

gallerí
KLAUSTUR
2009

PIOTR NATHAN

Skýrslubrot af verkstæði tímavélar

Report from the laboratory of the time machine

17.8. - 26.8.



Verk Piotr Nathans sýna fjöll, vötn, plöntur og dýr sem náttúruleg fyrirbæri. Sjá má berróta tré í náttmyrku sjávarlandslagi, villtan vind með regni og óveðurseldingum, þurrar eyðimerkurplöntur við upplýst úthaf og rauðglóandi fjöll með ljónum og úlfum allt um kring. Við val sitt á mótífum vísar listamaðurinn í alfræðibækur og þekkt vísindarit með myndskreytingum frá seinnihluta 19. aldar. Myndirnar eru unnar eins og tréristur, sem vísar enn frekar til rómantíska skeiðsins, en stærð og litasamsetningu er breytt, og myndirnar verða þannig að sjálfstæðum listaverkum. Mótífum er breytt og blandað saman og við nánari skoðun kemur eitt og annað í ljós í myndunum. Í óreiðu trjáanna leynist tungl og tveir menn, bátur birtist á himnum og berir þjóhnað innan um úlfa. Með furður E.T.A. Hoffmanns og undur Jules Verne í farteskinu ferðumst við með tímavélinni til miðju jarðar. Fólkið sem Piotr Nathan hefur sett inn í þessar náttúrufantasíur er úr nútímanum. Það er tákngervingar fólksins í dag með hugsanir sínar, þrár og ótta. Með það á tilfinningunni að það sé statt á röngu tímaskeiði í leit sinni að sínum rétta heimi, þá leggja þau á flóttu, eins og Lúdvík konungur II, inn í heim fantasíunnar.

Piotr Nathan hefur búið í Berlín frá því hann lauk námi í Hamburg 1986. Meðal verka hans eru teikningar, málverk, skúlpúrur, bækur, veggjalist og innsetningar. Hann tók þátt í Berlínar tvíæringnum 2004 og skapaði sér nafn með innsetningum þar sem hann notaði hurðir almenningssalerna sem sæti (Draumtúlkun, 2004). Piotr Nathan starfar nú sem prófessor í teikningu og grafíklist við Muthesius listaháskólann í Kiel.

PIOTR NATHAN

In Nathan's new works, mountains, seas, plants and animals appear as fantastic natural phenomena. We see rooted trees in a nighty sea landscape, a wildly cheering storm with lashing rain and lightning storms, dry desert plants with an enlightened ocean sky, and a red-glowing mountain landscape in which lions and wolves romp around. In selecting his motifs, the artist refers to encyclopaedias and popular scientific writings with graphic illustrations from the late 19th Century. Apparently executed with the technique of wood engraving in the tradition of the romantic era, but changed in size and color, they are nevertheless autonomous works of art. In addition, the motifs are modified by the artist: After studying the pictures, the observer notices more or less decipherable scenes which are hidden in the illustrations. In the chaos of huge trees we suddenly discover a moon and two male figures; a boat appears in the sky, and bare buttocks between wolves. With the eeriness of E.T. A. Hoffmann and the enlightenment of Jules Verne we find ourselves being in a time machine to the center of the earth. The people who Piotr Nathan has integrated in these fascinating depictions of nature, however, are people from the present. They symbolize the people of today with their thoughts, desires and fears. Feeling they are in the wrong time period and looking for their own, real world, they take refuge - such as King Ludwig II - in fantasy worlds.

Piotr Nathan has been living in Berlin after finishing his studies at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg, in 1986. His oeuvre includes drawings, paintings, sculptures, multiples, artist books, wall works and installations. He is reknown ever since his appearance on the 3rd Berlin Biennial in 2004. His impressive installation with doors of public toilets, converted to seats (Interpretation of Dreams, 2004), and the wall drawing The Weaving Mill of the Scents (2002) have certainly remained in the memories of many. Visitors to the Berlin club Berghain might also know the monumental wall drawing The Rituals of Disappearance (2004). Since 2006, Piotr Nathan is professor for free drawing and print-making at the Muthesius University of Visual Arts in Kiel.

Piotr Nathan

Born on April 27th, 1956 in Gdansk/Danzig. Lives and works in Berlin.
 Education: Academy for the Fine Arts, Hamburg (Sigmar Polke and Karl-Ernst Herrmann). Since 2006 Professorship for Free Drawing und Graphic Arts, Muthesius Kunsthochschule, Kiel

Solo exhibitions:

- 1987 Interim Art, London - Yellow Music, Berlin
- 1989 Kacprzak Gallery, Cologne - Cornerhaus, Manchester
- 1990 Dörrie*Priess Gallery, Hamburg - Ryszard Varisella Gallery, Frankfurt
- 1991 Brutto Gusto, Rotterdam - Dziekanka Gallery, Warsaw
Hotel-Pension Nürnberger Eck, Berlin
- 1992 Kunst-Werke, Berlin - De Lege Ruimte Gallery, Bruges
- 1993 Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 1994 Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen
- 1995 Sabine Schmidt Gallery, Cologne - Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft. Nürnberger Kunstverein, Nuremberg.
- 1996 Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin - Brutto Gusto, Rotterdam
Wolfgang Wittrock Art Trading, Düsseldorf
- 1997 Dörrie*Priess Gallery, Hamburg
- 1999 Gallery Wohnmaschine, Berlin
- 2001 Haus der Kunst, Munich
- 2002 Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart (wall drawing).
- 2003 Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg
Sabine Schmidt Gallery, Cologne
- 2004 Berghain Club, Berlin
- 2005 Morris & Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver
- 2006 magnus mueller, Berlin
- 2009 magnus mueller, Berlin

Group exhibitions (among others) in London, New York, Washington, Boston, Paris, St. Petersburg, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Linz, Geneva, Helsinki, Riga, Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Cologne, Weimar, Kiel, Silkeborg (DK).