

PRESS RELEASE

Kristof Kintera: A Bigger Problem Than Yours

/Prague, 14 January 2010/ **Under the title “A Bigger Problem Than Yours” the Prague Jiri Svestka Gallery presents the work of Kristof Kintera (1973); the author’s fascination with energy takes the form of bulky light objects as well as recent work on paper. Kintera is one of the most well known young Czech artists.**

Kintera’s works speculate about the role and options of art in contemporary society. Kintera is a “committed” artist (in the good sense of the word) who, through his installations, objects, video and performances, questions both himself and those around him. His artwork stems from everyday experience that takes precedence over “concept”, a word ever so popular these days. Kintera himself refuses to be put in the category of conceptual artists and stresses that his works are mainly sculptures.

Kintera’s first major project was “It” in 1996; it was a wheeled object with which Kintera walked the streets exploring the reactions of common people to a sculpture presented in an unusual way, i.e. during a walk. The object marked most of the principles that still appear in Kintera’s work today – technically demanding, often seemingly designer-modelled objects that move, talk or shine, drawing the viewer into Kintera’s world. It is not only about their appearance, function or message, but about their mechanics as well.

“I try to always be a bit different and to constantly choose new methods, not to get stuck with a single principle. I believe a number of sculptors recycle a single method - some kind of visual code - that they come up with. I try to avoid that. Here, at the Jiri Svestka Gallery, you’ll see a set of eight sculptures. But if you place them one next to the other, I admit they may evoke a kind of country walk. Although they were created independent of each other, the sculptures can form a totality... In addition to objects, I also present my drawings; the most recent ones are created using a special substance that always seems to be glossy or wet or sort of streaming down.”

The exhibition is dominated by two sculptures, “*My light is your light*“, a giant chandelier, and “*My light is your life*“, a figure, both of which reflect Kintera’s long-term obsession with public lighting lamps and light energy in general. “*I myself now call it intuitive formalism; I believe there are a lot of things going on there...e.g. the memory of those lamps - where the lamps shone etc... it is also about the energy of those lamps, the light, the glow. Even the glowing heat suddenly becomes the sculpture, even the buzzing sound of 50 Hz.*”

In his installations, Kintera makes a smooth transition from public space to the gallery, which adds a new dimension to his works and provides for new interpretation options. “*Some time ago, I was interested in the way art operated when you took it for a walk or put it in a shop window together with consumer goods... the street is a completely different genre, another type of sport; you have to be quite aggressive just to overcome the level of noise of all kinds - not only acoustic, but also visual... the gallery makes sense, even though at first sight it may not be as attractive as fighting with the street... but you can be gentle, play the gentler tune. Installations in public spaces mostly work as a joke and, paradoxically, I prefer to see my stuff here as I do not want to be just a joke; I have the feeling that many more things are going on there.*”

Kristof Kintera graduated from the Prague Academy of Fine Arts, where he studied in several studios. He also studied at the prestigious *Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten* in Amsterdam for two years. He co-founded and, in the period 1998 - 2001, managed the *NoD Universal Space*. Kintera is a member and co-founder of the group *Jednotka (the Unit)*. In 2007 he was the guardian of the exhibition *Gross Domestic Product* in the Municipal Library in Prague. He also participated in the controversial *Entropa* installation. His work is well known even abroad and his works are represented in a number of art collections. These include the National Gallery in Prague, the Municipal Gallery in Prague, Rubell Family Art Collection in Miami, Fogg Art Museum of the Harvard University in Boston, Ludwig Museum in Budapest, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Jerry I. Speyer, New York, Thomas Olbricht, Thomas Newbold, Europäisches Patentamt in Munich, etc.

