

steirischer herbst 02/10 – 26/10/2008

Overview visual art / architecture / theory

(Exhibitions, installations, interventions, walks ...)

Information and tickets:

p +43 316 816070, info@steirischerherbst.at, www.steirischerherbst.at

Steinbrener / Dempf (A)

Waagner-Biro-Straße public baths

(Volksbad Waagner-Biro-Straße)

Installation and herbst opening

Thu 02/10, Helmut-List-Halle, 7.30 pm

Social events obey certain rituals, procedures, conventions – and the opening of steirischer herbst is without doubt a social event. But instead of making the usual clear distinction between artistic work and opening festivities, the “Waagner-Biro-Straße public baths” are both in one. As in the past two years, the Helmut-List-Halle is at the centre of attention: as a large, walk-in sculpture in which individual initiative and co-operation are required, or at least helpful, and that is appropriated by the audience and adapted to its needs. Subversive strategies spotlight predetermined breaking points in the system, which everyone can easily use for him or herself. No-one is forced to act – but everyone is an actor, observer and part of the installation; an installation which is equally a celebration.

Commissioned by steirischer herbst

raumlaborberlin (D)

moderato cantabile

03/10 – 26/10, Festival centre at Joanneum

Fri 03/10, 7.30 pm, Opening of the festival centre and of the exhibitions with Noah Fischer, Saalschutz (live) et. al.

The artists and architects Benjamin Foerster-Baldenius and Jan Liesegang from raumlaborberlin design the festival centre of steirischen herbst 2008 and build their own explosion: A walk-in form, the explosion takes you into the heart of the festival centre, the exhibition, the café. With the aid of a few modifications, the Baroque interiors of the most senior and second-largest Austrian museum are opened up towards the city. It will be the festival centre, a venue for performances, concerts, workshops, lectures and discussions. With ample room for celebrating, talking, eating, drinking and for encounters.

Commissioned by steirischer herbst

In co-operation with steirischer herbst & Landesmuseum Joanneum

Common Affairs

03/10 - 26/10, Festival centre, daily 12 am - 7.30 pm

Curated by Reinhard Braun (A)

With Ursula Biemann (CH), Mladen Bizumic (RS/NZ/D), Kristleifur Björnsson (IS/D), Claus Föttinger (D/NL), Mustafa Maluka (ZA/D), Josephine Meckseper (D/USA) & Lily van der Stokker (NL)

Making friends, shopping, checking, seducing, dreaming, lying, concretising ... the fields of agency proposed by the festival's to-do list are as vast in range as they are specific. They spotlight a scepticism about exhaustive, let alone totalitarian theories and the difficulties of nevertheless somehow putting our incoherent, diffuse knowledge into context. “Common Affairs” takes a look at the constant change of perspectives and attempts to forge links between what we think we know and what we think we can do. From different vantage points, the participating

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artists pose questions concerning the possibilities of distinguishing or co-conceiving subjective action and political contexts, thus dealing with common affairs despite contrasting strategies.

Noah Fischer (USA)

Pop Ark

03/10 – 26/10, Festival centre, daily 12 am - 7.30 pm

By Noah Fischer (USA) with Prem Makeig (USA), Gregoire Paultre (F) & Ronnie Bass (USA)

The "Pop Ark" of New York artist Noah Fischer is in search of a stimulating approach to life after global warming. What is happiness when drowned polar bears are washed ashore because they could not find a piece of ice to save them? And when you can no longer trust the sun? "Pop Ark" is at once a slide show, rhetorical temptation, and film. A juke box style low-tech machine (that makes do with seven kilobytes) and a creative zone conceived as a commune based on Youtube, whose video bloggers inspired this work with their rambling thoughts on global warming. A ship, put together with language, light spectacle and Bill Cosby, on a perilous journey towards a merciful sun.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels & Rotterdamse Schouwburg

(Love) will tear us

04/10 - 29/11, Kunstverein Medienturm, Tue - Sat 10 am - 2 pm

Curated by Sandro Droschl (A)

With Carmen Brucic (A), Akzel Zeydan Goetz (TR), Anna Jermoleva (RUS), Jesper Just (DK), Jewyo Rhii (KOR) & Hans Scheirl (A)

