

Books, Books, Books – Nothing But Books

An exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation

May 17 – June 28, 2009

The most recent incidences of the destruction of valuable books by burning (in Weimar) and mechanical forces (in Cologne) have reminded us that books are a part of both past and future culture, while at the same time also calling to our attention the fact that Anselm Kiefer, whose theme is the unaltered physical form of the book over centuries, has been awarded a literature prize for his work.

The unusual exhibition at the Ursula Blickle Foundation is a sort of anthology of artists' positions from the present (Olaf Breuning, Clegg & Guttmann, Andreas Gursky, Laura Padgett, Eva Schlegel, among others) and the second half of the twentieth century (Heinz Gappmayr, Anselm Kiefer, John Latham, Giulio Paolini, Dieter Roth, among others) on the phenomenon of how books affect our (everyday) life and how we, on the other hand, put books in jeopardy or even destroy them.

The exhibition is not about artists' books that aspire to produce publications with dazzling aesthetic pearls buried within, but brings together provocative examinations of the fact that books (as library collections) affect our lives, and that we affect the existence of books through fire, water, mechanical forces, and other means of transformation. This exhibition, consciously conceived as a multimedia presentation, provides a diverse cross section, combining film and video documentation of happenings with quotes by Canetti, Marinetti, or Valéry; films by Truffaut with documents on book burning by the Nazis; obsessive pictures by the Russian artist Juri Rodekin with images of libraries; Candida Höfer's library designs, fictitious books in which the dialectics of title and form are relevant, and the sculptural transformation of books into other objects of daily life. The manifold approaches to the theme demonstrate that the book – despite the immaterial media used these days for the storage and communication of cultural content – still holds an important spot in our collective consciousness as a place for archiving and preserving.

Exhibition venue

Ursula Blickle Foundation

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Press photos

are available on our website
www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

Pre-opening viewing

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

Duration of the exhibition

May 17 – June 28, 2009

Opening

Saturday, May 16, 2009, 7 p.m.

Welcoming address: Ursula Blickle
Introduction: Prof. Peter Weiermair

Curator

Prof. Peter Weiermair (Frankfurt)

Catalogue

A catalogue will be published in conjunction with the exhibition

Opening hours

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 6 p.m. and by appointment

Closing ceremony June 28, 2009, 4 p.m.

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