

endless installation: a ghost story for adults

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IS AN ABSTRACTION

We request the pleasure of your company at the opening of the exhibitions

Endless Installation: A Ghost Story For Adults

by Public Space With A Roof invoking

Frederick Kiesler | Aby Warburg | Meir Agassi

Lectures, presentations and films by Naomi Aviv
Koen Brams | Jef Cornelis | Simon Ferdinando
Alex Ferquharson | Alexander Kluge | Monica Pessler
Yaniv Shapira | Simon Sheikh | and others

She Who Speaks

Carl Johan Högberg

Saturday 21 March 2009, 21.00

'Endless Installation: A Ghost Story For Adults' until 26 April, 2009

'She Who Speaks' until Sunday 3 May, 2009

Endless Installation: A Ghost Story for Adults

Project by Public Space With A Roof at Smart Project Space in Amsterdam

21 March – 26 April 2009

Our new project *Endless Installation: A Ghost Story For Adults* started out with a research into questions of architecture and the narrative of exhibition making, as well as definitions of authorship. *Endless Installation: A Ghost Story For Adults* is a spatial confrontation between the work of three figures who have become particularly inspirational for this research: **Frederick Kiesler, Aby Warburg, and Meir Agassi.**

The Austrian-American architect, sculptor, painter, designer, and art historian, **Frederick Kiesler** (1890-1965) was tireless in his pursuit of radical new concepts of interior spaces. For this project, we were inspired by his ideas that positioned new ways of coordinating architecture with paintings and sculptures, expansion of art forms in the exhibition space, elimination of the frame, coordination of the spectator, and the idea of creating an endless sculpture. In our interpretation, the endless sculpture translated into a search for forms that provides the basis for endless combinations of its building elements, being able to constantly shift perspective, create new configurations and narratives.

The narrative construction for the exhibition was further inspired by the work of the art historian **Aby Warburg** (1866-1929). Warburg consciously refused the approach of aestheticizing art history and a formal consideration of images. By placing together images from different historical periods and cultures on his famous panels, Warburg opened a new space in which to reflect on the human necessity of visual expression. Israeli-born writer, critic, and artist **Meir Agassi** (1947-98) developed a specific language during the last years of his life, coming from his impossibility of expressing himself in a united body of work as one artist. He created the Museum of Meir Agassi® which hosted the work of various fictional artists, urging us to re-examine the common definitions of the author and authorship.

Endless Installation: A Ghost Story For Adults created a non-linear dialogue with exhibition visitors unfolding around the work of these remarkable individuals, becoming a fictional meeting point for their individual 'universes'. This fictional montage allowed to define junctures of their ideas as well as offering new readings on their individual practices.

One of our principal guiding ideas when building installations is the specificity of the institutional and architectural context of the space in which our projects take place. For this project, we created **different installations** in four main exhibition spaces at SMART project space. The first room was designed as an introduction or the entrance into the story and consisted of various photocopied images and quotes that inspired us during the process of working on the project. This was accompanied by a sound installation in a form of a short radio drama in loop – made of several human voices reading short quotes and introducing in a poetic way the main framework of the exhibition. In the second room, we created fictional encounters of our three main characters and photocopied images of their works we obtained at their archives in Austria, Israel, and UK. This was also accompanied by various quotes coming from their writings or texts by other people written about their works. We also produced a multichannel sound installation in the same form as in the first room, only this time we used the quotes from their writings and writings about their works. The installation was played from 7 different sources through 7 pairs of speakers, creating a particular movement in the space through sound. The third room consisted of an installation created in a form to represent our symbolic act of giving to the visitor – offering three main lines of individual works of our three characters that were the most important for us at that moment. The final point of our project was an architectural structure in the largest exhibition space, which simultaneously functioned as the end of our research and as the starting point for the exhibition. Conceived as the 'brain' of the project, it hosted our provisional archive with all the elements we collected during the tours and detours of the research. This structure also functioned as an amphitheatre where

people could be seated and took part in lectures and debates.

