

Funky Lessons

BüroFriedrich, Berlin, 14 September - 13 November 2004

Opening hours: tue-sat 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

John Baldessari, Monica Bonvicini, Andrea Fraser, Martin Gostner, Eva Grubinger, Erik van Lieshout, Marko Lulic, Aleksandra Mir, Adrian Piper, Tino Sehgal, Annika Ström, Barbara Visser, Franz West

curated by Jörg Heiser

press release:

A common resentment against conceptual art is that it was too didactic. The exhibition brings together work by artists that tackle the problem head-on: they undermine the authority of educational forms yet do not simply renounce knowledge and critique. Humour and role play are the disarming weapons used in performance, video, installation, painting and sculpture. New ways open up beyond the cul-de-sac of a false choice between harmless hermeticism and patronizing gestures.

The title of the exhibition is inspired by Adrian Piper's pivotal piece "Funk Lessons" (1982-1984), a video based on a performance by the artist teaching - a mostly white - audience of students basic and advanced dance routines of funk and soul music. Another classic example is John Baldessari's "Baldessari Sings LeWitt" of 1972: the artist sings, like a lay preacher, the famous, stern Sentences on Conceptual Art by Sol LeWitt, to the melody of famous songs, among them the US anthem. Or Franz West's cross between a pedestal and a lectern "Laocoon's sprimgy head (Lessingmstudy)" of 2002, with a paperback copy of Lessing's 'Laokoon, or on the divisions between painting and poetry' casually placed inside of it. In the book, Lessing plays off sculpture, which according to him was static, against poetry, which was in motion. West counters the assumption with an amorphous, reddish lump mounted with a rusty steel spring onto the top of the lectern.

Works by 13 artists from 6 countries will be on display throughout the whole space of BüroFriedrich from September through November 2004. BüroFriedrich is a non-profit international venue for contemporary art that has already put on several exhibitions dealing with the history and present of conceptualism. Complementing a group of classical pieces (Piper, Baldessari), there are some recent works (Fraser, Grubinger, van Lieshout, West) and some commissioned exclusively for the exhibition (Bonvicini, Gostner, Lulic, Mir, Sehgal, Ström, Visser).

A series of lectures at Münzclub (Münzstr. 23, Berlin Mitte), taking place on Mondays from 13 September, will address the question of didactics in direct exchange with the audience: some of them will take the form of 'interview' (Adrian Piper on 8 November, Aleksandra Mir on 13 September), while others will cross over into performance (Barbara Visser, on the opening night, 11 September). A catalogue which will encompass some of the material from these lectures will be published after the exhibition.

images

image files can be downloaded.

<http://www.buerofriedrich.org>

The exhibition is funded by the Berlin Capital Culture Fund, the Mondriaan Foundation, and the art section of Austria's Bundeskanzleramt.

Funky Lessons at Münzclub

Münzstraße 23, 10178 Berlin
entrance fee 4 Euro, members free

every Monday at 8 p.m. Jörg Heiser talks to:

13 September Aleksandra Mir (English)

20 September Martin Gostner and Marko Lulic (German)

27 September Kerstin Grether und Klaus Walter "The Funky Lessons of Pop Music"
(German)

04 October Thomas Bayrle "The Funky Lessons of Teaching" (German)

11 October Tino Sehgal (German)

18 October no Talk: Funky Lessons Surprise Film

25 October Monica Bonvicini (English)

01 November Eva Grubinger and Annika Ström (English)

08 November Adrian Piper (English)

Artists :

John Baldessari

Born 1931
Lives in Los Angeles

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2004 *John Baldessari: Somewhere Between Almost Right and Not Quite (With Orange)*, Deutsche Guggehnheim, Berlin
1998 *Baldessari, 4 RMS W VU: WALLPAPER, LAMPS, AND PLANTS. NEW*, Witte de With, Rotterdam; Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich
1995 *John Baldessari: A Retrospective*, Cornerhouse, Manchester; Serpentine Gallery, London; Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; Moderna Gallerija Ljubljana, Slovenia; Museet for Samtidskunst, Oslo; Fundacao Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon
1990 *John Baldessari*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Musee d'Art Contemporain de Montreal, Canada
1981 *John Baldessari: Work 1966-1980*, Exhibition organized by Marcia Tucker, The New Museum, New York

