad zur Sonne)

Curated by Sabine Breitwieser (A)

With Lara Almarcegui (E/NL), Nairy Baghramian (IR/D), Ayse Erkmen (TR/D), Kooperative für Darstellungspolitik (Jesko Fezer, Anita Kaspar & Andreas Müller) (D), David Maljkovic (HR/D), Heather und Ivan Morison (TR/GB), Nils Norman (GB), Andreas Siekmann (D), Michael Zinganel (A), Dolorez Zinny/Juan Maidagan (AR/D)

That which we call the public space has changed drastically over the past twenty years, becoming the plaything of various, above all economic, interests. Contemporary artists working in and with the public space have increasingly replaced their works with objects of communication and action, thus developing a kind of public practice that sets out to annul the contradiction between art and the public sphere, at least to some extent.

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So what is the validity of art – is it still a relevant field of social debate at all? Can the public sphere still be recovered as a space for debates of equal validity, for talk, opinions and interests, given that it is above all commercially governed? “Utopia and Monument” – conceived as a two-year project at steirischer herbst – picks up the question of the validity of systems of value, provocatively negotiating two concepts that have largely vanished from the debate on the public sphere: utopia as a space of possibility and the monument as a space of memory. For both are gateways to possible other forms of organisation of the public sphere that allow us to ask, again and again, who really owns the public sphere.

Commissioned by steirischer herbst

Schauhaus 09

Festival centre at Orpheum, Fri 25/09 - Son 18/10

By MVD Austria | frank, rieper (A)

It is a temporary show house, a festival centre in front of the festival centre. Right in front of the Orpheum concert hall in Graz stands a walk-in ensemble of layered functions – like shelves. Open to the outside. A transparent portal, an interface between outside and inside, between neighbours and visitors to the festival, a fluid transition into what lies beyond, and that is thus no longer quite as enclosed. The steirischer herbst festival centre is all of this and much more: bar, coffee-house, chat-room, club and lounge, information and ticket office, academy, lecture hall, concert hall, Internet café. Artists from around the globe, theorists, journalists and the audience come together, there are parties, discussions, wine ... and if you are not here, then you're on the sun deck.

Commissioned by steirischer herbst

TextBild MMIX

25/09 - 03/11, Public space Styria

Curated by Agnes Altzibler (A), Werner Fenz (A), Evelyn Kraus (A) & Birgit Kulterer (A)

Contributing artists and locations please find online: www.steirischerherbst.at

Text plays a special role in the complex make-up of the public space – even if it is often barely perceptible in all the densely packed visual overlaps. The “TextBild MMIX” project liberates it from different contexts, isolating it and thus helping it achieve its own effect: A sentence appears in the form of neon writing on a single day in a single place in Styria – then the van, vehicle of this unfamiliar, foreign text, which is a synonym for strangeness as a social source of irritation, vanishes again. In this way, Styrian artists and writers inscribe their own specific texts into the various places, thus seeking to achieve a radical concentration. The subject is strictly the present: MMIX are the Roman numerals for the year 2009.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Institut für Kunst im öffentlichen Raum Steiermark with the participation of Literaturhaus Graz

(out)

25/09 - 31/10, Schloßbergplatz, Kapistran-Pieller-Platz, Südtiroler Platz, Kosakengasse & Griesgasse

Curated by Mirjana Peitler-Selakov (A/SRB), Mrdjan Bajić (SRB) & Werner Fenz (A)

With Radoš Antonijević (SRB), Milena Bakmaz (SRB), Dragan Đorđević (SRB), Olivera Parlić-Karajanković (SRB), Ivana Milev (SRB) & Boris Šribar (SRB)

In the public space of a foreign city, young Serbian artists – selected and supervised by Belgrade sculptor Mrdjan Bajić – formulate their questions and reflections on their own identity. Shaped not only by nation and religion, as simplified interpretations would often have us believe, their works and interventions in the city centre of Graz – from the Franciscan

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Church, across the river Mur, to the Church of the Brothers Hospitallers – are doubly context-related: They refer to the specific site and to the artists' places of origin and call for a discussion in the public.

