

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL APARTMENT®

Linke Wienzeile 4, A-1060 Vienna

Much Depends on the Viewer

16 Oct. - 16 Nov. 2002

Charlie Birch, Lali Chetwynd, Doris Krüger, Sabine Jelinek, Paola Junqueira, Silvia Reneses, Elin Strand, Marta Traquino, Sylvia Wagner-Weger

Artists synopsis

Birch's work "Blind Faith" is a piece about landing sites and being grounded. She sees it as a comment on freedom and longing; about the fantasy of freedom, about journey, place and exile. The main concerns in her art practise have been involved with landscape and myth. Her work is photographic, text and video based. Birch lives and works in Great Britain and Portugal.

Chetwynd's work has consisted mainly of performances and video, but recently she started making paintings. In this medium, she developed two main painting practices: portraiture and documenting performances. In her portraits, she explores human expressions of ugliness, unfamiliarity and humour. Her series of portraits comes from tracing the works of the old master's drawings and copying faces from magazines. Chetwynd lives and works in London.

Krüger's main work medium is photography. In her latest work, she depicts "constructed landscapes" - different types of vegetation against a blue sky. On the first sight, her images appear familiar to us, but the longer we stay with them the more unfamiliar they become. They open ground for discussion on computer manipulated images and their authenticity as such, and in contemporary photography as an art medium. Krüger lives and works in Vienna.

Jelinek works with the media of photography, video and installation. Her video "Angels don't need Health Insurance" questions our fears and desires to go beyond our own limitations. In her work, she captures social and political aspects of contemporary society, such as consumerist desires. These manifest within her work through an acute observation of everyday life, human gestures and behaviour. Jelinek lives and works in Vienna.

Junqueira's " 24 Hours of A Hole" grew out of her desire to take the limits of the absurd to an extreme. Her actions also suggest the need of all human beings to construct a space for themselves. For her, the unexpected foregrounding of incidents, coincidences and improvisation plays an important role in the work. She documents her "site work" through the use of video and photography. Currently she lives and works in Geneva. The " 24 Hours of a Hole" takes place on Karlsplatz on 9 - 14 Oct.

Reneses's series of drawings titled "I know now that I can land only in one place" reflects her interests in the notion of space and the way we negotiate the different possibilities and limits that space can offer. In her own words, "the notion of responsibility cannot be avoided by today's space

disturbances". Through her drawings, she explores the exterior space, the representation of territory through maps and landscapes: scale, location and dislocation. Reneses commutes between London and Madrid.

Strand's work poses questions about masks and sexual identity. She explores the notion of concealment, veiling, and the act of drapery. Her interest is in many respects grounded in an interest in buildings, parcels as well as dwellings. Strand mainly work with video, performance and installations. Recently she started painting. She currently lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden.

Traquino's "Inner Landscapes" consists of an installation with three similar objects which contain three different elements familiar to most households: salt, linen and rice. In her own words, "these elements are related to the memory of a wise and intimate relationship between Man and Nature. (...) I propose a different look valuing their potential as metaphors that evoke certain landscape contexts." Traquino lives and works in Lisbon.

Wagner-Weger's work operates in a field of art that establishes a relationship between the artist and an audience. Her work is often politically critical and it opens possibilities for social interaction, exchange, communication and cooperation. In her work improvisation plays an important role. She makes use of multiple media such as language, text, photography, video and performance. Wagner-Weger lives and works in Vienna.