

DAS BLAUE LICHT

The tendency towards the crystalline in art and design

Nicole Aebischer (CH), Gottfried Bechtold (A), Björn Dahlem (D), Bogomir Ecker (SLO), Thomas Feichtner (A), Konstantin Grcic (D), Florian Ladstätter (D), mahony (A/D), Robert Smithson (US), Walking-Chair (A), Herwig Weiser (A)

Press talk: 19.6.2009, 11 a.m. / download: <http://medienturm.at/presse/preview>

Opening: 19.6.2009, 7 p.m.

Duration: 20.6. – 5.9.2009, Tue– Sat 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wed – Fri 3 – 6 p.m.; August: Tue – Fri 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: Kunstverein Medienturm, Josefigasse 1, 8020 Graz, Austria

Curator: Vitus Weh (D)

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Cooperation: kunsthaus muerz, quartier21/MQ Vienna

Thanks to: Styrian Government, cultural department; BMUKK Vienna, art section; City of Graz, cultural department; Kultur Macht Mensch; AHT Cooling Systems; Magis spa and all lending parties

Supporting programme: discussion, 19.6.2009, 5 p.m.

GLAMOUR AND DOOM. ART VS. DESIGN, AESTHETICS VS. CREATION

Cooperation: KULTUR MACHT MENSCH

Vitus Weh discusses with Richard Kriesche and participating artists and designers

KULTUR MACHT MENSCH is an initiative of Kultur Steiermark (culture in Styria) with the target to increase the significance of art and culture within the social consciousness beyond rentability and benefit. The motto is consciously formulated provocatively, in order to trigger a broad discussion. www.kultur-macht-mensch.at

Catalogue: GLANZ UND VERDERBEN, Verlag Folio (Vienna/Bolzano), ISBN 978-3-85256-479

A catalogue pertaining to cultural sciences (136 pages) is published under the title "Glanz und Verderben" (glamour and doom) in the "Series Medienturm" (Folio Verlag, Bolzano/Vienna). Editor: Vitus Weh; graphik design: metaphor; editorial board: Vitus Weh and Ines Gebetsroither. With images and texts on the displayed works as well as essays by Tulga Beyerle, Brigitte Felderer, Angelika Höckner / Gerald Moser, Susanne Jäger, Christian Lerch, Ingrid Loschek, Wolfgang Pauser, Thomas Trummer, Vitus Weh, and others

The catalogue documents also the following exhibition chapters:

GLANZ UND VERDERBEN. PREKÄRE KRISTALLE IN KUNST UND ARCHITEKTUR
(glamour and doom, precarious crystals in art and architecture)
kunsthaus muerz, Mürrzuschlag: 8.11.2008 – 29.3.2009

SHARP CHIC. ÜBER DIE ANZIEHUNGSKRAFT DES KRISTALLINEN
(sharp chic, on the attraction of the crystalline)
Freiraum/quartier21, MQ Vienna: 7.2. – 19.4.2009

Today's culture is fascinated by the crystalline and geological. Its natural precision, durability and beauty, however, is linked to the exact opposite: the ephemeral, withering and the death. Regarding this ambivalent phenomenon, "Glanz und Verderben" (glamour and doom) shall be an investigation pertaining to cultural sciences, presenting different disciplines, works and documents equally side by side. The results are edited in exhibition chapters at different locations and in a summarizing catalogue.

The exhibition DAS BLAUE LICHT (the blue light) at Kunstverein Medienturm particularly analyses the realms of art and design, which are basically characterized by different approaches and utilization systems.





Gottfried Bechtold, "Verdichtung 997", 2006/09
photo



Walking-Chair, "Petlightshow", 2008
objects, International Design Festival Berlin
Courtesy: artists, Hofmobiliendepot, Wien

However, in the metaphoric realm of the sinister crystalline, they join.

The exhibition title **DAS BLAUE LICHT** (the blue light), on the one hand, refers to today's everyday light shimmer which radiates from the living rooms in the evening, on the other hand to the 1930s, thus to an era which, like today, already conferred such great importance to the sinister-crystalline: "Das blaue Licht" is the title of the directing debut (1932) of the later NSDAP-propaganda film maker Leni Riefenstahl, where a fascinating crystal grot in the mountains plays a fatal role.

