



**k/haus**

press release

**Re: MODERN**

On the Renaissance of Aesthetic Modernism in Contemporary Art

Künstlerhaus, ground floor  
Karlsplatz 5, 1010 Vienna, Austria  
May 20 - September 11, 2005

Austrian Film Museum  
Augustinerstraße 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria  
June 4 - 19, 2005

Press conference: May 19, 2005, 11:00 a.m.

Opening: May 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Curators: Norbert Pfaffenbichler, Sandro Droschl  
Show design: Michael Rieper, MVD

The contemporary artworks presented in this show refer to certain works, styles, and personalities of the modern era. The fascination which the "incomplete project of modernism" (Jürgen Habermas) exercises on contemporary artists cannot be denied, regardless of the degree to which the resulting works and their underlying concepts differ. The goal of this project is to offer, for the first time, a look at the various strategies of reception and adaptation of modernism in contemporary art. Exhibiting these works in a group exhibition reveals what unites them formally and conceptually and elucidates their differences.

Dealing with modernism, contemporary artists employ methods which range from formal analysis to contextual transformations and ironic proposals of correction. The various resemblances, citations, paraphrases, etc. pick out the basic changes which the "operation system art" has undergone in the course of the last hundred years as a central theme. Contrary to the avant-garde movements of the early twentieth century foremost oriented towards an imaginary ideal future, contemporary art is, in the pure sense of the word, "present-time". Types of work such as "site-specific installations" or "temporary interventions" exclusively produced for the respective occasion are the logical and practical consequence of this approach. The great interest of artists in modern architecture and design stands out particularly.

There exists a canon of forms in this field which is clearly classified as "modern" such as the constructional and repetitive application of geometric basic forms or the use of specific materials like concrete, steel, plastic, and glass. Apart from the rediscovery of the aesthetic qualities of concrete buildings, the discrepancy between comprehensive social utopian designs and the real existing modernity and its consequences can most strikingly be exemplified by means of built manifestations. Formal-aesthetical innovations of the classical modern era such as abstraction or techniques of collage are currently not updated for their own purpose but function as art-historian references. By means of digital media, the image-inventions of the modern era are experimentally

tried and tested anew. The artists create complex reference systems in order to critically question both form and function of artistic production and presentation.

As a second Re:MODERN venue the Austrian Film Museum, in cooperation with the Künstlerhaus, will present in June 2005 a program of historical and contemporary films and videos which will be curated by six artists. The artists who have been invited work in the field of tension between film and the visual arts. Using their own works in addition to those of others as examples, they will cast their subjective gaze on various aspects of the modern in film. At the same time relatively little attention will be paid the well-known canon.

"Modernity" is a polysemantic term: there are a number of art-historian and -theoretical theses concerning this era. Two interdisciplinary symposia will feature lectures and discussions with renowned artists and theorists. The permanent discourse around modernism, postmodernism, and "second modernism" will be taken up and continued.

Documentation of and comments on the project will be published on the Internet:  
<http://www.re-modern.at>  
A catalog is in preparation.

Accompanying program:

Symposia: May 28, 2005, Medienturm Graz

September 10, 2005, Künstlerhaus

Audiovisual performance: Long Night of Music (Lange Nacht der Musik),  
June 18, 2005, Künstlerhauskino

**Re: MODERN**

**Künstlerhaus, ground floor**  
**Karlsplatz 5, 1010 Vienna, Austria**  
**May 20 – September 11, 2005**

**Press conference May 19, 2005, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Opening May 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m.**

**Symposia:** May 28, 2005, Medienturm Graz  
September 10, 2005, Künstlerhaus

**Audiovisual performance:** June 18, 2005, as part of the Long Night of Music  
(Lange Nacht der Musik), Künstlerhauskino

**Opening hours** Tu – Su, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Th 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Closed Mo

**To arrange guided tours** tel. (+43-1) 587-9663, ext. 46

**Visitor information** [www.k-haus.at](http://www.k-haus.at),  
E-mail [office@k-haus.at](mailto:office@k-haus.at),  
Tel. (+43-1) 587-9663, ext. 46,  
Fax (+43-1) 587-8736

**Curators** Norbert Pfaffenbichler, Sandro Droschl  
**Show design** Michael Rieper, MVD

**Press information** Ursula Koltay  
[presse@k-haus.at](mailto:presse@k-haus.at)  
Tel. (+43-1) 587-9663, ext. 21,  
Fax (+43-1) 587-8736  
[www.k-haus.at](http://www.k-haus.at)