



Uncertain States of America American Art in the 3rd Millennium

The exhibition *Uncertain States of America* has been prepared as a survey of recent developments in American contemporary art by three of Europe's leading curators: Daniel Birnbaum, Hans Ulrich Obrist and Gunnar B. Kvaran. First shown at The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo (October 2005), this project comprises a remarkably succinct compilation of recent evolutions in painting, sculptures, video and other artistic forms used by the new generation of American artists.

Uncertain States of America offers an expanded look at a series of major installations by an emerging generation of artists (most of them were born after 1970). Their source material derives not only from today's media-saturated world, free-form use of new materials, techniques and procedures which permeate each other and are juxtaposed, but also a canny knowledge of new art-historical references and an ability to respond in a complex and sophisticated way with a various extent of personal commitment as well as a certain distance in an age of political and social dissonances.



Uncertain States of America is the result of an extensive, two-year, research project by the curators, who conducted more than 500 studio visits throughout the United States, compiling over 2000 files on young American artists. Their selections reflect an astute, yet contentious, assessment of the current state of American art and culture. "The exhibition is not entirely American—influences come from everywhere," state the curators. "In a period where the official political culture of the United States is viewed with great skepticism on the other side of the Atlantic, it seems important to remind ourselves of the complexity and at the same time the variety of the American artistic scene. The 'Uncertain States of America' are not only uncertain, they are many."



The Artists Presented in the Exhibition

Allora & Calzadilla, Edgar Arceneaux, Frank Benson, Jennifer Bornstein, Mike Bouchet, Matthew Brannon, Anthony Burdin, Paul Chan, Dan Colen, Trisha Donnelly, Jim Drain, Piero Golia, Hannah Greely, Taft Green, Guyton \ Walker, Karl Haendel, Christian Holstad, Jiae Hwang, Matthew Day Jackson, Matt Johnson, Miranda July, Nate Lowman, Daria Martin, Matt McCormick, Rodney McMillian, Ohad Meromi, Kori Newkirk, Seth Price, Adam Putnam, Cristina Lei Rodriguez, Matthew Ronay, Mika Rottenberg, Aida Ruilova, Paul Sietsema, Josh Smith, TM Sisters, Mario Ybarra jr., Aaron Young, Jordan Wolfson

About the Curators

Daniel Birnbaum is rector of the Städelschule Art Academy and director of Portikus, both in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Gunnar B. Kvaran is director of the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo, Norway.

Hans Ulrich Obrist is codirector of exhibitions and programs and director of international projects at the Serpentine Gallery in London, and has curated exhibitions at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Kunsthalle in Vienna, Deichtor-Hallen in Hamburg, and other institutions.

Galerie Rudolfinum in collaboration with The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo.

Accompanying and educational programmes

Guided tours

Beginning 16:00 in the Masaryk's office

10. 1. 2008 – Karel Císař

30. 1. 2008 – Gunnar B. Kvaran (exhibition curator)

21. 2. 2008 – Tomáš Pospiszyl

Lectures

23. 1. 2008, 16:00, Small gallery

Daniel Birnbaum (exhibition curator – the date is being negotiated)

7. 2. 2008, 16:00, Small gallery

Hans Ulrich Obrist (exhibition curator): PARS PRO TOTO (The Art of a New Decade)

Film

Tuesday, from 16:30 and from 17:30, Small gallery

11. 12. 2007, 15. 1. 2008, 22. 1. 2008, 12. 2. 2008

Daria Martin, Soft Materials, 2004

The film is recorded at the laboratory for artificial intelligence at the University of Zürich. The film adds something new to the relation between 'man and machine', and is a further development of the performance-practices of the 1960s, where people interacted with physical objects in an innovative way.

16 mm., sound, 10:30 min

Courtesy of the artist, commissioned by The Showroom, London

Concerts

27. 1. 2008, 19:30, Dvorak's hall

Concert

Rudolfinum Jazz Orchestra

Compositions by Karel Růžička, Milan Svoboda, Emil Viklický, and Jaroslav Ježek

Conductor Milan Svoboda

Tickets 400 Czk, 300 Czk, 220 Czk

20% discount on showing the ticket to the exhibition

Supported by Česká pojišťovna a. s.

9. 1. 2008, 18:30, Gallery hall

Concert of the bands

SABOT, C

Sabot – Instrumental duo from Tábor: Hilary Binder (drums) and Christopher Rankin (bass guitar). The band began in 1988 in San Francisco when it developed from the rhythm section of a folk-punk trio Forethought. In 1993 they moved to Tábor where they founded an international cultural centre called CESTA (Cultural Exchange Station in Tábor).

C – post-rock formation of four instrumentalists from Tábor: Pepe C. (bass guitar), Tommy C. (drums), Patrik C. (guitar) and Tomske C. (keyboard). The band appeared in 1999 with two and later three members (when guitar joined the bass guitar and drums). Finally, in 2001 they were joined by a keyboard player.