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 *The Last Picture Show: Artists Using Photography, 1960– 1982*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
2000 *Diary*, Cornerhouse, Manchester, England
1999 *Global Conceptualism: Points of Origin 1950s – 1980s*, Queens Museum of Art, Queens, New York
1997 *La Biennale di Venezia: 47th International Art Exhibition*, Venice. Curator: German Celant
1997 *Sunshine & Noir. Art in L.A. 1960 – 1997*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany; Castello di Rivoli, Museo Contemporanea, Italy; UCLA Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
1991 *Devil on the Stairs: Looking Back at the Eighties*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia. Curated by Robert Storr.
1978 *Art about Art*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
1969, 1972, 1977, 1979, 1983 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Monica Bonvicini

Born 1965
Lives in Berlin

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2003 *Anxiety Attack*, Modern Art, Oxford
2002 *What does your wife/girlfriend think of your rough and dry hands?*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
2000 *Bed Bud Pad Bet Pub*, Kunsthhaus Glarus, Glarus
1998 *Destroy She Said*, Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart, Stuttgart
1994 *Die Ecken des Lebens oder über eine perspektivische Architektur der Wahrheit*, Kunst-Werke, Berlin
1992 *I Muri 1 & 2*, Main Gallery, Cal Arts, Valencia, California

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2004 *3. berlin biennale für zeitgenössische Kunst*, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin
2004 *L'Air du Temps*, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich
2003 *Poetic Justice*, 8. Biennale Istanbul, Istanbul
2002 *Urban Creation*, Shanghai Biennale 2002, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai
1999 *Looking for a Place: SITE Santa Fe's Third International Biennial*, Santa Fe
1998 *The Cinema Project*, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
1998 *Prix Whanki 1998*, Whanki Museum, Seoul
1996 *The Open*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London

Andrea Fraser

Born 1965

Lives in New York

Selected Solo Exhibitions / Projects

- 2003 *Andrea Fraser. Works: 1984 to 2003*, Kunstverein in Hamburg, Hamburg
1998 *Reporting from Sao Paulo, I'm from the United States*, for *Roteiros. Roteiros. Roteiros. Roteiros. Roteiros.*, 24th Bienal de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo
1998 *Information Room*, Kunsthalle Bern
1995 *A Project in Two Phases*, EA-Generali Foundation, Vienna
1994 *Services* (a ,working-group exhibition' organized in collaboration with Helmut Draxler), Kunstraum der Universität Lüneburg; Künstlerhaus Stuttgart; Kunstverein München; Sous-sol Ecole superieure d'art visuel, Genf; Depot, Wein; Provinciaal Museum, Hasselt; Parasite at the Clocktower, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Barcelona
1991 *May I Help You?* (with Allan McCollum), American Fine Arts, New York

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 *Image Streams*, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio
2002 *Okonmien der Zeit*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Akademie der Kunst, Berlin; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich
1999 *Museum as Muse*, Museum of Modern Art, New York
1997 *postproduktion*, EA-Generali Foundation, Vienna
1995 *The End(s) of the Museum*, Antoni Tapiés Foundation, Barcelona
1993 *La Biennale di Venezia: 45th International Art Exhibition*, Austrian Pavilion, Venice
1993 *Whitney Biennial*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
1986 *The Fairy Tale: Politics, Desire and Everyday Life*, Artists' Space, New York
1986 *Damaged Goods: Desire and the Economy of the Object*, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York

Martin Gostner

Born 1957

Lives in Innsbruck

Selected solo exhibitions:

- 2003 „Of Milk and Honey“, Museum Folkwang, Essen (cat.)
1998 „Erinnerung weich“, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne
1997 „öde Galle“, Villa Merkel / Bahnwärterhaus, Esslingen
1994 „Thesen der Gegenreformation“, Forum Stadtpark, Prag
1992 Galerie Sophia Ungers, Cologne

Selected group exhibitions:

- 2003 „Bankette“, ZKM, Karlsruhe
2002 „Je veux“, One Star Press, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
1994 „Miniatures“, The Agency, London
1991 „Gullivers Reisen“, Galerie Sophia Ungers, Cologne
1984 „Der Traum vom Raum“, Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, with R.E.M., Vienna

Eva Grubinger

Born 1971

Lives in Berlin

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2004 *Dark Matter*, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Eröffnung 22. Oktober 2004
- 2003 *Dark Matter*, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead
- 2002 *Cut-Outs, Hype! Und Hit!, Die Sammlung als Labor VI*, Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig
- 2001 *Operation R.O.S.A.*, KIASMA Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki
- 1999 *Ten Weeks: Hype! Hit! Hack! Hegemony!*, Au base, New York
- 1994 [C@C](#) - *Coumputer Aided Curating*, Galerie Eigen + Art, Berlin

