

Claus Richter – Get a Life

An exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation

June 26 – July 31, 2005

Passion is devotion. Passion means giving one's all without regard for immediate gratification through added value. Here, fascination becomes the engine for creative processes. Passion and fascination are therefore the capital of every true "fan."

Claus Richter works as an artist and researcher and is himself a fan. He has a passion for the science fiction genre, design, fashion and the artificial worlds portrayed therein. Fictions become real-life fantasies whether one is developing new technologies and trends or trying out personal identity models. But Claus Richter is not just a fan; he is a fan of fans. And he projects this enthusiasm not only into his artistic work but also into the dissertation he is currently writing at the University of Klagenfurt. In his manifold kinds of production, he makes use of different media, for example he has hosted a radio show, published independent fanzines, made films, written for fashion magazines, participated in performances, and designed outfits, among other things.

Particularly in Claus Richter's performances (usually co-productions with Oliver Husain und Sergej Jensen) show and spectacle are an integral part of his work. On the stage or set, just as in the genre of science fiction, one has to master the techniques of the effect. Richter's research interest in the strategies of seduction using the director's means is coupled with an often headstrong adaptation of costumes and show effects. Another form of acquisition occurs when he reconstructs props from science fiction classics, e.g. Blade Runner, and furnishes them with real functions. The objects constructed as movie props are no longer just visual effects but assume their own sculptural character. The artist painstakingly imitates every detail, meticulously transforming something into reality that never existed in the first place. In this regard there are clear parallels to a large community of fans that also reconstructs props, costumes and entire sets in its free time. And this is precisely where Claus Richter's research interest comes in. The main theme of his artistic work is not the enthusiasm for the films themselves, but the staging and creative potential – the obsession for detail and wound-up excitement – that spawns the fan's enthusiasm.

In his exhibition "Get a Life," Claus Richter will be dealing with the tension between appropriation and the independent creative process. In an installation that incorporates the entire building of the Ursula Blickle Foundation he will present his voluminous collection of research material on this subject and give the visitor insight into the at times fantastic, at times absurd worlds of a very specific fan culture. He will be staging his research and creative process in sculptural, performative, and spatial settings and in a lecture to be held on July 31, at the Ursula Blickle Foundation, in which he will present excerpts from his dissertation.

The title of the exhibition "Get a Life" has a double meaning. In the science fiction fan world the line became a set phrase after William Shatner, who plays the legendary figure of Captain Kirk on Star Trek, blurted it out in answer to his fans' indefatigable questions about what it's like to be a science fiction hero. In other words, despite all the enthusiasm for fictive worlds one shouldn't lose sight of real life. Also implicit in equal measure, however, is the challenge to create an alternative (fictive) life for oneself because on the one hand acquiring fictive worlds entails escaping from a real identity, but on the other hand it's also about inventing alternative models.

As scenes, sculptures, images, and costumes, the worlds Claus Richter creates at the Ursula Blickle Foundation will definitely prove interesting. Yet whatever their form, one thing is certain: his work always goes beyond the mere appropriation and imitation of the images created for the fiction.

The previously announced dates for the Michael Sailstorfer show have been postponed until September (Sept 11 – Oct 16, 2005). A press release will be sent out in July.

Exhibition venue

Ursula Blickle Foundation, Mühlweg 18
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Curator

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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

June 26 – July 31, 2005

Opening

Saturday, June 25, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Closing event

July 31, 2005, 4:00 p.m.

Walk through the exhibition
followed by a talk by Claus Richter

Catalogue

A catalogue will be published subsequent to the
exhibition

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!