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talk talk

Interview as artistic practice

26/09 - 28/11, Kunstverein Medienturm, Tue - Sat 10 am - 1 pm, Wed - Fri 3 - 6 pm

Curated by Marc Ries + IAG-Leipzig (D), Reinhard Braun (A) & Hildegard Fraueneder (A)

With Ursula Biemann (CH), Yvon Chabrowsky (D), Dellbrügge & de Moll (D), Jeanne Faust (D), Andrea Fraser (D/USA), Jochen Gerz (D), Klub Zwei (A), Kathi Lackner (A), Katarina Matiassek (A), Alex McQuilkin (USA), Bjørn Melhus (DK/D), Antoni Muntadas (E), Daniel Pflumm (D), Oliver Ressler & Dario Azzellini (A/D/VEN), Julika Rudelius (NL), Axel Stockburger (D/GB), Kerry Tribe (USA/D), Ingrid Wildi (CL/CH) et al.

We live in a culture of constant talk – everyone is incessantly questioning their mutual achievements, their roles, their bodies, their passions. Interviews are the central agents of this self-discursification of society; they allow experts, people in general, and all manner of representatives to have their say. "talk talk" discusses interview methods and techniques in the context of contemporary art forms and shows that language, speech, talk, interview, confession, testimony and report are multifariously linked to visual practices.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Kunstverein Medienturm, Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst (Leipzig) & Galerie 5020 (Salzburg)

Screening Real

26/09 - 10/01/2010, Kunsthaus Graz, Space02, Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

Curated by Peter Pakesch (A)

With Bruce Conner (USA), Sharon Lockhart (USA) & Andy Warhol (USA)

Sharon Lockhart uses film as the central image carrier, seeing it as part of an artistic and cinematic tradition. She treats film like a canvas, time as a process of creation. Starting out from Lockhart's works, "Screening Real" attempts to find possible definitions of the real, looking back half a century, when such approaches were still unusual even in the context of the avant-garde. The Californian artist Bruce Conner, a key figure of "New American Cinema", saw his films projected in exhibitions as an extension of the space of art, while pop art protagonist Andy Warhol also used many of his film works in the context of actionism and performance.

Produced by Kunsthaus Graz, in co-operation with steirischer herbst

Artur Żmijewski

"Democracies" and other works

26/09 - 17/01/2010, Camera Austria, Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

Curated by Maren Lübbke-Tidow (D) & Christine Frisinghelli (A)

Artur Żmijewski is disconcerting because he pursues a radical documentary approach in his work, without revealing his own political stance: "Democracies" – a series of documentary films of political statements of will and rallies in various European countries – juxtaposes opinions and forms of enactment without judging them: Demonstrations and parades, re-enacted historical battles, the Football World Cup in Germany, Jörg Haider's funeral. What freedom is implied by our concept of freedom; a concept that is so important for the way we understand democracy?

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Camera Austria

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Provisional Yoga

26/09 - 28/11, Grazer Kunstverein, Tue - Sat 10.30 am - 6 pm

Curated by Søren Grammel (A) & Mari Laanemets (A)

With Henning Bohl (D), fabrics interseason (A), Michaela Meise (D), Jesper Nordahl (S), Sofie Thorsen (A) & Studio Ene Ammer (EST)

"Provisional Yoga" investigates the contradiction between universal design endeavours and the aspect of individual scope. Various concepts of environment, surface and furnishings are elaborated. What is the essence of the relationship between society and living space? How does the body move in our built environments and their programmes? Is there an opportunity to achieve scope within a defined set of movements, forms and their promises? "Provisional Yoga" believes in the possibility of designing the social space, social life and its renewal as a choreography that consists of moments of both codification and of dissolution.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Grazer Kunstverein

