
HELMUT MARK SKULPTUR

Opening: 06.03.2008, 7 p.m.

Press talk: 06.03.2008, 11 a.m.

Duration: 07.03. – 26.04.2008

Tue – Fri 2 – 6 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: Kunstverein Medienturm, Josefigasse 1, A-8020 Graz

Guest curator: Reinhard Braun

A homonymous publication accompanies the exhibition, Verlag Folio, Vienna / Bolzano
ISBN 978-3-85256-443-2, and an edition with 50 original drawings is available.



Helmut Mark, REVOLUTION, 2006.
Photo: Gebhard Sengmüller

In 1963, Henry Flint and Jack Smith protested against the codification of art and culture by the museum institution in an action outside the Museum of Modern Art in New York, with the slogans “Demolish Art Museums” and “Demolish Serious Culture.” This codification pertains not only to the concept of art itself, as defined and perpetuated by museum-related collecting and exhibiting activities (art as a fetishized and well-nigh sacralized object), but also to the way in which this concept of art is employed to represent society and culture on the whole in the form of very specific values. Now one might suppose that this debate—having, in the aforementioned action, become a topic of politicized art in the 1960s and 1970s—was settled long ago, not least in view of the “attacks” formulated and carried out by concept art, Intermedia, Fluxus, video and media art on the art object.

Helmut Mark became well-known in the 1980s for his video sculptures, having critically actualized the question of the role of artistic practices and their traditional forms—painting and sculpture—within the extensive debates on the influence of new media on society. If you will, the examination of objectivity can be found relatively consistently in his artistic practice. In his first major solo exhibition in over ten years, he continues these debates in a newly adjusted social setting. The question as to what extent objects can still be enacted as carriers of meaning—or to what extent they need to be reactualized with regard to their involvement in contexts of meaning production—points directly to a debate on the altered meaning of objectivity within the “transnational capitalist project” (George Lipsitz) of “liquid modernity” (Zygmunt Baumann).

Certainly, the work of Helmut Mark induce us today to examine the question of the role taken by options of agency and agitation, having been made possible through the constant expansion of the art field. Are political aspects activated or crippled in the realm of art? Does it remain necessary to attack art institutions? What, then, is the status of the resistive aspect of art objects? Is not insistence on a certain form of autonomy for the artistic object—particularly vis-à-vis the institution (by renouncing site- or space-specific ensembles, for instance)—a form of resistance against the institution’s attempts at (de)politicization? Helmut Mark’s works from recent years embody a concentration of such questions, analyses, and reflections on the congruence of objectivity, media, public sphere, and politics, on the role of the subject in this play of congruence, on the changed status of objects and agencies, and accordingly on the precarious state of social exchange relationships in view of the “liquefaction of politics in culture” (Georges Lipsitz). Can existing social circumstances even still permit the radical criticism of cultural conditions or indeed something akin to a conception of revolution?

BIOGRAPHY Helmut Mark

born 1958, lives and works in Vienna and Leipzig

Since 1982 diverse multimedia- and telecommunication projects

1994 – 1999 cofounder and manager of the Internet culture server "THE THING Vienna"

Since 1995 professorship for media art at the Academy of Visual Arts, Leipzig

SOLO SHOWS (selection)

- 2002 Laden für Nichts, Leipzig
- 2000 Galerie Kunstbüro, Vienna (with Heimo Zobernig)
- 1993 Galerie Waßermann, Munich
Galerie Orms, Innsbruck
- 1990 Insam-Gleicher Gallery, Chicago (with Robert Adrian)
Galerie Orms, Innsbruck
- 1989 Galerie Grita Insam, Vienna
- 1987 Galerie Amer, Vienna
Galerie Maria Bonk, Cologne
- 1986 Galerie Amer, Vienna
- 1985 Galerie Aufbau-Abbau, Berlin

GROUP SHOWS since 1982 (selection)

