

GEBERT STIFTUNG FÜR KULTUR*

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«WE CAN BREATHE IN SPACE, THEY JUST DON'T WANT US TO ESCAPE»

JEREMY DELLER & ALAN KANE, JÚLIUS KOLLER, JOHAN VAN GELUWE

14 March – 3 May 2009

Opening: Friday, 13. March 2009, 6 p.m.

Press Preview: Friday, 13. March 2009, 11 a.m.

The artists in this exhibition have taken a journey, real or figurative, going to search for art outside of the studio or the exhibition space. One of them has built a path to cultural experiences that leads outdoors. Others have sought out groups of people who provided a new working context. Yet another has accumulated objects within a fantasy museum. Their search led them to new locations, before ultimately leading back to the exhibition space.

The third exhibition of the yearlong program *Correspondences* continues to explore the issue of community. This time, the show focuses on the conditions in which collective experiences of art take place. The artists investigate interconnections between daily life and art, consequently expanding the possible fields for the development of an artistic context. The exhibition's title comes from a song by a little-known British band, who participates in the production of culture occurring on the local or alternative level.

Through their search for untraditional locations where art might be experienced, the artists modified the nature of their artistic practice. Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane, both British artists, began enumerating and recording various types of folk art production in the United Kingdom. The material collected upon their journeys constitutes the basis of their *Folk Archive*. They acknowledge that their working process lies on the border between artistic and anthropological practices and emphasize the energetic creativity that takes place outside of locations officially sanctioned as artistic.

In 1981, Július Koller founded the *U.F.O. Gallery Ganek*, choosing to establish the space in a specific location: a narrow strip of land just below a mountain peak in the High Tatras. The name of this strip means «gallery» in Slovak. Koller viewed the remote location as a symbol of the connection between the worldly and the unworldly. The «gallery» was active for several years and served as a fictitious frame to mimic cultural situations within a natural setting. Koller and the gallery's «scientific committee» documented these activities in photographs, texts and drawings.

Johan van Geluwe created his *Museum of Museums* at home, blurring the borders between the activity of the artist, of the curator and of the historian. The selection of photographs shown at Kurator depict him in various locations, performing these functions and playing with the clichés at work in our understanding of cultural structures. In acting out these roles, van Geluwe becomes a performer of the common cultural codes within his personal art production.

These three reflections offer a critical perspective on the context of art production. The artists intertwine a diversity of roles in their practice, resetting our experience of art along multiple paradigms. Stepping out of the traditional working environment, they establish links to other modes of cultural production. They bring back to the official artistic frame what is happening beyond its conventions.

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the city Rapperswil-Jona, Kanton St.Gallen, Swisslos, AVINA STIFTUNG, KUBO and a private foundation

Jeremy Deller (1966) and Alan Kane (1961) collaborated on the *Folk Archive* project between 2000 and 2005. The complete version of the Folk Archive was shown at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris during the fall of 2008, where Deller had received a Carte Blanche to curate an exhibition, which he titled *From one revolution to another*.

Július Koller (1939 – 2007) lived in Slovakia. His work developed partly around the invented character of the *UFOnaut* played by the artist himself. Koller often staged himself in his work, sometimes while playing Ping-Pong. His work has been exhibited at the Secession in Vienna and the Venice Biennial, among other international venues. In 2003 the Kölnischer Kunstverein presented a large retrospective of his work.

Johan van Geluwe (1929) lives and works in Waregem, Belgium. His house is the headquarters of his *Museum of Museums*, where he has been collecting an immense variety of objects ranging from reproductions of Millet's *Angelus* to his correspondence with artists from the Eastern block that was censored by the German StaSi, and later sent back to him. Part of his *Museum of Museums* is currently on view at Arentshuis in Brugge, Belgium.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, April 19, 2009, 2 pm

Guided tour of the exhibition

By Birgit Fritsch, the cultural mediator of the Alte Fabrik.

Alte Fabrik

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Opening hours: Wed–Fri 5-8 pm; Sat–Sun 2–5 pm

For any further information or pictures, please contact Fanny Gonella, gonella@kurator.ch;
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