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 *Viren, Modelle, Tricks*, Gesellschaft für aktuelle Kunst, Bremen
- 2000 *Version 2000*, Centre pour l'image contemporain, Geneve
- 1998 *Tell me a story*, Magasin, Grenoble
- 1997 *ars viva 97/98*, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Stuttgart
- 1996 *Nach Weimar*, Neues Museum Weimar
- 1994 *When tekno turns to sound of poetry*, Shedhalle Zürich; Kunst-Werke Berlin

Erik van Lieshout

Born 1968

Lives in Rotterdam

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2003 *Hospital? Therapy?*, Stella Lohaus Gallery, Antwerp
- 2003 *Klebeplastik*, Galerie Fiebach und Minninger, Cologne
- 2002 *Naughty by Nature, Not because I hate you*, Groninger Museum, Groningen
- 1999 *Selbstenzunderer*, Stella Lohaus Gallery, Antwerp
- 1999 *Laboratorium im Aktionsforum Praterinsel*, Munich
- 1998 *Singing Apart Together*, Galerie Fons Welters, Amsterdam

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 *We are the world*, Dutch Pavillion, 50th Venice Biennale, Venice
- 2002 *Billboard Project*, Neue Oper, Vienna
- 2002 *Do it*, www.e-flux.com, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist
- 2001 *Zero Gravity*, Kunstverein Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf
- 2000 *Exorcism, aesthetic terrorism*, Museum Boymans van Beuningen, Rotterdam
- 1999 *gladijs*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
- 1996 *6th International Biennial of Cairo*, Cairo
- 1994 *Watt*, Witte de With, Rotterdam

Marko Lulic

Born 1972

Lives in Vienna

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2004 *Lulic Survived the Titanic*, Quartier 21, Museumsquartier, Vienna
- 2003 *Tesla 21*, (artist's book project), Bawag Foundation, Vienna
- 2003 *Ein amerikanisches Geschenk* (doppelpersonale mit Hans Pohlhammer), Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg
- 2002 *Modernity in YU*, Salon / Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade; Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt; Mama Center, Zagreb
- 1998 *Disco Wilhelm Reich*, MAK Center, Schindler House, Los Angeles
- 1997 *Halbluxus*, Austrain Cultural Institute, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2004 *Open-house*, O.K. Centrum fur Gegenwartskunst, Linz
- 2003 *Nationen*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt
- 2003 *Form-Specific*, Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana
- 2002 *Hier und dort*, Wiener Seession, Vienna
- 1998 *Garage 98*, Mackey House, Los Angeles (curated by Marko Lulic)
- 1995 *Friends of New York*, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York

Aleksandra Mir

Born 1967

Lives in New York

Solo Exhibitions and Projects

- 2004 *The Big Umbrella (New York)*, PS1 Contemporary Art Center, New York
- 2004 *The Big Umbrella (Copenhagen/Dresden)*, Art Statements, Art Basel
- 2003 *Happy Holidays*, The Wrong Gallery, New York
- 2003 *Welcome back to Earth*, Kunsthalle St. Gallen, St. Gallen
- 2002 *Pink Tank*, Cubitt, London
- 1999 *First Woman on the Moon*, Casco Projects, Utrecht
- 1998 *City Forest (prototype)*, Tompkins Square Park, New York

Group Exhibitions and Projects

- 2004 Terminal 5, JFK Airport, New York
- 2004 *Postcards (Liverpool)*, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool
- 2004 *Whitney Biennial 2004*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 2003 *24/7: Wilno-Nueva York*, Contemporary Art Center, Vilnius
- 2003 *Publicness*, ICA, London
- 2002 *The World(may be) Fantastic*, Biennale of Sydney, Sydney
- 2000 *Pyramids of Mars*, Curve Gallery, Barbican Art Center, London

Adrian Piper

Born 1948

Lives in New York and Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2000-2001 *Adrian Piper: A Retrospective*, Fine Arts Gallery, University of Baltimore County, Baltimore; The New Museum, New York; Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro

2000-2001 *MEDI(t)Ations: Adrian Piper's Videos, Installations, Performances and Soundworks, 1968 – 1992*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The New Museum, New York; The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro

1992 *Decide Who You Are*, Grey Art Gallery, New York; John Weber Gallery, New York; Paula Cooper Gallery, New York; Myers Fine Art Gallery, SUNY Plattsburgh Art Museum, Plattsburgh, New York; Art Awareness, Lexington; City Gallery of Contemporary Art, Raleigh