Like hardly any other concept, love generates images and spaces of emotions. Love is a symbol of power and emptiness, craving and refusal, lust and destruction. Love knows no outside, is a regime of inwardness, whose desire can be released by effacing the object of love. Love is a subjectivisation machine, everyone drafts an image of himself and the other person, and as such the enigmatic potential of love can only be developed in everyday life. On the basis of exemplary artistic positions, "(Love) will tear us" sets out to explore real and phantasmagorical reflections of the concept of love.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Kunstverein Medienturm

Responsible for a certain amount of Luck (Für das Glück zuständig)

04/10 - 11/01/2009, Camera Austria, Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

By Elke Krystufek (A)

Elke Krystufek is ruthless with herself and with her environment, serious, always truthful, and always she demands involvement or contradiction from the viewer. Asking her the question of "strategies for avoiding misfortune" and scrutinising this question as the subject of a contemporary art festival, seems to suggest itself. In view of the complexity of her work and the artist's desire and courage to not just accept the imprints of collective and individual categories of thought but rather to go against the grain of reality, we cannot a priori expect to answer simple questions with simple truths.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Camera Austria

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P for pedestrian (F für Fußgänger)

04/10 - 26/10, Andreas-Hofer-Platz

Curated by Manfred Hasler (A) & Anke Strittmatter (D) / With Folke Köbberling (D) & Martin Kaltwasser (D)
(Accompanying exhibition "Rasender Stillstand", HDA, Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm)

A place (square) in the centre of Graz, a non-place really, simply structured and almost exclusively used for motorised traffic – the neglected Andreas-Hofer-Platz will be the field of a temporary structural intervention during the steirischer herbst festival. Open to the public, pluralistic, for people waiting for buses, pedestrians, cyclists ... The artists and architects Köbberling and Kaltwasser also use recycled material from building sites and skips here. In meticulous detailed work and with profound craftsmanship, they transform things that have been thrown away, supposedly worthless, into objects of use to everyone. Self-service urbanisation and unofficial strategies of self-organisation are contrasted with the commercialisation of the urban space and repressive control regimes.

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

Idealism studio (Idealismusstudio)

04/10 - 22/12, Grazer Kunstverein, Tue - Sat 10.30 am - 6 pm

Curated by Søren Grammel (A)

With Martin Beck (USA), Christoph Bruckner (A), David Jourdan (A), Jacob Dahl Jürgensen (GB), Pernille Kapper Williams (D), Marika Lööke (EST), Camilla Löw (N), Kenneth Martin (GB), Silke Otto-Knapp (GB), Giles Round (GB) & Nora Schultz (D)

Studio. A rehearsal situation. Uncertainty and determination set the scene. The wall design. The floor covering. The architecture. The city founders tried to neglect the importance of people. The buildings were designed for heaven. Omens of eras to come. Before we make the ideas aesthetic, i.e. mythological, people have no interest in them. The command. The Taylorist display. The analysis of the question whether visitors prefer to enter the scene by the stairs or the lift plays an important role. We know that ideals cannot be represented in reality; we merely assert that reality should be judged and, by those who feel the strength to do so, modified on the basis of ideals. For at the moment, the construction of life is far more at the mercy of facts than convictions. (*Featuring Paul Klee.*)

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Grazer Kunstverein

tit for tat (wie du mir)

Counter Images for Transcultural Thinking and Acting

04/10 - 29/11

Curated by Roman Grabner (A), Alois Kölbl (A), Anton Lederer (A), Margarethe Makovec (A), Astrid Polz-Watzenig (A) & Johannes Rauchenberger (A)

Exhibition at Minoritengalerien im Priesterseminar

Tue - Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 11 am - 4 pm

Curated by Roman Grabner (A), Alois Kölbl (A) & Johannes Rauchenberger (A)

With Danica Dakic, (BHI), Tomáš Džadoň, (SK), Donna Conlon (US), Ergin Çavuşoğlu, (BG), Juan Manuel Echavarría (CO), Christan Eisenberger (A), Gyula Fodor (H), Shilpa Gupta (IN), Taline Kechichian (LB), Magdalena Kunz/Daniel Glaser (CH), Via Lewandowsky (D), Ariel Orozco (CU), Martin Osterider (A), Adrian Paci (AL), Lidwien van de Ven (NL), Daphna Weinstein (IS), Gernot Wieland (A)