We also produced 400 copies of **The Script** of the project (please see the documentation). The Script was actually a transcript of the sound installation, accompanied by the selection of photos used in the installation. The Script was placed in the last room of the exhibition space and was to be taken by the visitors free of charge.

The project was announced with advertisements in two issues in Metropolis M, as well as through the mailing list of both SMART Project Space and Public Space With A Roof (in total, on more than 5000 email addresses). All events were announced one week in advance using electronic invitations. Printed invitations were sent before the opening to 750 addresses of the Smart Project Space mailing list. The press release was also included in numerous announcements in exhibition calendars and websites in The Netherlands and internationally.

During five weeks of the project duration, we hosted five events with eight different lectures, twelve events of film screenings where we presented fifteen different films by Alexander Kluge and Jef Cornelis. We also hosted several exhibition tours for the students from Art Academy in Tallinn, Estonia and G. Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. The project was very well attended and the approximate total number of visitors was 500 for the opening and 700 during the exhibition period. Until now, we have given several interviews to journalists and beside the review at the Metropolis M website, we are expecting reviews in several magazines – HTV, the new Israeli magazine on contemporary art, etc. We are also invited to further present this project in a form of an exhibition at the Kiesler Foundation in Vienna from October 20, 2009.

Public Space With a Roof is an initiative by artists Tamuna Chabashvili, Adi Hollander and theoretician Vesna Madzosi. Our activities go beyond the usual notions of artists-as-social-activists, artists-as-producers, and artists-as-curators, blurring the borders between many roles assumed to be taken by the present-day artists. Our projects are based on research and include several levels including the possibility to use existing artworks as ready-mades, questioning of the existing exhibition formats, creating platforms for intimate and individual experience of the artworks and changing perception of the space.

Endless Installation: A Ghost Story For Adults

By Public Space With A Roof

Location: SMART Project Space, Arie Biemondstraat 105-113, Amsterdam

Project by: Adi Hollander, Tamuna Chabashvili, Vesna Madzosi

Installation created by: Adi Hollander, Tamuna Chabashvili

Sound installation: Maja Novak

Construction design: Davide Manzoni - RedeeMade Laboratory

Advising architect: Skafte Aymo-Boot

Moderated by: Noa Roei

Opening of the exhibition: Saturday, March 21, 9pm

The exhibition was open From 21 March to 26 April 2009.

Monday – Saturday: 12.00 – 22.00 hrs, Sunday: 14.00 – 22.00 hrs

The project was supported by:

Amsterdam Fund for the Arts; The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture; Goethe Institute; Embassy of Israel; De Appel Arts Center; Pregis; Red A.i.R; Jan van Eyck Academie; STEIM; Austrian Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation; The Museum of Art Ein Harod; Issta Direct; Argos, Brussels.

SMART Project Space is generously supported by:

Mondriaan Foundation; Gemeente Amsterdam; Bureau Broedplaatsen; Stichting DOEN; The Netherlands Film Fund; Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds; VSBfonds.

A very special thanks to:

Neli Agassi, Galia Bar Or, Sander Blom, Sarah Bodman, Koen Brams, Marko Ciciliani, Ann Demeester, Han Diderich, Ayelet Harpaz, Zhana Ivanova, Allard Jaager, Matthias Kreutzer, Elizabeth McGrath, Ezequiel Menalled, Chris Pazzaglia, François Quiviger, Angela Serino, Avshalom Sigawi, Giacomo Sponzilli, Giorgi Tabatadze, Nadia Tzulukidze, Joachim Umlauf, Henry Vega, Samuel Vriezen, Tao Vrhovec Sambolec, Claudia Wedepohl, Krzysztof Wegiel, Gerd Zillner

PROGRAM

Lectures:

March 22, 1:30 pm: On Frederick Kiesler and Meir Agassi

Monica Pessler: The Artistic Environment - Frederick Kiesler's model for apprehending relations
Yaniv Shapira: Who Are You Meir Agassi?