1991 *Adrian Piper*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Cartwright Hall, Bradford; Kettle's Yard, Cambridge; Kunstverein Munchen, Munich

Selected Group Exhibitions

1998 *Out of Actions: Between Performance and the Object, 1949 – 1979*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum fur Angewandte Kunst, Vienna; Museu d'Art Contemporani, Barcelona; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; National Museum of Art, Osaka

1996 *Face a l'Histoire 1933 – 1996*, Centres Georges Pompidou, Paris

1994 *Mappings*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

1992 *Documenta 9*, Kassel

1989 *Art as a Verb*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

1981 *The Gender Show*, Group Material, New York

1975 *Bodyworks*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

1969 *Plans and Projects as Art*, Kunsthalle Bern

Tino Sehgal

Born 1976

Lives in Berlin

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2004 Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven

2004 *Kiss*, Musee des Beaux-Arts, Nantes

2003 *This is right*, Wrong Gallery, New York at Frieze Art Fair, London

2003 *Le plein*, Galerie Jan Mot, Brussels

Selected Group Exhibitions

2004 *Artists' Favourites (Act 2)*, ICA, London

2004 *Ailleurs, ici*, ARC/Musee d'art Moderne de la ville de Paris, Paris

2003 *Utopia Station*, 50th Venice Biennale, Venice

2002 *I promise it's political*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne

2002 *Manifesta 4*, Stadel Museum, Frankfurt

2001 *Do it*, Museo de Arte Carillo Gil, Mexico City

2001 *A Little Bit of History Repeated*, Kunst-Werke, Berlin

Annika Ström

Born 1964

Lives in Berlin

Selected Solo Exhibitions and Screenings

2004 *Det basta*, galleri Box, Goteborg, Sweden

2003 *Everything in this show can be used against me*, Casey Kaplan, New York

2001 *Six Songs for a Time Like This*, Statements, Art 32 Basel, at c/o Alte Gerhardsen, Basel

1999 *Annika Strom – Ten New Love Songs*, Wiener Secession, Vienna

1997 *Videoportrait screening No. X*, Rooseum Museum for Contemporary Art, Malmo

1996 *Annika Strom*, Rupert Goldsworthy Gallery, Berlin

Selected Group Exhibitions and Screenings

2004 *Density +0*, Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Paris, Paris

2003 *Invisible Landscape*, Rooseum Center for Contemporary Art Malmo, Sweden

2002 *Je t'aime...moi non plus*, Kunstmuseum Thun

2001 *Silence of the City*, Gwangju City Art Museum, Gwangju, Korea

Barbara Visser

Born 1966

Lives in Brussels and Amsterdam

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2000 *Metro>polis*, project for Bruxelles 2000, Bruxelles

2000 *Stroom*, HCBK, The Hague

1997 *Gillian Wearing & Barbara Visser*, Bloom Gallery, Amsterdam

1996 *Gimines*, Bloom Gallery Amsterdam

Selected Group Exhibitions

2000 *Internationales*, Observatoire Galerie, Bruxelles

1999 *Prix Jeune Peintreue Belge*, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Bruxelles

1999 *Spiral TV*, Wacoal Art Center, Tokyo

1998 *Enough!*, The Tannery, London

Franz West.

Born 1947

Lives in Vienna

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2003 *Franzwestite*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 2003 *We'll not carry out coals*, Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz
- 2002 *Merciless*, MassMoca, Massachusettes
- 2001 *Gnadenlos/Merciless*, MAK, Vienna
- 2000 *In & Out*, Museum fur Neue Kunst – ZKM Karlsruhe
- 1997 *Projects*, Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1995 *Franz West: Retrospective*, Museum Moderne Kunst, Vienna
- 1994 *Test*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- 1990 *Franz West/Otto Zitko*, Stichting de Appel Museum, Amsterdam

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2003 *It happened tomorrow*, *Biennale de Lyon*, Lyon
- 2003 *Utopia Station*, *La Biennale di Venezia*, Venice
- 2002 *Biennale Dakar*, Dakar
- 2000 *12th Biennial of Sydney*, Sydney
- 1997 *Biennale di Venezia*, Venice
- 1997 *Documenta X*, Kassel
- 1994 *Hors Limites: L'Art et lav Vie 1952 – 1994*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- 1992 *Documenta IX*, Kassel
- 1989 *Open Mind*, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Gent
- 1986 *Skulptur Sein*, Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf
- 1984 *Biennale fur Kleinplastik*, Budapest