The Trend Is Your Friend

26/09 - 08/11, Medienkunstlabor, Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

Curated by Winfried Ritsch (A) & Mirjana Peitler-Selakov (A/SRB)

With Sylvia Eckermann (A) & Gerald Nestler (A)

Sound Peter Szely (A) / Scientific advice Wolfgang Höchtl (A)

Trends are all the trend. Alongside fashion and health it is analyses of economic trends which are shaping our environment. To what extent do they influence and change us as individuals and as a society? By recognising and relying on trends do we become part of an economisation that promises profit but at the same time absorbs us? Does the individual who opposes the trend get socially marginalised? So is the trend in a knowledge-based society nothing but Orwell's famous Big Brother? A new, if more complex uniformity of control that denies us future with its hubris of calculability?

Produced by Medienkunstlabor Graz, in co-operation with steirischer herbst

Light Tower

26/09 - 23/10, Minoriten Galerien, Mon - Fri 10 am - 6 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am - 4 pm

Curated by Johannes Rauchenberger (A)

With Zlatko Kopljär (HR)

Micro- and macro-politics, localism and globalism, post-capitalism and post-socialism, materialism and metaphysics: How can such rivalling fields of conflict develop an aesthetic potential? Croatian artist Zlatko Kopljär has created images for this at the intersection of visual art and performance, images that alternate between concept and grand emotion: "K12" – K stands for Konstruktion (construction), as Kopljär calls his works – is a hybrid installation about the ambivalence of existential boundary experiences that he presents as a happening of impasse, failure and death. The metaphor of light, focused as a sphere of light in the forest of despair, is reprised in "K 13" as a "Light Tower": A surreal experience from the artist's childhood on the slip-road into Zagreb is transformed into a maelstrom of bright light as an absolute point of reference.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten, in co-operation with Museum of Contemporary Art (Zagreb)

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Dass es so weitergeht, ist die Katastrophe! (The disaster is that it goes on like this!)

26/09 - 18/10, Public space & ESC im LABOR, Tue - Sun 10 am - 7 pm

Fri 09/10, 7.30 pm, ESC im LABOR, Opening Multi media installation

Curated by Reni Hofmüller (A)

With Sandy Stone (USA), Mare Tralla (EST), Peter Brandlymayr (A), Hildegard Fraueneder (A), Steve Kurtz – Critical Art Ensemble (USA), Clara Opperl (A/D), Nicole Pruckermayr (A), Malte Steiner (D) et al.

All identity is construction; allocation of the outside. That is one side of cognition. On the other side we have models of fluctuating identities, alternating personalities that may potentially be different at any moment. Our constructions of identity sometimes suffer disasters that influence, and in some cases shatter them. Within what framework do we build the subsequent models? Do validities continue to exist? Resolvable contradictions? Questions that artists and theorists explore with the aid of interventions, performances and lectures in the public space and that are subsequently documented at the ESC im LABOR gallery in the form of an installation.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & ESC im LABOR

Real Energy World / NIGER DELTA

26/09 - 20/10, Forum Stadtpark, Tue - Sun 2 - 6 pm

Curated by Hans Nevidal (A) & Eva Ursprung (A)

With George Osodi (NG/GB), Akinbode Akinbiyi (NG/D), Akintunde Akinleye (NG), Timipre Willis Amah (NG), Pius Utomi Ekpei (NG), Tim A. Hetherington (USA/GB), Uche James-Iroha (NG), Michael Kamber (USA), Ed Kashi (USA), R. Nkwonta (NG), Tim Nunn (GB), Emeka Okereke (NG), Sunday Ohwo (NG), Sandy Cioffi (USA), Emanuel Danesch (A), Lars Johansson (TZ) et al.