The presented works:

Walking-Chair presents a chilly lounge: "Montebello" is a sofa resembling an iceberg, topped by a poor glittering landscape of chandeliers. In the same space, **Robert Smithson's** film "Spiral Jetty" (32 min, 1970) burgeons its audiovisual pull – a staggering document of the homonymous land art sculpture in the Great Salt Lake of Utah. The third position is by **Gottfried Bechtold**. Bechtold let press a brand new Porsche into a compact wreck. However, gloss and glamour did not escape from the famous design object, it appears, on the contrary, like a wounded creature – as if a formerly technoid fetish has mutated into an organism.

Bogomir Ecker is known, amongst others, for his "Tropfsteinmaschine" (dripstone machine), conceived for the time span of 500 years at the Hamburger Kunsthalle. Its presumptuous consumption of time exemplarily encapsulates the crystalline symbolism of contemporary architecture of museums. For Kunstverein Medienturm, Ecker creates a big site specific installation dealing with the Graz-based Schlossberg and its tunnels and grotts. **Konstantin Grcic** presents his famous "chair-ONE": an industrially produced chair (by Magis spa), the seating and leaning surface being reduced to a, with respect to statics and ergonomics, necessary, crystalline frame. The artist group **mahony** deals with the scientific expeditions of the late 19th century. Their geographic, geological and meteorologic documentations recall the age of polymaths. In a saloon for stones and minerals, it condenses journeys and histories.

In an adjacent space, works of **Florian Ladstätter** are presented. Three black orchids of mirrors characterize the space with their sinister elegance, added by jewellery from the series "Les Fleurs Du Mal", as well as its staging in fashion magazines.

Drawings and the sculpture "Marseis (Phobos)" are presented by **Björn Dahlem**, which seem to derive from a crystalline science fiction world. **Thomas Feichtner** shows corresponding door handles and monstrous silverware of his sharp-edged Axiome series, the Swiss graphic and product designer **Nicole Aebischer** her Joker vases.

The spatial conclusion is made by **Herwig Weiser's** "Lucid Phantom Messenger": a laboratory of image generation by means of artificial crystal gardens of powdered computer material. A high tech media art inferno furiosum.

BIOGRAPHIES

Nicole Aebischer

*1980, Fribourg
study of product design, Fachhochschule Ecole Cantonale D'Art De Lausanne
lives and works in Fribourg

Exhibitions / awards (selection)

2008 Vienna Design Week, Vienna
2005 Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris
2004 Salone Internazionale di Mobile, Showroom B&B Italia, Milano
Designers Saturday, Langenthal
2003 Salone Internazionale di Mobile, Milano
Musée de Design et d'Arts appliqués contemporains, Lausanne
2002 D&AD Student Award, London

Gottfried Bechtold

*1947, Bregenz
formation as stonecutter, Hallein
guest lecturer: Cornell University, Ithaca; Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz
lives and works in Hörbranz

Solo shows (selection)

2009 "Gottfried Bechtold: Residue", Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna
2006 "Reine und gemischte Zustände", Kunsthaus Bregenz
"Ready-maid", courtyard Festspielhaus, Bregenz
2003 "Gottfried Bechtold. Signatur 02. Stahlskulpturen Silvretta.", Kunsthaus Bregenz
2002 "Signatur 02", Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna
"Crash Porsche 993, Kids-Line", Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
2001 "Zwischenzeit", Galerie Lisi Hämmerle, Bregenz
1996 Galleria Banchi Nuovi, Rome
1993 "Bregenz-Bozen-Graz", Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz
1987 "Interkontinentale Skulptur", Vienna International Center, Vienna
1972 "Betonporsche", Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna
1971 "Aufstellung", Forum Stadtpark, Graz
"Reisebilder", Galerie nächst Sankt Stephan, Vienna

Group shows (selection)

2006 "...und so hat Konzept noch nie Pferd bedeutet", Generali Foundation, Vienna
1973 trigon '73, Graz
1972 documenta 5, Kassel

Buchegger, Denoth, Feichtner DESIGN

office for visual communication and design
2001 foundation of the office in Linz
2003 opening of further offices in Vienna