April 5, 2 pm: On authorship (1)

Simon Sheikh: F for Fake. Notes on the Signature, Authorship and Authority

April 12, 2 pm: On the notion of outsider artist

Naomi Aviv: Meir Agassi: An Insider in the World of Outsiders
Simon Ferdinando: Flight Of The Anal Sadistic Warrior: In Search of the Orphic Artaud

April 19, 2 pm: On theory and artistic engagement

Koen Brams: The World Question Centre Questioned - about James Lee Byars' World Question Centre, produced by the Belgian Radio and Television and realized by Jef Cornelis in 1969

April 26, 1 pm: On authorship (2)

Alex Farquharson: When Can an Exhibition Be A Work of Art?



Lectures: On Frederick Kiesler and Meir Agassi

Sunday, March 22, 1.30 pm

Monica Pessler: *The Artistic Environment - Frederick Kiesler's model for apprehending relations*

Monica Pessler was born in Graz, Austria in 1965. She studied art history at Karl-Franzens University in Graz and has worked in the arts for museums and youth initiatives. Pessler has also worked at the "teirischer herbst"-Festival and been involved in exhibition and publication projects. She has written contributions for catalogues and magazines. Since 2003, Pessler has been the director of the Austrian Frederick and Lilian Kiesler Private Foundation in Vienna.

Yaniv Shapira: *Who Are You Meir Agassi?*

Yaniv Shapira was born in Kibbutz Yizrael (1976) where he currently lives. He has a B.A. in Art History and Jewish Philosophy (1995) and and M.A. in Art History (1997) from Tel Aviv University. He is a graduate cum laude of the Diploma Studies in Museology at the Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery, Tel Aviv University (2003). Since 1995 he has worked at the Museum of Art, Ein Harod. Since 2004 he has been the curator of the Kibbutz Art Gallery, Tel Aviv and has curated numerous exhibitions.

Moderated by: Noa Roei

Lectures: On Authorship (1)

Sunday, April 5, 2 pm

Simon Sheikh: *F for Fake. Notes on the Signature, Authorship and Authority*

Simon Sheikh is a curator and critic who lives and works in Berlin. He is Assistant Professor of Art Theory and a Coordinator of the Critical Studies Program, Malmö Art Academy in Sweden. He was director of Overgaden – Institute for Contemporary Art in Copenhagen, 1999-2002 and Curator at NIFCA, Helsinki, 2003-2004. Editor of the magazine Øjeblikket 1996-2000, and a member of the project group GLOBE 1993-2000. Editor of OE critical readers series, published by b_books Berlin. Sheikh curated numerous exhibitions and his texts are widely published in various periodicals such as Afterall, AnArchitectur, Springerin, Texte zur Kunst.

Moderated by: Noa Roei



Lectures: On the Notion of Outsider Artist

Sunday, April 12, 2 pm

Naomi Aviv: *Meir Agassi: An Insider in the World of Outsiders*

Naomi Aviv (1955, lives in Tel Aviv, Israel) is a freelance curator of contemporary art, writer and lecturer. Since 2000 she is a member of the Plastic Art Department of the Art and Culture Board of the Ministry of Education. She is a member of the special Committee Reviewing the Quality of the Museums in Israel and of the committee for the curatorial award. She publishes essays in catalogues and art publications, has curated numerous exhibitions in Israel and abroad, including the Israeli Pavilion at the International Sao Paulo Art Biennale, Brazil. She is also the editor of the book "The Jar from Tennessee"- 50 articles on international art and artists written by the late author, poet and artist Meir Agassi.

Simon Ferdinando: *Flight of the Anal Sadistic Warrior: In Search of the Orphic Artaud*

Simon Ferdinando is an artist-curator who lives and works in Amsterdam. Born in Mombassa, Kenya he studied fine art at Goldsmiths College 1984-1988, and first encountered Artaud in the exhibition "Aftermath 1945-1954. New images of man" at the Barbican Gallery in London in 1982. He is currently preparing an academic study on Artaud, Bacon and Van Gogh.

