

Press release
Zurich, 21 April 2009

Kunsthhaus Zürich presents Tino Sehgal

From 23 April until 31 May 2009, two complementary shows of work by Tino Sehgal will run in parallel, at the Kunsthhaus Zürich and at Haus Konstruktiv.

Tino Sehgal (born 1976) has created an immaterial and ephemeral art form, one that exists solely in its encounter with the public. As performed by the most diverse assortment of interpreters, including museum guards, vocalists, experts in a range of disciplines, children and disadvantaged members of society, Sehgal's work is an interaction between the visitors to a museum and the actors he has put in place there.

He thus replaces the material production of art objects with temporary pieces made out of bodies, voices, space and time, of which there is, logically enough, no photographic or cinematic documentation. The Kunsthhaus will feature four separate works by Sehgal, distributed throughout the old building so as to enter into dialogue with the museum's regular collection. 'Instead of allowing something to rise up to your face dancing bruce and dan and other things', for instance, a very early choreographic piece which refers explicitly to the dance-influenced work of Bruce Nauman and Dan Graham, will be deliberately juxtaposed with sculptures by Auguste Rodin. For although Tino Sehgal conceives of the work of art in a completely different fashion from his French forebear, Sehgal's piece does indeed demonstrate parallels to the relationship between abstraction and figuration as manifest in Rodin's sculptures, and casts issues of surface, movement and light, or of the ratio of pedestal to figure, in a new light. Meanwhile, in contrast with this predominantly sculptural piece, 'This is exchange' thrives on the social interaction of actors and visitors. In addition, 'This is good' and 'Diese Beschäftigung' (This occupation) are also on view.

And yet, despite their non-material nature, Sehgal's creations do indeed meet the requirements of a work of visual art: they are present in a particular space for the entire duration of an exhibition, they can be purchased from a dealer, and they are acquired by museums and private collectors. In their contingency and event-like character, Sehgal's pieces intentionally test the traditional notion of art, and offer a new perspective on artistic production and reception in the museum context.

Sehgal will be on show at the Kunsthaus and at Zurich's Haus Konstruktiv simultaneously. The exhibitions will open on the same day, 23 April 2009, and will address and enhance each other intriguingly.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich, www.kunsthhaus.ch

Open Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Holidays: 1 May, 20/21 May, 30/31 May: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Admission: CHF 14 / red. CHF 10 (Subject to change)

Advance Sales: RailAway/SBB Kombi-Ticket, with reduction on travel and entrance to the museum. Available at local stations and by phoning Rail Service: 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19 per min.), group rates possible. Magasins Fnac, tel. +33 1 4157 3212, www.fnac.ch

For more information

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