Bernhard Buchegger, Michael Denoth: visual communication



Nicole Aebischer, "Joker", 2007
objects



Gottfried Bechtold, "gepresster Porsche", 2006
installation, exhibition view: Foyer, Kunsthaus
Bregenz, photo: Markus Tretter



Thomas Feichtner, silverware "Cutt" 2006
(Wiener Silberschmiede), doorhandles "FSB 5930",
2007, from the Axiome series

Thomas Feichtner: product design

Thomas Feichtner

*1970, Vitoria, Brasil

study of industrial design, Kunstuniversität Linz
lives and works in Vienna and Linz

Exhibitions / awards (selection)

- 2009 "Pixel Hotel", Galerie Simone Feichtner, Linz 2009, Linz
Design Flanders Gallery, Brussels
- 2008 Design Match, National Galerie, Prague
Design Austria, red dot design museum, Zollverein Essen
- 2007 MAK - Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna
Gansevoort Gallery, New York
International Contemporary Furniture Fair, New York
Internationale Möbel Messe, Cologne
- 2006 BIO Ljubljana / Biennial of Industrial Design, Ljubljana
100% East, London
Kunsthalle, Projekt Space, Vienna
Design Center, Stuttgart / Face to Face, Stuttgart
Blickfang, Tokyo Designer's Week, Tokyo
Triennale di Milano, Milano
- 2004 reddot design award
Josef Binder Award
- 2003 Shortlist Cannes
- 2002 IF Design Award
- 2001 Designerpreis Schweiz

Bogomir Ecker

*1950, Maribor

member of Akademie der Künste, Berlin

professorship: Akademie Braunschweig, before Akademie Hamburg

lives and works in Düsseldorf

Solo shows (selection)

- 2007 "Man ist nie allein", Hamburger Kunsthalle, Galerie der Gegenwart, Hamburg
- 2006 "Man ist nie allein", Folkwang Museum, Essen
- 2003 "Totenkeller", Universitäts- und Marktkirche, Paderborn
- 2002 Oldenburger Kunstverein, Oldenburg
Kunstverein Ruhr, Essen
- 2000 "Eine Installation", Kunstverein Bochum
- 1999 Künstlermuseum, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf
- 1998 "Blick in den Maschinenraum", Museum Ostdeutsche Galerie, Regensburg
Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Orangerie, Karlsruhe
- 1997 "Mit Automaten", Sprengel Museum, Hannover
- 1996 "Die Tropfsteinmaschine", Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg
- 1995 "Mit Meteoriten", Kunstverein Düsseldorf
- 1991 "Die Stimme von Lu. Ru.", Kunstverein Braunschweig
- 1987 Städtisches Kunstmuseum Bonn
- 1986 Kunstforum München, Munich
- 1985 "Sandwich", Kunsthalle Düsseldorf
- 1984 "Die Laufbahn", Von der Heydt-Museum Wuppertal



Bogomir Ecker, "Starre und Nähe (Stuhl)", 2008
installation

Group shows (selection)

1987 documenta 8, Kassel

Björn Dahlem

*1974, Munich

study, Akademie der Bildenden Künste Düsseldorf
lives and works in Berlin

Solo shows (selection)

- 2009 "Die Insel", Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin
2008 "The Dream Tank", Alison Jacques Gallery, London
"Deuterium Stadl", Engholm Engelhorn Galerie, Vienna
2007 "Björn Dahlem", Bregenzer Kunstverein, Bregenz
"The Milky Way", Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin
2006 "The Homunculus Saloon", Engholm Engelhorn Galerie, Vienna
2005 "Der Nie-Mehr-Morgen-Raum", Luis Campana Galerie, Cologne
"Strange Attractor", Hiromi Yoshii Gallery, Tokyo
2004 "Solaris", UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
"WerkRaum. 16 – Björn Dahlem: Utopia Planitia 2", Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin
"Lost in Werner", The modern Institute, Glasgow
"Utopia Planitia 1 – Les Attracteurs Etranges", Frac Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, Marseille
2003 "Coma Skulptor", Friedrich Petzel Gallery, New York
2002 "Aua Extrema", Engholm Engelhorn Galerie, Vienna
"Im Krypton", Galerie Maschenmode, Berlin
"Orgasmodrom" (with Dirk Skreber), Gio Marconi, Milano
2001 "Club Superspace 3", Kunstverein Hamburg
"Club Superspace 2", Kunsthalle Sankt Gallen
"Aua Extrema II", Kerstin Engholm Galerie, Vienna
1999 "Club Superspace 1", Kunstverein Freiburg
"Bermuda", Simultanhalle, Cologne
"Die Shiva-Matrix", Schnitt-Raum, Cologne



