

Eccentrics

**An exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation
September 3 – October 15, 2006**

Twentieth century art is characterized by styles, fashions, and trends that we attribute to certain groups of artists. But each period also has its eccentric outsiders who don't lend themselves to categorization and who fail to adhere to the general disciplines of the visual arts. This is the point of the departure of the exhibition "Eccentrics", which brings together ten positions in art from the USA, Italy, Sweden, and Austria, all representing various generations – from the young Italian Sissi to Louise Bourgeois, who is over ninety.

What the otherwise highly diversified works and work approaches have in common are a special affinity to unusual materials and their unconventional treatment of classical media, like sculpture, drawing, and photography. From the Vanitas still life by the ceramicists Bertozzi & Casoni to the fabric installations by Sissi to the videos by Lars Siltberg to the chrome-steel sculptures by Rona Pondick to Claudio Massini's relief paintings, there are plenty of media surprises to be discovered in this exhibition.

What actually links the works of this exhibition, however, is the common belief behind the individual works, a belief that follows the idea of a hermetically closed, creative system. Most of the positions represented here are based on the ideal of the unified whole of the work, life, and personality of the artist. Many of the works seem to be permeated by a stylized self-representation, sometimes with aspects of an eccentric self-will.

The exhibition "Eccentrics" consciously brings together artwork characterized by a strong referential aspect that is, however, usually irresolvable in the end. The viewer is presented with worlds that range from the fantastical to the surreal and might be interpreted as mirrors of the souls of particularly striking artist personalities. The depiction of the body as it dissolves into hybrid forms like human-beast, technology-nature, reality-dream becomes the metaphor of an attitude of life that shuns the banal reality of everyday existence. Thus human lust and desire as well as the fascination for fantastical, futuristic, and technoid hybrids converge in the work of the American artist Rona Pondick, for example, and in the oversized, large-scale sculptures by the Austrian Bruno Gironcoli. Peter Senoner's figures, by contrast, break with classical ascriptions to gender and race in that they represent science-fiction-like, artificial, and hermaphroditic hybrid creatures. Elements borrowed from foreign cultures crop up in other works in this exhibition, but especially in the work of the Roman artist, Luigi Ontani, who presents himself again and again as a metaphor, taking the form of make-believe creatures from mythology and literature.

Even if some of the artists have already attained international renown, these nonconformists have often been marginalized in the market or failed to be accepted until much too late. Strong-minded mavericks as well as those who develop their own, refractory worlds do not fit into the fast-paced art world that is dependent on trends and the recognition effect. The artists' positions presented here, often highly complex and self-willed, represent outstanding exceptions to recent art development and are bound to confront visitors with many puzzling questions and surprises.

Exhibiting artists: Bertozzi & Casoni, Louise Bourgeois, Bruno Gironcoli, Rolf Koppel, Claudio Massini, Luigi Ontani, Rona Pondick, Peter Senoner, Sissi, Lars Siltberg

Exhibition venue
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Preopening viewing
Please call for an appointment:
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Press photos
Available on our website:
www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

Duration of the exhibition
September 3 – October 15, 2006

Opening
Saturday, September 2, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Catalogue
A catalogue shall be published with statements
by the artists on the theme "Eccentrics"

Opening hours
Wed. 2:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 2:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m.
and by appointment

We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in your medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you!