Moderated by: Noa Roei

Lecture: On Theory and Artistic Engagement

Sunday, April 19, 2 pm

Koen Brams: *The World Question Centre Questioned - about James Lee Byars' World Question*

Koen Brams was born in 1964 Turnhout, Belgium. He lives in Luik, Belgium. He studied psychology at KU Leuven. From 1991 until 2000 he was editor-in-chief of the art magazine De Witte Raaf. Since 2000 Brams has been a director of Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht. He has published De Encyclopedie van de Fictieve Kunstenaars (The Encyclopedia of Fictional Artists), 2000 and initiated in-depth research of work of Jef Cornelis. Together with Dirk Pültau, he is currently undertaking a number of research projects relating to an alternative history of art in Belgium since the seventies.

Moderated by: Noa Roei

Lectures: On Authorship (2)

Sunday, April 26, 1 pm

Alex Farquharson: *When Can an Exhibition be a Work of Art?*

Alex Farquharson is internationally renowned curator, critic and writer. From 2007 he is a director of the Nottingham Contemporary, a contemporary art center under construction. He has a distinguished career as an international curator, writer and university lecturer. His last exhibition "If Everybody Had An Ocean: Brian Wilson, an Art Exhibition" was the second most visited exhibition ever at Tate St Ives. He writes for a range of magazines, including Frieze, Art Monthly and Artforum and has contributed to numerous books and catalogues on contemporary art. As Tutor and Research Fellow in Curatorial Studies on the Curating Contemporary Art MA at the Royal College of Art he led weekly seminars on aspects of experimental exhibition history. He curated around 40 exhibitions while at Spacex in Exeter and the Centre for Visual Arts Cardiff, 1994 – 2000.

Screenings:

PSWAR AT SMART Cinema

Every Tuesday, Thursday and weekend in April we screened films by the two almost forgotten film and TV makers - **Alexander Kluge** and **Jef Cornelis**.

Films by Alexander Kluge:

April 2, 6pm, free entrance

Yesterday Girl (Abschied von gestern) 1966, 84'

April 4, 4pm, free entrance

PartTime Work of a Female Slave (Gelegenheitsarbeit einer Sklavin) 1973, 87'

April 7, 6pm, free entrance

Artists in the Big Top: Perplexed (Die Artisten in der Zirkuskuppel: ratlos) 1968, 100'

April 9, 6pm, free entrance

The Power of Emotion (Die Macht der Gefühle) 1983, 112'

April 11, 4 pm, free entrance

Blind Director: The Assault of the Present on the Rest of Time (Der Angriff Der Gegenwart auf die übrige Zeit) 1985, 106'

Blind Love – Talk with Jean-Luc Godard 2001, 24'

April 14, 6pm, free entrance

Love Makes You Perceptive: a compilation of short films about love, 125'

April 16, 6pm, free entrance

Where We Come From, Where We Go To: a compilation of short films about mankind, evolution, and environment, 130'

April 21, 4pm, free entrance

High on Work: a compilation of short films about work, economy, capitalism and crisis, 136'

April 23, 6pm, free entrance

The Poetic Power of Theory: a compilation of short films about Aristotle, Heidegger, Spinoza, Marx, Nietzsche, and Kant, 132'

April 25, 4 pm, free entrance

Serpentine Gallery Program 1995 - 2005: a selection of Kluge's TV films, 100'

April 26, 4pm, free entrance

The Magic of the Darkened Soul 2008, 49'

All Emotions Believe in a Happy Ending 2002, 78'

Films by Jef Cornelis:

April 18, 4 pm, free entrance

Documenta 4 1968, 54'

Documenta 5 1972, 54'

ROOM #1



ROOM #2



ROOM # 3



ROOM #4