Björn Dahlem, "Marseis (Phobos)", 2008
installation, Courtesy: Galerie Engholm Engelhorn,
Vienna; Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin



Konstantin Grcic, "Chair One", 2003
object, Magis spa, Motta di Livenza

Konstantin Grcic

*1965, Munich

formation as cabinet maker, Parnham College, Dorset
study of industrial design, Royal College of Art, London
assistant of Jasper Morrison
1991 foundation of Konstantin Grcic Industrial Design (KGID), Munich
lives and works in Munich

Exhibitions / awards (selection)

- 2008 "Greatest Living Artist", art Das Kunstmagazin
2005 Monographie Konstantin Grcic, PHAIDON Press London
2004 Nombre d'Or, Salon du Meuble, Paris
2003 "One", chair
2000 Guest of Honour, Interieur Biennial, Kortrijk
2001 Premio Compasso d'Oro, ADI, Milano
2002 "Diana", side table



Florian Ladstätter, "prototypes of the LOBMEYR Orchid Collection". 2007, objects

2000 "Chaos", seating furniture
1999 Modernism Award For Young Designers, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York
1998 "Mayday", plastic lamp
1995 award Förderpreis Angewandte Kunst der Landeshauptstadt München, Munich

Florian Ladstätter

*1967, Bonn
study of metal design, University of Applied Arts, Vienna, philosophy, Munich
lives and works in Paris and Vienna

Exhibitions / awards (selection)

2007 "Les Fleurs du Mal", MAK, Vienna
2006 "We Showroom Paris Now", Showroom, Paris
Bread and Butter, Barcelona
"Radiant", Galerie Ra, Amsterdam
2005 "BEADS", exhibition b-Store, London
2003 Zimmerhof Conference on Jewellery, Bad Rappenau
2002 "Der Superschmuck", Velvet da Vinci, San Francisco
2000 Schmuckbiennale, Tokyo
2001 "Something Biological", Jewellery, Vienna; Amsterdam
1995 Bavarian National Award for Creative Craft
1994 "Ringe mit alten Geschichten", Vienna
1987 Ehrenring für den Vienna International Airport

mahony

artist group, founded 2002 in Vienna

Andreas Duscha
*1976, Heidenheim
study of psychology, Vienna / Münster
Academy of Fine Art, Vienna

Clemens Leuschner
*1976, Göttingen
study of communication design, Essen
crossmedial art, Academy of Applied Arts, Vienna

Stephan Kobatsch
*1975, Vienna
study of photography, Prague
stage- and film design, Academy of Applied Arts, Vienna

Jenny Wolka
*1978, Cologne
crossmedial art, medial sculpture, Academy of Applied Arts, Vienna

Solo shows (selection)

2009 Liste 09, Basel
2007 "mit Robben leben", Galerie Hübner, Frankfurt
"strategy of action", London Cultural Forum, London
"schäbiger Mond, leuchte", Layr Wuestenhagen Contemporary, Vienna



mahony, "Rekonstruktion des Stückding", 2007
installation, Courtesy: Layr Wuestenhagen
Contemporary

2006 Leitermyerklasse, Space Invasion, Vienna
"bin ich Gärtner, bin ich Mensch", Galerie 5020, Salzburg
2004 Würstelplex Wien, Geschäftslokal Kaiserstraße, Vienna

Group shows (selection)

2009 Bienal al fin del mundo, Ushuaia, Argentinien
2008 "horror vacui", Layr Wuestenhagen Contemporary, Vienna
"La Petite Histoire", Kunstraum Niederösterreich, Vienna
"Am Sprung", OK Zentrum, Linz
2007 "Science Fictions (The Lab, Part II)", Czarna Gallery, Warsaw
"Intrusion, the Loft", New York
"SLOW exhibition", Plymouth Arts Center, Plymouth



