

Kiss Me Just Once More

Charlie Birch, Hannaleena Heiska, Midori Mitamura

Vienna International Apartment, Helsinki
23 November - 21 December 2006

English:

Vienna International Apartment in Helsinki opens its doors to the public this autumn with the exhibition Kiss me just once more. The exhibition features artworks by Charlie Birch (UK), Hannaleena Heiska (Finland) and Midori Mitamura (Japan). The exhibition is curated by Sílvia Salgado.

"Creative imagination awakes early. As children, we are all 'makers'. Later, as a rule, we're broken off the habit; so the art of being creative consists, among other things, in not allowing life or people or money to turn us aside from it." (Stig Dagerman, 1947, *The Games of the Night*).

One of the richest sources of raw material, that most artists come to work with, resides in memories of things long past; events that took place in the childhood or adolescence. Our subconscious retains all kinds of images, concrete and abstract, that can manifest themselves when our senses are stimulated. The creative state of reveries can manifest in us through a smell, a picture, a sound, a feeling of cold or the taste of cherries - and we find ourselves drifting into the world of reveries.

The title and main idea for the exhibition Kiss me just once more is inspired by the evocation of the famous maternal good-night kiss in Marcel Proust's novel *Swann's Way*, where the author recalls his childhood in Paris and Combray.

Kiss me just once more expolser the power of the artists' reveries - it stimulates the artist's creative mind, to make artworks that may awaken on their own right the viewers' own reveries. The artists taking part in the exhibition have responded to the idea from their own perspectives, within their artistic practice. The title suggests desire, anguish, frustration manifested in the process of creation of the artwork - the artist's wish to stay a little bit longer with his or her own creation.

Vienna International Apartment continues to challenge the public through the exploration and subversion of boundaries between the private and public domains. Kiss me just once more takes the viewer on a journey across these boundaries. It aims to awaken in the viewer the power of the imagination.

suomi:

Vienna International Apartmentin syksyn 2006 näyttely Suutele minua vielä kerran (Kiss me just once more - Kyss mig en gång till) avautuu yleisölle 23.11.2006. Näyttelyssä on esillä teoksia taiteilijoilta Charlie Birch (Iso-Britannia), Hannaleena Heiska (Suomi) ja Midori Mitamura (Japani). Näyttelyn kuraattorina toimii Sílvia Salgado.

"Ihmisen luova mielikuvitus herää aikaisin. Lapsena olemme 'tekijöitä'. Myöhemmin - niin käy kaikille - menetämme tämän tavan toimia; luovuuteen näin ollen kuuluu, muiden tekijöiden ohella, kyky olla antamatta elämän, ihmisten tai rahan kääntää meitä siitä pois." (Stig Dagerman, 1947, *Nattens lekar*).

Muistot ja takaumat jo kauan sitten menneistä - lapsuuden ja nuoruuden - tapahtumista ovat useiden taiteilijoiden töissä eräs tärkeimmistä raaka-aineen lähteistä. Aistiemme avulla voimme houkutella alitajunnastamme esiin piilossa olleita kuvia, muistoja ja mielikuvia. Luoviin muistoihin meidät voi johdattaa niin tietty kuva, ääni tai tuoksu kuin vaikka kylmän tunne iholla tai kirsikan maku kielellä.

Näyttelyn nimi Suutele minua vielä kerran kumpuaa äidin hyvänyönsuukon klassisesta muistosta Marcel Proustin romaanissa Swannin tie (1913), jossa kirjailija palaa lapsuuteensa Pariisissa ja Combrayssa.

Näyttelyssä Suutele minua vielä kerran taiteilijoiden muistojen voima näyttäytyy yleisölle. Taiteilijoiden takaumien luovuus puolestaan houkuttaa esille katsojan omia muistikuvia. Näyttelyyn osallistuvat taiteilijat käsittelevät teemaa omasta näkökulmastaan, oman taiteellisen luomistapansa mukaisesti. Näyttelyn nimi viittaa kaipaukseen, ahdistukseen ja turhautumiseen, joka usein liittyy taideteoksen luomiseen - taiteilijan toiveeseen saada viipyä vielä vähän kauemmin omassa luomuksessaan.

Kuten aiemmissakin näyttelyissään Vienna International Apartment haastaa yleisön tutkimaan ja rikkomaan raja-aitoja yksityisen ja julkisen tilan välillä. Suutele minua vielä kerran vie katsojan matkalle näiden rajojen yli. Näyttely pyrkii herättämään katsojassa rohkeuden, mielikuvituksen voiman.

The Artists:

Charlie Birch is an artist and independent curator who lives and works in London. She was educated in Portugal and the UK and holds a BA (Hons) in Critical Fine Art Practice from Central St Martins College of Art and Design in London. Her work consists of drawing, sound performance, photography, and video. The works presented in the exhibition consist of a series of drawings inspired by obscure imagery found in classical paintings of young girls and in early 19th century photographs of children play-acting and posing.

Hannaleena Heiska lives and works in Helsinki. She holds a Master in Arts from the Helsinki Academy of Fine Arts. Her main art-medium has been painting, but she also uses drawing, sculpture, video, and sound as part of her installations. In the viewer, her works evoke experience of the fantastic, symbolic and theatrical.

Midori Mitamura lives and works in Tokyo. In 2005, she lived and worked in Helsinki. "Found objects" play an important role in her installations that typically consist of both old photographs and objects: the past history overlaps with the present. By bringing the past into the present, the artist opens the possibility for the past to endure into the future. In Vienna international Apartment, the artist presents a mixed-media installation consisting of photography, sound, object and string. Mitamura also works with live-performance and video.

The exhibition curator Sílvio Salgado is an artist and independent curator who lives and works in Helsinki. Salgado is the founder of the Vienna International Apartment Art Association and acts as its Chairman.

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