Exhibition at < rotor >

Tue - Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 11 am - 4 pm

Curated by Anton Lederer & Margarethe Makovec (A)

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With: Ingo Abeska (A), Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson (NL), Tanja Dabo (HR), Enks (A), Igor Grubić (HR), Delaine und Damian Le Bas (GB), Lisl Ponger (A), Nada Prlja (GB / MKD), Khaled D. Ramadan (DK), Andrea Ressi (A), Szu Szu (POL), Sylvia Winkler & Stephan Köperl (D)

Interventions at public places: Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson (NL), Enks (A), Nada Prlja (GB / MKD), Khaled D. Ramadan (DK), Delaine & Damian Le Bas (GB)

Talks at various venues, please look at www.steirischerherbst.at

Happiness in life for everyone! It fails. The categorical imperative stops at the other, the unknown, the unfamiliar. Foreign customs, religion, other languages, even skin colours form the elements for barricades of fear, equally around Fortress Europe. Xenophobic thinking and acting becomes a calamity for all those who leave their homelands, setting out not only with their needs but also their ideas and dreams in search of a better future. However, alternative images are possible and we can work on developing the present situation under different auspices. Such counter-concepts empower us to hone our view and revise the conceptions stored in our own minds. "tit for tat" works on counter images for thinking and acting beyond national, cultural and religious boundaries.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst, Afro-Asiatisches Institut, KHG, Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten & < rotor >

Name

Readymade

04/10 – 26/10, Forum Stadtpark, Tue - Sun 2 - 6 pm

Sun 05/10, 5.30 pm Talk

Janez Janša is the name of Slovenia's economic-liberal, conservative prime minister – and has also been the name of three well-known Slovenian artists since the summer of 2007; officially and with all the papers and stamps required for an official name change. All of their works, their private affairs, in a word their whole life has been conducted under this name ever since. One year later, they are now analysing the effects of this gesture in an exhibition for the first time. All of the exhibits are immediate products of reality: Janša, Janša and Janša turn the relationship of art and life on its head by means of transformation, translation, representation and mimesis. While above all art was redefined in the past century by a reality, Janša, Janša and Janša want to achieve the exact opposite by penetrating deep into their own real lives and into the life of their immediate environment.

Produced by steirischer herbst & Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary art, Ljubljana

Co-produced by Forum Stadtpark, Maska – Institute for publishing, production and education & Masa Institute, Ljubljana

Winter in Autumn (Winter im Herbst)

On politics and the public sphere

04/10 - 26/10, Public places

By Joachim Hainzl (A)

As a result of racist statements made during local elections in Graz, within a matter of weeks Austrian Freedom Party politician Dr Susanne Winter from Graz, once an unknown district councillor, became an international icon of Islamophobia under close protection from the Austrian government. The "Winter in Autumn" action organised by Forum Stadtpark will install a counterpoint to this political position in the public sphere during the festival and at the same time ask the question of authorship in public debates.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Forum Stadtpark Graz

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CPU Central Processing Unit

04/10 - 26/10, ESC im LABOR, Tue - Sun 2 - 7 pm

Fri 17/10 & Fri 24/10, 7.30 pm Open House I + II

Initiated by Reni Hofmüller (A) & Jogi Hofmüller (A)

With Anna Losen (D), Rob Bloksijl (NL), Eran Sachs (IL), Wolfgang Temmel (A), Bruno Preisendörfer (D), Dmytri Kleiner (D), Agnese Trocchi (I), GOTO10 Marloes de Valk (NL), Frank Barknecht (D), Erinn Clark (USA), Seda Gürses (TR/D), Ningunlugar (E), Nana Lueth (D), Andrew Garton (AUS), Zoe Gudovič (SRB), Ju Goslin (GB), Ernesto Rico-Schmid (BOL) et. al.

