



PRESS RELEASE

POSITIONING SCULPTURE IN MODERN ART
THE POWER OF THE TANGIBLE SCULPTURE TODAY!

AT THE GEORG-KOLBE-MUSEUM · SENSBURGER ALLEE 25 · 14055 BERLIN
11. FEBRUAR BIS 28. MAI 2007

with pieces of sculpture by Berta Fischer, Jonathan Meese, Anselm Reyle und Thomas Rentmeister, among others.

Berlin, Feb. 9, 2007 – The Georg-Kolbe-Museum in Berlin will set the stage for the exhibition “The Power of the Tangible - Sculpture Today!” for the next three months. The exhibit, which will run from Feb. 11 to 12 May, 2007, aims to fix the position of sculpture in modern art. It unites 24 different items of sculpture under the themes haptic, concrete, solitary and durable. “The genre of sculpture has undergone an enormous conceptual expansion over the past 50 years,” exclaimed Dr. Marc Wellmann, curator of the exhibit. “Since the 1960s it includes all artistic formations, settings and actions occurring within three-dimensional space. This includes land art, environment, performance, space installation, video art, or social intervention, even architecture like Frank Gehry’s recent Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. In the midst of these extreme expansions of the category sculpture, there yet remains a firm, intrinsic core that hasn’t lost its fascination, even though it has been shoved into the background by the art business in past years. But suddenly people are talking about the ‘sculpture renaissance’.”

Although this project was developed independently originating from a program of the Bernhard Heiliger Foundation for the promotion of young talents, it launches a chain of exhibitions emphasizing sculpture. For example, the sculpture project in Muenster, the Fine Art Fair in Frankfurt am Main and Isa Genzken’s sculpture exhibit for the German Pavillion at the Venice Biennale 2007 52nd International Art Exhibition. The choice of works was determined by the following criteria: inner autonomy, insularity and durability. Excluded from the outset were art terms that were installative, context-based, or ephemeral. Within this conceptual framework a rich spectrum of object-based sculpture uncovers, which includes abstract as well as objective works. The variety of materials is emphasized, ranging from classic sculpting techniques that use bronze, wood, or iron to sensitive materials meant for indoor use such as cardboard, polyester, textiles, fur, or rubber.

Mostly emerging artists will be shown, who have found their place in the art market without being yet classified as established. They represent the younger, international generation of sculptors, born between the mid-70s and the mid-60s, and largely residents of Berlin. Of course the place of residence was not a prerequisite for participation. The concentration of Berlin artists is simply a consequence of the ongoing influx of important artists to Berlin. Most of the galleries that advanced this project in diverse manners of support are also located here. Among the artists the more well-known names are Anselm Reyle, Berta Fischer, Thomas Rentmeister and Jonathan Meese, most noted publicly for his installations and performances. However for several years now he has been working on a series of Bronze sculptures, two of which will be shown from his own private collection. The hyper-realistic works of Tony Matelli, a New Yorker invited to the exhibit INTO ME/OUT OF ME, curated by Klaus Biesenbach, at the New York PS1 (but unfortunately not shown in the second station of the exhibit at Berlin’s KW-Institute for Contemporary Art due to lack of space) will be available for viewing for the first time ever in Berlin at the “The Power of the Tangible” exhibit. Particularly noteworthy are the neo-modern pieces by Florian Baudrexel, the sensual textile sculptures by Birgit Dieker and the works of a young sculptor from



Dresden, Stefanie Bühler, who takes the works of her teacher, Martin Honert, a step further in her own unique way. This exhibit is on the trail of the plastic and the tangible; the works of Joel Morrison (U.S.A) exemplify this. Born in 1976, he experienced his first creative impulses during his acquaintance with Jason Rhoades. While Rhoades worked everyday objects into huge installations, Morrison takes a completely different direction bundling objects from his studio and its vicinity together with tape and creating large formations out of them. In the beginning of his career he cast them in fiberglass and polyester, now he casts them in bronze and stainless steel. Morrison divides his time between his residences in Los Angeles and Berlin.

THE POWER OF THE TANGIBLE SCULPTURE TODAY!

LOCATION: Georg-Kolbe-Museum · Sensburger Allee 25 · 14055 Berlin · www.skulptur-heute.de

OPENING: February 10, 2007 at 5pm

DURATION: February 11 to May 28, 2007

ARTISTIC DIRECTION: Dr. Marc Wellmann, Directorate of the Bernhard Heiliger Foundation

An exhibition by the Friends of the Bernhard Heiliger Foundation in cooperation with the Bernhard Heiliger Foundation and sponsored by the Hauptstadtkulturfond.

ARTISTS: Axel Anklam, Angelika Arendt, Bara, Florian Baudrexel, Oliver van den Berg, Stefanie Bühler, Birgit Dieker, Berta Fischer, Harry Hauck, Thomas Helbig, Tony Matelli, Reiner Maria Matysik, Anna-Kavata Mbiti, Jonathan Meese, Anke Mila Menck, Katharina Moessinger, Joel Morrison, Nadine Rennert, Thomas Rentmeister, Anselm Reyle, Iris Schieferstein, Hans Schüle, Matthäus Thoma, Marcus Wittmers

TOURS: Art + Image · Telephone 030 - 85 72 81 81 or info@artundimage.de.

CATALOG: The catalog for the exhibit is published by Wienand Verlag Cologne with written contributions from Dr. Marc Wellmann, Bernhard Heiliger Foundation, Dr. Jessica Ullrich, Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), and Dr. Constanze von Marlin, Kunsthochschule Dresden.

COLLOQUIUM: Samstag, April 21, 2007, 3pm –7pm (in cooperation with sculpture network). Lectures by Prof. Dr. Matthias Bleyl, Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weißensee and Dr. Jessica Ullrich, Berlin University of the Arts (UdK). Podium discussion with Gerd Harry Lybke, Eigen + Art, and Sebastian Preuss, Berliner Zeitung, as well as artists from the exhibit.

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