Robert Smithson, "Spiral Jetty", 1970
Filmstill

Robert Smithson

*1938, Passaic, New Jersey
†1973, New Mexico

Solo shows (selection)

2005 "Robert Smithson Retrospective", The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles;
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
2003 "Robert Smithson in Vancouver: A fragment of a greater Fragmentation",
Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver
2001 "Robert Smithson: Mapping Dislocations", James Cohan Gallery, New York
2000 "Robert Smithson", Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
1999 "Robert Smithson Retrospective: Works 1956 – 1973", The National Museum
of Contemporary Art, Oslo; Modern Museum, Stockholm
1996 Galeria Emi Fontana, Milano
1995 „Robert Smithson Early Works: Paintings, Drawings, Collage“, Lawrence Markey,
New York
"Robert Smithson: Spiral Jetty, Hotel Palenque", Kunst-Werke Berlin
"Robert Smithson: Operations on Nature", Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
"Photographs – Robert Smithson", John Weber Gallery, New York
1993 – 1994 „Robert Smithson Une Retrospective 1960 – 1973: Drawings & Sculpture“,
Musees Marseilles; IVAM, Valencia; Palais Des Beaux Arts, Brüssel
1993 "Robert Smithson Photoworks", Los Angeles County Museum of Art,
Los Angeles
1991 "Robert Smithson Unearthed: Works on Paper", Miriam und Ira D. Wallach
Art Gallery, Columbia University, New York
1989 "Robert Smithson: Zeichnungen aus dem Nachlass", Westfälisches Landesmuseum
für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, Münster
1983 "Robert Smithson Drawings", John Weber Gallery, New York
1976 "Mirror/Salt Pieces from Cornell, 1969", John Weber Gallery, New York
1973 Amerikanischer Pavillion, 40. Biennale, Venedig, Venice
1970 "Nonsites", Dwan Gallery, New York
1962 "Assemblages", Richard Castellane Gallery, New York

WALKING-CHAIR

Walking-Chair Designstudio, Vienna, founded in 2003

Karl Emilio Pircher

*1962, Bolzano

formation as mechanical engineer; study University of Applied Arts,
Vienna Royal College of Arts, London

Fidel Peugeot

*1969, Basel

formation as graphic designer

Exhibitions / awards (selection)

2009 "Walking-Chair: Happy Landing", Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna

2008 "Petlightsshow", DMY 2008 International Design Festival Berlin

2006 Walking-Chair Gallery, Plattform für unkonventionelles Design

"Cloud", light system

"Banla Luka Chair", chair

2002 "Designer Block", London

2000 "Chair 2000"

Herwig Weiser

*1969, Innsbruck

study at Kunsthochschule für Medien, Cologne, Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam,
architecture, Technical University, Innsbruck
lives and works in Vienna and Cologne

Solo shows (selection)

2006 "Black Box @ Arco", Arco Madrid

2005 "Art Basel, Miami Beach, Artpositions", Galerie Lisa Ruyter

"Tesla im Podewilschen Palais", Berlin

"Tod vor der Disko", Galerie Lisa Ruyter, Vienna

Group shows (selection)

2008 "Now Jump", Nam June Paik Art Center, Seoul

"Tod vor der Disco", Galerie ColletPark, Paris

2007 "Feld arbeitet", Remont Galerie, Beograd

2006 "War on 45 / Meine Spiegel sind schwarz lackiert (für Sie)", Bortolami Dayan, New York

2005 "L'Art de produire l'art", Studio National des Arts contemporains, Lefresnoy, Tourcoing

2004 "Deutschland sucht", Kunstverein Köln, Cologne

"Born to be a Star", Künstlerhaus, Vienna

2003 "Raw Digits", Kunstverein Medienturm, Graz

2002 "Nam June Paik-Award", NRW Forum, Düsseldorf

"In the Making", CCAC, Wattis Institut, San Francisco

2001 "Zgodlocator", Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

1999 "Sample Minds", Kunstraum Innsbruck



Walking-Chair, "My first chandelier", 2006
object



Herwig Weiser, "Lucid Phantom Messenger",
2008, filmstill