

New Exhibition at the Austrian Cultural Forum New York

THE ARTIST AS TROUBLEMAKER

DECEMBER 10, 2008 – MARCH 28, 2009



Günter Brus, *Selbstbemalung I*, action, 1964

Artists

Günter BRUS, CLEGG & GUTTMANN, Olafur ELIASSON, Martin KIPPENBERGER, Dorit MARGREITER,
Diana THATER, Sofie THORSEN

The Austrian Cultural Forum New York is entering the year 2009 with a group show featuring works by well-known Austrian and international “troublemaker” artists.

The objective of the exhibition is to visualize the meeting of artistic provocation and creativity with institutional practice. Artistic positions have a formative influence on institutional structures on various levels. Museums are the focal point and testing ground of the encounter.

Artists are the actual critical and transformative potential; they are the “troublemakers” who want to reflect, reconstruct, rethink, and reinvent the existing social order and its conditions. Throughout art history they have evoked reactions ranging from press agitation to the resignation of politicians, the birth of social movements, acts of emancipation, the destruction of works of art, and even the arrest of artists. Many of these provocateurs experienced horrific processes of public rejection and discrimination. Independent of sociopolitical conditions, however, some achieved recognition, and occasionally their works became the subject of institutional and academic studies.

Günter Brus is one such artist. In the 1960s, the oeuvre of this actionist was the quintessence of resistance. On June 7, 1968, Günter Brus, Oswald Wiener, Otto Mühl, and several others organized the large-scale action titled *Kunst und Revolution* (Art and Revolution) in the main auditorium at Vienna University. It was denounced by the press as the “university obscenity” and led to the criminal prosecution of several artists, above all Günter Brus. Representatives of the more recent generation, such as Martin Kippenberger, Dorit Margreiter, Sofie Thorsen, Olafur Eliasson and Diana Thater have also been actively involved in utopian and scientifically and politically radical issues.

Creative artists often move in a utopian arena and in their radicalism are important reflectors of society. In the context of this exhibition, the museum as an institution returns to its beginnings as a place for the documentation of resistance and as a corrective force in a contradictory society.

This exhibition marks the premiere of the ACFNY’s new interactive visitor’s guide provided by the Austrian Company NOUS-Guide.

Producer Andreas Stadler **Curator** Peter Pakesch **Curatorial Consulting** Elisabeth Fiedler
Exhibition Coordination Elisabeth Haider (New York), Elisabeth Ganser (Graz)
Editorial Assistance Karin Meisel **Exhibition Assistants** Natascha Boojar, Karin Meisel, Isabella Schrammel,
Kerstin Schuetz-Mueller, Maria Simma

In cooperation with **Landesmuseum Joanneum, Kunsthaus Graz, Neue Galerie Graz.**

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EXHIBITION OPENING: Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 12 noon – 8 pm

12:00 pm	Guided Tour with the curator and artists (media opportunity)
5:00 pm	Panel Discussion Welcoming statement: Andreas Stadler, Director, Austrian Cultural Forum NY With Michael Clegg, Dennis Elliott, Elisabeth Fiedler, Rainer Ganahl, Peter Pakesch and Sofie Thorsen
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Opening Reception
7:00 pm	Opening Remarks Andreas Stadler, Director, Austrian Cultural Forum NY Peter Pakesch, Curator and Artistic Director Joanneum Graz Wolfgang Riedler, City Councilor for Culture, Graz With Performance afterward.

Exhibition dates: December 10, 2008 – March 28, 2009

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

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Admission to exhibitions, concerts, and other events at the Austrian Cultural Forum is free.

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Additional information: 212 319 5300 or www.acfny.org.