Tickets 100 Czk, 20% discount on showing the ticket to the exhibition

6. 2. 2008, 18:30, Gallery hall (the date is being negotiated)

Concert of the bands

Please the Trees, Atlantic Cable

Please the Trees – This band got together in 2006 through the connection of three of the members of the post-rock Some Other Place from Tábor with a songster Václav Havelka from selFbrush. Except for V. Havelka you will also listen to Zdeněk Kadlec (guitar), Karel Sychra (bass guitar) and Daniel Černý (keyboard and vocals). Atlantic Cable – Tyson Crosby, based in Prague, established Atlantic Cable after his former participation in a rock trio Squall.

Tickets 100 Czk, 20% discount on showing the ticket to the exhibition

Seniors' afternoon guided tour & coffee

18. 12. 2007, 29. 1. 2008, 15:00, Masaryk's office

A joint project with the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague

Uncertain States of America/American Art in the 3rd millennium

Guided tour of the exhibition

Coffee break in the Rudolfinum cafe included in the senior ticket

17.00 Museum of Decorative Arts (not only for seniors)

Guided tour or a lecture

Entrance to the museum from 17 to 19 hours is free

Discussion evening

An evening of RESPEKT magazine dedicated to American art

Under negotiation, will be specified

Educational programme for schools: Polyvocal (Mnohohlasem)

Galerie Rudolfinum in cooperation with the Department of Visual Arts of the Pedagogical Faculty at Charles University and Secondary school Na Zatlance, Prague 5.

Authors of the programme dr. Marie Fulková, dr. Leonora Kitzbergerová, Teresa M. Tipton, MA

Programme offers a theme of understanding and experiencing the art works in the context of cultural and social practices – polyvocality of the perception of the work of art: various layers of contexts; manual and its absence; themes of beauty and ugliness; passive approach opposed to the active one; creative elaboration of the themes of the works during the visit to the gallery, as well as, outside as part of the project elaboration in school...

Included in the programme there will be workshops based on the play with the materials in connection to the theme.

The documents including the complete programme intended for those interested from any type of school, including special schools, will be sent first to the members of the Open Dialogue club (Otevřený dialog) and will be posted on the gallery's web site.

Seminar

7. 1. 2008, 15:30, Masaryk's office

Seminar for the teachers and those interested

As part of the complex educational programme connected to the exhibition, its authors will lead a specialised seminar focused on the possibilities of the programme for the creation of thematic plans in the field of Arts and Culture of the Framework educational programmes (Umění a kultura Rámcových vzdělávacích programů).

Guided tours for schools

You and your class can come and enjoy the exhibition with the commentary of the gallery guide. If you are interested please arrange the date through phone: 227 059 346 or email: pliska@rudolfinum.org

Further information can be found at www.galerierudolfinum.cz

Calendar of the accompanying programme

11. 12. 2007, from 16:30 and from 17:30, Small gallery
Daria Martin, Soft Materials, 2004
Projection of the 16 mm film, 10:30 min

18. 12. 2007, 15:00, Masaryk's office
Seniors' afternoon guided tour & coffee
A joint project with the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague

January 2008 (Under negotiation, will be specified)
Discussion evening of RESPEKT magazine

7. 1. 2008, 15:30, Masaryk's office
Seminar for teachers and public

9. 1. 2008, 18:30, Gallery hall
Concert of the bands
SABOT, C

10. 1. 2008, 16:00, Masaryk's office
Guided tour of the exhibition - Karel Císar

15. 1. 2008, from 16:30 and from 17:30, Small gallery
22. 1. 2008, from 16:30 and from 17:30, Small gallery
Daria Martin, Soft Materials, 2004
Projection of the 16 mm film, 10:30 min

23. 1. 2008, 16:00, Masaryk's office (the date is being negotiated)
Lecture – Daniel Birnbaum (exhibition curator)

27. 1. 2008, 19:30, Dvořák's hall
Concert
Rudolfinum Jazz Orchestra

29. 1. 2008, 15:00, Masaryk's office
Seniors' afternoon guided tour & coffee
A joint project with the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague

30. 1. 2008, 16:00, Masaryk's office

Guided tour of the exhibition – Gunnar B. Kvaran (exhibition curator)

6. 2. 2008, 18:30, Gallery hall (the date is being negotiated)

Concert of the bands

Please the Trees, Atlantic Cable

7. 2. 2008, 16:00, Small gallery

Lecture

Hans Ulrich Obrist (exhibition curator): PARS PRO TOTO (The Art of a New Decade)

12. 2. 2008, from 16:30 and from 17:30, Small gallery

Daria Martin, Soft Materials, 2004

Projection of the 16 mm film, 10:30 min

21. 2. 2008, 16:00, Masaryk's office

Guided tour of the exhibition – Tomáš Pospiszył

Galerie Rudolfinum

Open daily except Mondays from 10 to 18 hours.

Barrier-free access to the bulding

Admission

Regular admission 120 CZK

Discounted admission 60 CZK

Seniors, students, ZTP card holders, journalists

Free admission

Children under 15 years of age, handicapped with their attendant,
holders of the ICOM card

Other discounts for

Members of the club Open Dialogue (OTEVŘENÝ DIALOG)

Information (about the club): email: pliska@rudolfinum.org

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