

IN THE END WAS THE WORD: Language as a Medium of Contemporary Visual Art

Marko Lulic, Invisible Monument, 2010

By ironically reversing the Biblical phrase “In the beginning was the word,” the exhibition’s curator, Peter Weiermair, is alluding to a phenomenon that is especially common in recent contemporary art in which many artists are employing language, as conveyed via diverse media, not as literature but rather in the context of the visual arts.

This international anthology, with contributions from Italy, Finland, Germany, France, the United States, Austria, and the Netherlands stresses the exemplary demonstration of the aesthetic strategies employed. The works range from text projects to assemblages of found metal letters, from combinations of texts and images to tattoos, from video works to text machines, from sculptures with engraved texts to painted texts.

Anyone who attentively studies today’s wealth of possible media in contemporary fine arts will be struck by how much text in its highly varied forms and statements has become a central theme—seemingly as an *ultima ratio*—of contemporary artistic strategies. This stance, which was prepared by conceptual art, signifies a turn away from a world that can be experienced by the senses and as well as the necessity that the viewer complete the text in his or her mind. At the same time, however, it amounts to an aestheticizing of linguistic signs, which differentiates meaning.

The title also suggests a finality and should be understood as an escape to language. These artists are questioning the public language of advertising and grappling with political subject matter such as issues of race. Moreover, several of the works play with the very rules of the art world.

In addition to presenting central figures from the discourse on text and images such as Jenny Holzer, the intention of the exhibition is to integrate in the context of the exhibition a series of young artists with important works.

As always, the exhibition space of the Ursula Blicke Stiftung acts as a partner in dialogue with the artists and the curator thanks to the diverse spatial possibilities.

Participating artists: Azt, Bernard Faucon, Heinz Gappmayr, Alex Gingrow, Franz Graf, Siggi Hofer, Jenny Holzer, Siggi Hofer, Zenita Komad, Ignas Krunglevicius, Mikko Kuorinki, Simon Linke, Marko Lulic, Ken Lum, Marzia Migliora, Maurizio Nannucci, Raymond Pettibon, Jack Pierson, Paul van der Eerden, Jorinde Voigt, and Hank Willis Thomas

Exhibition Venue

Ursula Blickle Foundation

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Press Information

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Press Images

Images will be made available on the foundation's

website: www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

Publication

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalog

Preview

Please reserve by telephone or fax:

Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687

Exhibition Dates

November 13 – December 18, 2011

Opening Event

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 7 p.m.

Welcome: Ursula Blickle

Introduction

Prof. Peter Weiermair

Curator

Prof. Peter Weiermair, Frankfurt

Opening Hours

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 6 p.m.

and by appointment

Closing Event

December 18, 2011, 4 p.m.

Lecture and conversation:

Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber, art historian, Stuttgart

Pressemitteilung Press release

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

Presse und Öffentlichkeit

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