

Dream & Trauma

Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens

June 29 – October 4, 2007

Kunsthalle Wien, hall 2

and

MUMOK, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Hofstallung

In cooperation with the **Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens**

All the things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams. Elias Canetti

Dream & Trauma. Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens – a joint project with Kunsthalle Wien and MUMOK. The exhibition approaches two phenomena that draw on the unconscious, the dream as well as the psychic injury – the trauma, with over forty contemporary artistic positions.

Dreams and trauma are two dimensions of human experience. In their own particular way, both generate imaginary worlds of the mind and fantastic scenarios. The dream, the companion of sleep, belongs to everyday life and links together various states of being: "To die, to sleep, to sleep: perchance to dream," says Shakespeare's character Hamlet and thus delineates essential experiential parameters.

In contrast reality is manifested in the trauma as a psychic deformation and a symbolic wound. This non-place, a zone of formlessness and fragmentation collects whatever has been suppressed or has disappeared from the conscious. Sigmund Freud defined the trauma as an experience which brings such an increase in stimulation to the inner life in such a short period of time that the normal-usual way of dealing with or processing the experience fails.

Works in the exhibition from artists such as **Nigel Cooke**, **Olafur Eliasson**, **Kiki Smith** and **Christopher Wool** underscore this precarious status of existence and bear witness that the imaginative unfolding of gloomy, twilight worlds reveals the impossibility of depicting the traumatic experience since, as an inner shock, the traumatic experience resists symbolic transformation. An aesthetics of trauma depicts forms of pain, fear and injury, as in the works of **William Kentridge** or **Cindy Sherman**; these forms are often inscribed in the body, as in the works of **Paul McCarthy** or **Kiki Smith**; it shows the wounds of being and the injury of the existential and depicts inner states of feeling, altered, crazy and uncanny perceptions of reality (**Robert Gober**). The aesthetics turn towards the abject, visualise the suppressed, the revolting and degenerate; thus the work of **Gregory Crewdson**, **Urs Fischer**, **Tim Noble/Sue Webster** and **Cindy Sherman** reveal wishes, desires and tormenting dreams.

Drawings by a younger generation of artists – to which **Tauba Auerbach, Paul Chan, Brian DeGraw, Marcel Dzama, Adam Helms, Cameron Jamie, Dorota Jurczak, Dimitri Protopapas, Georgia Sagri, Christiana Soulou, Aurel Schmidt** and **Ralf Ziervogel** belong – often communicate an impression of the unconscious in expressive and fear-distorted portraits. They visualise dreamlike, disordered webs in arabesques, in structures that are cerebral, network-like and similar to Jugendstil patterns. Like the Surrealists, they seem to prefer the expressive power of the unconscious instead of the conscious and to follow André Breton's saying: "Where the ego was, the id should be."

The exhibition *Dream and Trauma* is in two parts: Hall 2 of the Kunsthalle Wien contains mainly large-scale works, drawings and photographs by **Gregory Crewdson, Anna Gaskell** and **Cindy Sherman**. Artistic emphasis is given by **Paul Chan, Urs Fischer, Robert Gober** and **Kiki Smith**. Influenced by the maxim that a detour is the most direct path to the goal, objects by **Urs Fischer, Jeff Koons, Poka-Yio, Nari Ward** block the exhibition's entrance areas and hinder the visitor's route. The curatorial focus on the borderline, on the one hand emphasises the borders between the conscious and the unconscious, on the other hand, underlines the inaccessibility of the suppressed psychological content of the unconscious.

In the darkened rooms of the MUMOK's court stables those works, that above all, visualise the dark side of human existence can be seen in an arrangement. In a metaphorical memorial room, two installation works form the centre: *Amazing Grace* by Nari Ward, an accumulation of 280 old children's prams and flatly pressed, fire brigade hoses; and *Your Strange Certainty Still Kept*, an illuminated water curtain by **Olafur Eliasson**.

Dakis Joannou counts as one of the most important collectors of contemporary art in the world. For the last thirty years, the Greek businessman has relied on his unwavering intuition for up-coming artists. Dakis Joannou is the founder of the Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens where the biggest exhibition of his collection in the last few years with the title *Monument to Now* has been shown. In 2005 Dakis Joannou presented part of his collection with its focus on *Translation* in the Tokyo Palace in Paris. It was the first presentation of his works outside Greece. The exhibition in the Kunsthalle Wien and in MUMOK also has a thematic focus: *Dream and Trauma*.

Artists: Pawel Althamer, Tauba Auerbach, Hisham Bharoocha, Maurizio Cattelan, Paul Chan, Nigel Cooke, Gregory Crewdson, Gerald Davis, Brian DeGraw, Nathalie Djurberg, Marcel Dzama, Olafur Eliasson, Urs Fischer, Naomi Fisher, Saul Fletcher, Barnaby Furnas, Anna Gaskell, Robert Gober, Matt Greene, Oliver Halsman Rosenberg, Adam Helms, Cameron Jamie, Dorota Jurczak, William Kentridge, Jeff Koons, Friedrich Kunath, Matt Leines, Ashley Macomber, Paul McCarthy, Tim Noble/Sue Webster, Chris Ofili, Poka-Yio, Dimitri Protopapas, Georgia Sagri, Aurel Schmidt, Cindy Sherman, Dasha Shishkin, Kiki Smith, Nedko Solakov, Christiana Soulou, Alex Stein, Nari Ward, Christopher Wool, Ralf Ziervogel

Curators: Edelbert Köb (MUMOK), Gerald Matt and Angela Stief (Kunsthalle Wien)

Press contacts:

Kunsthalle Wien
Claudia Bauer
Phone +43-1-521 89-1222
Fax +43-1-521 89-1260
presse@kunsthallewien.at

MUMOK
Eva Engelberger
Phone +43-1-525 00-1400
Fax +43-1-52500-1300
press@mumok.at

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Press conference: Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 10 a.m., Kunsthalle Wien

with **Dakis Joannou, Edelbert Köb (Director MUMOK), Gerald Matt (Director Kunsthalle Wien)**

Artists who will be present: Tim Noble/Sue Webster, Poka-Yio, Dimitri Protopapas, Georgia Sagri, Christiana Soulou, Nari Ward, Ralf Ziervogel

Opening: Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 7 p.m., Kunsthalle Wien

Welcome: **Edelbert Köb (Director MUMOK), Gerald Matt (Director Kunsthalle Wien)**

Artists who will be present: Tim Noble/Sue Webster, Poka-Yio, Dimitri Protopapas, Georgia Sagri, Christiana Soulou, Nari Ward, Ralf Ziervogel

Catalogue

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A tour of the exhibition is included in the ticket price

Curatorial tours: Sunday, July 1 at 3 p.m.; Sunday, September 2 at 3 p.m.

Overview tour: every Sunday, 2 p.m. (MUMOK), every Sunday 4 p.m. (Kunsthalle Wien)

Thematic tour: every Saturday 4 p.m.

Educational programs: All programmes with appointment also in English/French/Italian

Tickets

€ 7,50; reduced € 6,-

Combiticket + Kunsthalle Wien Hall 1: € 12,50; reduced € 10,50

Combiticket + exhibition MUMOK: € 12,50; reduced € 10,50

Combiticket all exhibitions Kunsthalle Wien + MUMOK: € 15,-; reduced 12,-

Museumsquartier, Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna, daily 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Thurs 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Infoline: +43-1-521 89-33, www.kunsthallewien.at, www.mumok.at