The most significant exhibitions presenting the work by Kristof Kintera include e.g. “All creatures great and small” in the Zacheta National Gallery in Warsaw (2009), “La Foule-0-infinity” in the Espace D’art Contemporain La Tolerie in Clermont-Ferrand (2008), “Ad

Absurdum” in the Marta Herford Museum in Herford (2008), “Going Staying” in the Kunstmuseum in Bonn (2007), “Cinq milliards d’années / Five Billiards Years” in Palais de Tokyo in Paris, “Positioning, In the New Reality of Europe” in the National Museum of Modern Art in Osaka, in the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art and in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo (2005), “Prague Biennale II” in Prague (2005), “Bohemian Birds“ in the Kunst Haus Dresden (2000), “After the Wall“ in the Moderna Museet in Stockholm (1999) or “Manifesta II” in Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg (1998).

“The current state of art is such that art has no desire for a mission. The mere vision of the 1960s has dried up, people no longer want to make major revolution through art. Such attempts are gone, but art spontaneously continues to exist. In addition, art is in a situation in which everything seems to have been here before. Still, any new confession may be authentic in a certain way, personal and always a bit different. We do not expect to see something that has never been here before; the main thing is to see something that speaks to us in the given moment.”

“We often want art to be understandable, but do we understand everything that surrounds us? ... Clarity is an important factor in the quality of art, nevertheless what is good is that art may or may not be understandable. And that is most exciting. It is not about understanding art, but rather about feeling it work, feeling it bring up emotions, reactions. ...I strongly believe in the strength of nonsense. You can do something that is actually good for nothing, but there is still a hidden meaning behind the nonsense.”

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15 January – 6 March 2010

Discussion with the author:

11 February 2010, 6:30 pm

JIRI SVESTKA GALLERY

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Opening hours: Tue – Sat 11am – 6pm

Kristof Kintera

- born 1973 in Prague
- lives and works in Prague

Studies:

- 1992–99 Academy of Fine Arts, Prague
- 2003–04 Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam

Stipendiums, scholarships, support:

- 1995 Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio
- 1997 Germinations X, Birmingham
- 2001 Willa Waldberta
- Jana und Milan Jelinek Stiftung
- 2003-4 Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten Amsterdam

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2010
A Bigger Problem Than Yours, Jiri Svestka Gallery, Prague
- 2009
Lay down and shine, Galerie Schleicher & Lange, Paris
Holy Spirit Opened, Museum of Fine Arts Ostrava
- 2008
I think that people, just talk too much..., Fine Art Gallery, Brno
Believe it or not, East Bohemian Gallery of Fine Arts, Pardubice
Miracle, Fundament Foundation, Tilburg, Netherland
Rituals, with Ilona Neméth, V.M.21 arte contemporanea, Rome
Solo project, Volta NY, New York
- 2007
Problems on top of Problems, Galerie Schleicher & Lange, Paris
The Weather Is Changing, AM.180 Gallery, Prague
Sculpture project, Volta Show, Basel
- 2006
Revolution, Potocka Gallery, Krakow
Art Rock, Rockefeller Plaza, New York
Carry on as if everything was alright, Galerie Schleicher & Lange, Paris
- 2005
Super Natural Special Real, JIRI SVESTKA GALLERY, Prague
- 2002
Can You Show Me What's in Your Bag?, Gallery Open, Bratislava
- 2001
Gallery 761, Ostrava
Are you all right?, Czech center Munich
Are you all right?, La Chaufferie, Strasbourg
It Won't Be Better!, Gallery Skuc, Ljubjana
It Won't Be Better!, Gallery Behemot, Prague

2000

Emil Filla Gallery, Usti nad Labem

1999

Talkmen, City Gallery Prague

1995

Plumbuman, Gallery Of Young, Brno

1994

Ruce Gallery, Prague

Selected Group Exhibitions

2009

Processing a Mirage, Futura Gallery, Prague

Mes Dalton, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Chateau-Gontier

New Acquisitions - Rarely Seen Works, The Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

