

XIV. Rohkunstbau THREE COLOURS - WHITE

Since it was founded in 1994, the annual *Rohkunstbau* Festival has become synonymous with international, high-profile contemporary art. One particular feature of *Rohkunstbau* is the relationship between the exhibits and the location - a concept originally developed by co-founder and artistic director Arvid Boellert for the *Rohkunstbau* shows in the Gross Leuthen Palace in the Spreewald. This year's *Rohkunstbau* is moving to a new home - Schloss Sacrow, part of the complex of Palaces and Parks of Potsdam that are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This small late baroque palace is located in the only village between Berlin and Potsdam, yet nonetheless it is a place shaped by diverse, historically significant narratives.

Sacrow's history is full of fractures, offering extensive material as a projection surface for the artists taking part in the fourteenth *Rohkunstbau* exhibition. This year, Boellert has chosen the second part of "THREE COLOURS – BLUE, WHITE, RED" as the exhibition context, referencing the eponymous film series by Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski. Within this framework, British curator Mark Gisbourne has invited ten artists to Sacrow to explore their own thoughts on the complex democratic value of "Equality":

Candice Breitz, Southafrica / photography and video

Maria Chevska, Great Britain / painting, installations

Thomas Demand, Germany / photography

Ayse Erkmen, Turkey / installations

Jaroslav Flicinski, Poland / painting, installations

Ola Kolehmainen, Finland / photography

Thomas Rentmeister, Germany / objects, installations

Gerhard Richter, Germany / painting

Julian Rosefeldt, Germany / photography and video

Gil Marco Shani, Israel / painting

Working within the exhibition's leitmotif of the colour white, the aim is to encourage a personal, artistic approach to the topic, allowing the individual voice of each participating artist to emerge. White – grey – black as non-colours or the community of all colours, as light and dark, white as a metaphor for probity, clarity or harmony and black as its complement, together opening up a potential neither strictly formal nor literary, yet capable of providing a point of orientation.

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In Thomas Rentmeister's installation, the main focus is on the material: against one wall, a stacked pile of white linen, with the spaces between packed with white materials such as sugar or cotton wool. At first glance, one is struck by the work's humour and playfulness. Yet when one engages with it more intensely, it reveals a complex network of interwoven levels of meanings reaching far back into the history art, back to Duchamp, for example, or minimalism. His materials are soaked in stories and memories, entering into an intense dialogue with the palace's rich history.

Video artist Julian Rosefeldt has taken this opportunity to develop a new work especially produced in Sacrow – a work dealing with Germanic myths, German history and German Romanticism. Philosophy trapped in moving images – revealing a legacy of globally functioning iconographic stereotypes and cultural clichés. More often than not, such an intense desire to enlighten employs a scathing, satirical humour as one form of access.

Polish-British artist Maria Chevska has installed her work against a white and grey background creating, at the same time, both painting and sculpture. It is a work inspired by one of Franz Kafka's aphorisms, engaging in a dialogue with her own specially made or 'found' objects. In many different ways, Chevska's works investigate the influence that language has on the visual world and the narrative dimension of the visual. Dislocation and exile too, form central concerns in her work, existentially threatening situations for which she finds her own narrative voice – both personal and yet simultaneously universal.

In this way, for two months in the summer of 2007, Schloss Sacrow will be transformed into a place to contemplate diverse ways of expressing equality and the potential that equality has. The curatorial framework facilitates an intensive and personal engagement with this complex topic, while the historical levels of the tiny baroque Schloss provide the ideal projection surface.

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Patron of THREE COLOURS – BLUE WHITE RED from 2006 to 2008: José Manuel Barroso,
President of the European Commission

Artistic director: Arvid Boellert

Exhibition curator: Mark Gisbourne

Location: Schloss Sacrow, Kramnitzer Strasse, 14469 Potsdam-Sacrow

Exhibition dates: 15.07.to 26.08.2007

Opening: 14.07.2007, 3 pm

Opening hours: Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 am to 08:00 pm

Web: www.rohkunstabau.de

Advance tickets: 030 / 495 00 979

ADMISSION FEES: Exhibition: 6 €

Press and communication: Bluhm PR, Sylke Bluhm and Ron Bloch

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