- 2007 "Der Wal oder Artisten in der Zirkuskuppel", Galerie der Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst, Leipzig
- "Ohne wenn und aber – die Schenkung Dieter und Gertraud Bogner", Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna
- 2006 "Raumkunst, Kunstraum", Kunstraum Buchberg
"LichtWerke", Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna
- 2002 "Variable Stücke", Taxisgalerie, Innsbruck
"Räume 2", Westbahnhof, Innsbruck
"RE-PLAY. Anfänge internationaler Medienkunst in Österreich", Generali Foundation, Vienna
- 1998 "Kunst in der Stadt 2", Bregenzer Kunstverein, Bregenz
- 1997 "Versus 2000", Museion – Museum für moderne und zeitgenössische Kunst, Bolzano
"Magie der Zahl in der Kunst des 20. Jahrhunderts", Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Stuttgart
- 1996 "Objekt: Video", Oberösterreichische Landesgalerie, Linz
"hybrid", Forum Stadtpark, Graz
"Rivers & Bridges", Innsbruck/ Linz/ Vienna and others. (with Andre Bosshard)
"Hören ist Sehen", Palacio de Exposiciones EXPOuniversidad, Medellín, and others
- 1994 "Translucent Writings", Neuberger Museum of Art, New York
"Zeitgleich", Kunsthalle Tirol, Hall in Tirol
"Minima Media", Medienbiennale Leipzig, Leipzig
"100 Umkleidekabinen", Bad zur Sonne, steirischer herbst 94, Graz
- 1993 "Multiples", Galerie Bob van Orsouw, Zurich
"Objekt versus Raum", Galerie Gerald Piltzer, Paris; Museion – Museum für moderne und zeitgenössische Kunst, Bolzano
"Ideas Imágenes Identidades", Centre Cultural, Barcelona
"Computerunterstützte Kunst", Künstlerwerkstatt Lothringer Strasse, Munich
- 1992 "Interferenzen IV – Radiokunst", Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna
"Objekt versus Raum", Tallinn Art Hall, Tallinn; The Nordic Arts Centre, Helsinki; Villa Merkel, Stuttgart
"Neue Medien", Kunsthau Horn, Horn
"The New Editions", Galerie Waßermann, Munich
"Identität: Differenz", steirischer herbst 92, Graz
"Secession Projekte – Interventionen", Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna
"TRANSIT – eine mediative Skulptur", ORF-Fernsehen, Austria, (with Reinhard Braun)
- 1991 "Kunst, Europa, Österreich", Galerie Rähnitzgasse, Dresden; Deichtorhallen, Hamburg
"Die Augen der Minerva", Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg
"Dissipative Inszenationen", Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna
"Im Licht des Monitors", Kunstraum Dornbirn, Dornbirn; Galerien der Stadt Prag, Prague
"Zeitsprünge", Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz
- 1990 "The Readymade Boomerang", Sidney Biennale, Sidney
"Wider-Schein", Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck
"Ursprung und Moderne", Neue Galerie der Stadt Linz, Linz
"Plastik Akut", Kärntner Landesgalerie, Klagenfurt



Helmut Mark, TAKE AWAY, 2005.
Photo: Gebhard Sengmüller

- “Im Licht des Monitors”, Künstlerhaus, Graz; Kunstverein Horn, Horn
“Multiples”, Galerie Gawlik -Schorm, Vienna
Galerie Alberto Weber, Torino
“Texas, Station Rose”, Vienna (with F.E.Rakuschan)
“Poliset”, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Ferrara
1989 “Brennpunkt Wien”, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe
“Skulpturenrepublik”, Mücsarnok, Budapest; Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol; Third Eye Center, Glasgow; John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
“Design Wien”, Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna
“Melencolia”, Galerie Grita Insam, Vienna
“Video Skulptur – retrospektiv und aktuell – 1963-1989”, Kongresshalle, Berlin; Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne
“Prospekt 89”, Frankfurter Kunstverein/ Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt
“Video”, Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck
“Moskau-Wien-New York”, Messepalast, Vienna
“60 Tage österreichisches Museum des 21. Jahrhunderts”, Vienna
1988 “Beton”, Galerie Grita Insam, Vienna
“Brennpunkt Wien”, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn
“Skulpturenrepublik”, Messepalast, Vienna
1987 “Various Artists – Vienna Austria 1987”, Unge Kunstneres Samfund, Oslo
“Im Rahmen der Zeichnung”, Secession, Vienna
“Video der 80er Jahre”, Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz
Galerie Hubert Winter, Vienna
1986 “Wien Signaal”, Aorta, Amsterdam
“Aperto 86”, Biennale Venedig, Venice
“Nuove Geometrie”, Rotonda di via Besano, Milan
“Kunstraum-Raumkunst”, Schloß Buchberg am Kamp
“Kunst und Technologie”, Wissenschaftszentrum, Bonn
1985 “Schrägspur Videofestival”, Technische Universität, Graz
steirischer herbst 85, Augartenkino, Graz
1984 “Multivision 84”, Wiener Festwochen, Karlsplatz, Vienna
1984 “Orwell und die Gegenwart”, Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna (with Robert Adrian)
1983 “Multivision 83”, Wiener Festwochen, Karlsplatz, Vienna
“Aktuell 83”, Lenbachhaus, Munich (with Brigitte Kowanz/ Franz Graf)
1982 “Multivision 82”, Wiener Festwochen, Karlsplatz, Vienna



Helmut Mark, SOFA-IMAGE, 2007.
Photo: Gebhard Sengmüller