Let us be us, Emil Filla Gallery, Usti nad Labem

2008

Don't Worry Be Curious!, Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg

CZECH SOURCES-Contemporary Czech art of three generations, Prague House, Brussel

Visuality vs. Reality, Muzeum of Art Zilina

Domestic appliance, Flowers, London

IN/visible festival of visual art, Flora, Olomouc

Ad Absurdum, Marta Herford

Uprising, Raw Space Galleries, Sydney

The Crowd (0-Infinity), Lo Tôlerie, Clermont-Ferrand

TBC, Flowers East, London

2007

Going Staying, Kunstmuseum Bonn

Process, River Town Prague

2006

Five Billion Years, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Grand 1st: Cult Media, Bastart Gallery, Bratislava

Shift, Galerie Grita Insam, Wien

Praagse Tuin – beelden uit Praag, Gouverneurstein van Assen, Holland

Shadows of Humor, Galerie Avantgarde, Wroclaw, Poland

Local Global, Mikkelin, Mikkeli Art Museum, Mikkeli, Finland

Positioning – In the New Reality of Europe: Art from Poland, the Czech

Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo

Zyklus 1.0 Tschechien – Ferne Nâhen, Stift Lilienfeld, Austria

2005

Positioning – In the New Reality of Europe: Art from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, The National Museum of Art, Osaka

Czech Photography of the 20th Century, City Gallery Prague

Prague Biennale 2: Expanded Painting, International Contemporary Art,

Karlin Hall, Prague

Insiders, Futura – Centre for contemporary art, Prague

2004

[NOT] Open Ateliers, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten Amsterdam

E.U. Positive, Akademie der Künste, Berlin

Elettricità, Palazzo Comunale, Terni

Eintritt frei, Bawag Foundation, Vienna

Breakthrough, The Hague

2003

Prague Biennale I, National Gallery - Veletrzní Palace, Prague

Elektrobot, Home Gallery, Prague

Survey '03, Futura – Centre for contemporary art, Prague

Aus Liebe – Zeitgenössische Kunst aus Prag, Galerie der Stadt Remscheid

2002

Corps et traces, Musée de Beaux-Arts de Nancy (catalogue)

Insideout, Action Gallery, Berlin

Fair, Royal Collage of Art, London

2001

Object Object, House at the Black Madonna, Prague

About a Man, Museum of Czech Fine Art, Prague

Triennale of Small Sculpture, Fellbach

Borders 2001, Slavonski Brod, Croatia

To Flow To, Galerie Chromosome, Berlin

Finale, National Gallery - Veletrzní Palace, Prague

2000

Bohemian Birds, Kunst Haus Dresden

Nests of Games, Gallery Rudolfinum, Prague

Worthless (Invaluable), Museum of Modern Art Ljubljana

ÜberlebensKunst, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin

After the Wall, Ludwig Museum, Budapest; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin

The End of the World, National Gallery, Prague

All You Can Eat, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig

1999

Unplanned Connections, Exhibition Hall Manes, Prague

Midnight Walkers and City Sleepers, W-139, Amsterdam

Ordinary Fairytales, Gallery Klatovy – Klenova

Plug in City, Salon 3, London

After the Wall, Moderna Museet, Stockholm

1998

Low Budget, Exhibition Hall Manes, Prague

Czech Art in 90's, City Gallery Prague, Prague

Manifesta II, Casino Luxembourg

Germinations 10, Factory, Athens

Close Encounters, Naarden, Holland

1997

Art Work in Public Spaces, National Gallery - Veletrzní Palace, Prague

Show, National Gallery Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

Toward the Object, Riverside Studios, London

Metal Sculptures, Vaclav Spala Gallery, Prague

1996

Exterier vs Interier, Cosmos, Bratislava

II. Biennial of Young Artists , Stone Bell House, City Gallery Prague

1995

Test Run, Exhibition Hall Manes, Prague

Biennale of Small Sculpture, Murska Subota, Slovenia

1994

New Names, Vaclav Spala Gallery, Prague

1993

Hermit II, Monastery in Plasy, Prague

Prizes:

1996 Honour prize of Soros centrum of Contemporary Art, Bratislava

1997 Prague Biennale II

Pro více informací kontaktujte:

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