

Introduction to Art History

**An Exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation
November 11 – December 16, 2007**

Our view of the future is always guided by our knowledge about the past. Even the most current form of art production cannot deny its roots and is inextricably linked to art history. Some artists go a step further and make this confrontation with history the central theme of their work. In this sense, the international group exhibition "Introduction to Art History" brings together a selection of current artistic works that deal with the direct representation of familiar historical works of art. The project shows photographs, films, and installations that reproduce works of art from different eras without the slightest alteration or manipulation.

Departing from the museum photographs by Thomas Struth, the project as a whole conveys in the works on display a conceptual approach that differs from a mere reference to the art of previous eras through the direct iconographic and visual presence of historical art.

In this way, the works in this show diverge clearly from the echoed forms of pop art, arte povera, and conceptual art, from the postmodernist forms of art reception of the eighties, and the significance of art history in the discussion on memory in the nineties.

As an examination of an "art about art," the exhibition is primarily interested in two issues: on the one hand, the correlation between the individual projects and the currency of the iconography in contemporary art; on the other hand, the concrete concept connected to the presence of the historical work of art. The exhibition "Introduction to Art History" includes a criticism of both institutions and science and also plays with different art historical levels as well as the simultaneity of the presentation, representation, and reception of art. At the same time the exhibition also addresses the historical traditions of looking at and interpreting art by reflecting on concepts such as artistic originality, authorship, and the aura and status of a work of art.

Thus overall, the selection of works is a situation that examines a complex model of discourses of contemporary art by focusing on the concrete reproduction of art historical works. In the framework of the exhibition, the art historical reference is posed not as a subject of discussion but as the conceptual decision of an array of different artistic projects.

Participating artists: Victor Burgin, Stéphane Couturier, Danica Dakic, Peter Dressler, Cecilia Edefalk, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Maria Hahnenkamp, Candida Höfer, Edgar Honetschläger, Franz Kapfer, Katharina Mayer, Claudia Pils, Timm Rautert, Klaus Scherübel, Peter Schlör, Thomas Struth.

Exhibition venue

Ursula Blickle Foundation

Mühlweg 18, D - 76703 Kraichtal-UÖ
Phone +49 7251 60919 Fax +49 7251 68687

Curator

Dr. Martin Hochleitner

Press information

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Preopening viewing

Please call for an appointment
Phone +49 7251 60919 Fax +49 7251 68687

Press photos

Available on our website:
www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

Duration of the exhibition

November 11 – December 16, 2007

Opening

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Catalogue

A catalogue with texts by Martin Hochleitner, Friedrich Tietjen, and Anselm Wagner will be published in conjunction with the exhibition.

Opening hours

Wed. 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Sun. 2:00 – 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!