What is the relevance of media art today? Are media artists, as author Bruno Preisendörfer says, people that do not matter, at least not as individuals? That they, like all of us, are only important in the aggregate (as consumers, as an audience, as voters), because, as individuals, they lack money, power and knowledge? "CPU", a temporary working space for fifteen people from a variety of fields of art and technology, challenges this mindset: Six months ahead of the festival, the development of new media art works has already begun, that will be showcased in Graz in October – as installations, workshops, performances and lectures.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst, ESC im LABOR & mur.at

The African Twintowers

04/10 - 09/11, Neue Galerie Graz Spiegelsaal, Tue - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

By Christoph Schlingensiefel (D)

Film and theatre-maker Christoph Schlingensiefel's installation combines Norse mythology and African shamanism as well as the music of rock legend Patti Smith, text fragments from Elfriede Jelinek, and the acting of Fassbinder icon Irm Hermann: "The African Twintowers" is a portrait of everyday life, an enactment of the German present in the colonial past. The film was shot in Lüderitz/Namibia in 2005, with most of the footage shot in AREA 7, a corrugated iron slum outside the gates of this time-forgotten town. The result is a film that is a film no more, caught up in its own parallel universe, the red thread cut, without the usual sequence of images, on eighteen monitors simultaneously.

In co-operation with steirischer herbst & Neue Galerie Graz

Strategies for avoiding misfortune

Artist lectures

Kunsthhaus Graz, Space04

Di 07/10, 19.30 Roza El-Hassan (H)

Di 14/10, 19.30 Erwin Wurm (A)

Di 21/10, 19.30 John Bock (D)

Co-produced by steirischer herbst & Kunsthhaus Graz

next code: exit

art under net conditions

„Dokumente einer Zeit“ / „Exzess“ / „Exit“ / „Sieben Blätter II“

12/10 - 31/10, Museum im Rathaus Gleisdorf, Tue - Sat 10 am - 5 pm

„Glück im Unglück“

16/10 - 07/11, Kunsthhaus Weiz, Thu - Sat 2 - 6 pm

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

Like last year, the focus of the "next code" project is on process-based co-operations of artists from different cultures: What is the legacy of the nationalist twentieth century? What are the consequences of the involvements in the common history of the so-called 'West' and South-East Europe? Against the backdrop of the radical experiences of the past century, three generations of artists work on possibilities of productively coming to terms with the past. The main venues are Gleisdorf and Weiz, with branches leading to Graz and Belgrade.

Co-produced by steirischer herbst, kultur.at: verein für medienkultur, Stadtgemeinde Gleisdorf & Stadtgemeinde Weiz

Strategies for avoiding misfortune

Walking Conference

Sat 11/10, Meeting point festival centre

11 am, Lecture Scott Lash (GB)

12.30 am - 4.30 pm, Walks

5 pm, Panel discussion with Isolde Charim (A), Wolfgang Welsch (D) et. al.

Curated by Florian Malzacher (A/D) & Gesa Ziemer (CH/D)

Walks by and with Hannes Mayer (GB), Martin Zettel (A), HDA Haus der Architektur Graz, Gregor Weiss (A) & VinziWerke Graz, plan b (D/GB), Duncan Speakman (GB), Astrid Kury (A), Luise Kloos (A), Christina Medina (CAN/A), Berti Mütter (A), Otto Petrovic (A), Wolfgang Welsch (D), Philipp Stöllger (CH), Hermann Glettler (A), Stephan Schaede (D), Michaela Ott (D), Isolde Charim (A), Marie-Luise Knott (D), Nanne Meyer (D) et. al.

Of course there are the grand, political gestures. But "strategies for avoiding misfortune" are above all concrete practices in social space. A fight waged not on the stage of grand social debates but that rather concerns the immediate living environment. So what everyday practices can be used to pursue the option of acting or not acting?

"Strategies for avoiding misfortune" focuses on a productive attitude that does not abandon the power of a utopia but nevertheless bears feasibility in mind. There is an action between pragmatism and utopia that shapes our everyday life, that creates public spheres and sometimes saves the world a bit. Divided into various themed walks, the "Walking Conference" strolls around the city and art, looking for and examining "strategies for avoiding misfortune" in talks, lectures and discussions: As a theoretical event that is itself a theoretical strategy.

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