Symposium

Sat 03/10, 2 - 7 pm & Sun 04/10, 11.30 am - 4 pm

With Frank Ugiomoh (NG), Ruth Noack (D), Akinbode Akinbiyi (NG/D), Christine Frisinghelli (A) & George Osodi (NG/GB), Emanuel Danesch (A), Sandy Cioffi (USA), Jerry Sonny Ugokwe (NG), Sokari Ekine (N/GB), Rubina Möhring (A), Akintunde Akinleye (NG) & Gladys Ifeoma Ugiomoh (NG)

Presented by Georg Schöllhammer (A) & Margit Franz (A)

Whether the oil price rises or falls, it always leads to lively discussions – but the underlying production conditions are of no interest to us. The only brief headlines are when foreigners are abducted by militant rebels in Africa. Only few journalists dare travel to this hotspot to take pictures of everyday life: Pictures that are intended to shake up, but which are also received by the art world thanks to their formal and aesthetic qualities. The exhibitions and discussions during the “Real Energy World” programme examine the representation of disasters by looking at the example of the ecological, social and humanitarian disaster caused by oil production in the Niger Delta – while the participating companies here in the West cultivate their clean image and advertise their products emphasising social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Forum Stadtpark, in co-operation with Grüne Akademie & Südwind

Annenviertel

The Art of Urban Intervention

26/09 - 14/11, Public space at Annenviertel & < rotor >, Mon - Sat 10 am - 6 pm

Curated by Elke Krasny (A), Margarethe Makovec (A) & Anton Lederer (A)

With support of Ivana Bago (HR), Antonia Majača (HR), Vesna Vuković (HR), Iara Boubnova (BG), Luhezar Boyadjiev (BG), Jeanne van Heeswijk (NL), Michal Koleček (CZ) & Marco Scotini (I)

The public space is a contested space, but while some people defend their interests vociferously, other voices are often barely audible and play no active part in designing it. As an example of this competition for resources, “The Art of Urban

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Intervention" explores the living conditions and changes in the Annen district of Graz, an area with a complex social structure, that is also home to this year's steirischer herbst festival centre.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & < rotor >

In co-operation with UJEP (Ústí nad Labem), [BLOK] (Zagreb), The Blue House (Amsterdam), ICA-Sofia & NABA (Milan)

next code: crossing

[what time is it?]

03/10 - 18/10, Public space Gleisdorf

Curated by Walter Kratner (A), Martin Krusche (A) & Mirjana Peitler-Selakov (A/SRB)

With Raquel Frieria (E), Deniz Gül (TR), HA ZA VU ZU (TR), Martin Krusche (A), Vito Pace (I), Georg Planer (A), Björn Segschneider (D/A), Lisa Truttmann (A) & Hannes Zebedin (A)

Time is a cultural construction, a coordinate system that we use for orientation. Credibility is a currency system. And what is Europe? On the basis of such metaphors, "next code: crossing" sets out in this third instalment to examine the geopolitical space in which we are located – between Austria, Serbia and Turkey.

In co-operation with steirischer herbst, kultur.at: verein für medienkultur, Weiz & Gleisdorf

Unbedingt (Unconditional)

03/10 - 28/11, Pavelhaus / Pavlova hiša, Tue - Sat 2 - 6.30 pm

Curated by Walter Seidl (A)

With Natalija Ribovič (SRB/D/JP) & Toru Fujita (JP)

Their very different countries and cultures of origin are the starting point for Natalija Ribovič's and Toru Fujita's installations: Enacted spaces in which more than just their own life-worlds intersect. In an extended dialectics of East and West, the artists pick up on traditional conditions in rural Serbia as well as the commitment to professionalism in everyday life in Japan, in which failure is not discussed in public.

"Unconditional" combines past, present and future to create a utopia-charged, cartoon-like scenario that can be read in the tradition of Asian manga, but also as an analysis of hybrid identities and cultural contexts, as a search for peculiarities of language and possible translation strategies. What forms of coexistence are conceivable that explore cultural sameness as well as cultural otherness – and what possibilities of differentiation, if any, are still available to us?

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Pavelhaus / Pavlova hiša

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