



Function Follows Vision, Vision Follows Reality 27/5 – 23/8 2015

Press conference: Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 10 am
Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Opening: Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 7 pm
Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Lecture: Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 7 pm
Fabrizio Gallanti: *Pantographic experience. The conundrum of the architectural display**
Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier

“Function follows vision, vision follows reality” was Frederick Kiesler’s guiding principle. Born in the western Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi in 1890, the architect, stage, exhibition and furniture designer studied and worked in Vienna until his emigration to New York in 1926. Frederick Kiesler achieved international renown with his ground-breaking designs and concepts in the areas of architecture and design. His primary interest lay in a cross-disciplinary design that combined both theory and practice.

The exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz was developed in cooperation with the Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation and takes the 50th anniversary of Kiesler’s passing, and his 125th birthday, as occasion to investigate his influence on contemporary art. The show is centred around Kiesler’s reflections on the subject of displays, as he was already responsible for the conception of numerous innovative exhibition displays during the 1940s, including those for Peggy Guggenheim’s private museum *Art of This Century* in New York. Even then, he questioned the fundamental aspects of exhibiting art and made observations that continue to remain relevant for contemporary artists to this day. His ideas and designs combine artistic and social considerations, thereby creating situations in which art is able to be experienced in new and innovative ways.

Accordingly, the exhibition *Function Follows Vision, Vision Follows Reality* places Kiesler’s interest in innovative forms and methods of presentation of art at the centre of its conception. Situated in an atmospheric setting in which the ideas of the visionary designer are taken up and translated into the present, works by contemporary artists correspond with illustrations, texts and photos from Kiesler’s legendary window displays:

Francesco Pedraglio, for example, transforms Kiesler’s writings on window displays into an abstract dialogue, which is presented in the exhibition space as an audio piece centred around the subject of (picture) frames. Céline Condorelli’s *Swindelier* combines Kiesler’s central design elements of photography, sound and film with a fan and a shifting light environment in the room to create a type of sculptural portrait of Kiesler himself. Annette Kelm’s still life photography meets the still lifes of garments arranged by Kiesler for the window display of the Saks Fifth Avenue department store in New

York in the 1920s. Leonor Antune's film *String Travel* picks up on a theme from an avant-garde film by Maya Deren, which she shot on-location at the *Art of This Century* exhibition in the 1940s. Notations by the composer Morton Feldman, a close friend of Kieslers, have the appearance of minimalist drawings due to their abstraction, but are actually instructions for the performance of pieces of music – just as Kiesler's abstract drawings are proposals for the activation of the viewer within the exhibition space. Other artists take Kiesler's idea that "colours and forms are the simplest, cheapest and fastest means of transforming a room in a visionary fashion" and respond with interventions that counteract the idea of a neutrally designed exhibition space. Colours, forms and materials come together in an insinuation that is both intuitively reasoned, while simultaneously also providing a sensual experience of Kiesler's main motives and design principles.

Artists: Frederick Kiesler with Leonor Antunes, Olga Balema, Céline Condorelli, Morton Feldman, Annette Kelm, Charlotte Moth, Francesco Pedraglio, Luca Trevisani, Nicole Wermers

Curators: Luca Lo Pinto, Vanessa Joan Müller

Publication: Accompanying the exhibition, and in cooperation with the Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation, a reader will be published featuring reprints of Frederick Kiesler's texts, as well as documentation of the exhibition.

Biographies:

Leonor Antunes, born in 1972 in Lisbon, lives in Berlin. Exhibitions (e.g.): 8. Berlin Biennale (2014), Kunsthalle Basel (2013), Kunsthalle Lissabon (2013), MCA Chicago (2012), Museu Serralves, Porto (2011), Museu Reina Sofia, Madrid (2011)

Olga Belema, born in 1984 in Liv (Ukraine), lives in Amsterdam. Exhibitions (e.g.): Le Magasin Grenoble (2014), Sculpture Center, New York (2014), Fridericianum, Kassel (2014), The Approach, London (2013), Prism, Los Angeles (2013), Casco, Utrecht (2012)

Céline Condorelli, lives and works in London. Exhibitions (e.g.): The Institute of Modern Art (IMA), Brisbane (2015), OFF-Biennale Budapest (2015), Tensta Konsthall (2015), Hangar Bicocca, Milan (2014), MuHKA, Antwerpen (2014), Castello di Rivoli (2013), Eastside Projects, Birmingham (2013), Grazer Kunstverein (2013), SALT Istanbul (2012), Manifesta 8, Murcia (2010).

Morton Feldman (1926–1987) was an American composer. In 1950 he met John Cage and developed his first compositions. Known as a pioneer of the graphic notation, he was part of the „New York School of Music“ and became friends with Frederick Kiesler.

Annette Kelm, born in 1975 in Stuttgart, lives in Berlin. Exhibitions (e.g.): Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne (2014), Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Munich (2014), MoMA, New York (2013), Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver (2012), 54. Biennale di Venezia, Venice (2011), KW – Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2009), Kunsthalle Zurich (2009) CCA Wattis, Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco (2008), Witte de With, Rotterdam (2008)

Charlotte Moth, born in 1978 in Great Britain, lives in Paris. Exhibitions (e.g.): ICA studio, London (2015), Archive Room – Tate Britain, London (2015), De Vleeshal, Middleburg (2014), Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten, Marl (2014), Temporary Gallery, Köln (2014), Fondation Serralves, Porto (2011), Musée départemental d'art contemporain de Rochechouart (2010), Bloomberg SPACE, London (2010)

Francesco Pedraglio is an artist, author and co-founder of the non-profit organisation FromContent, based in London. Exhibitions and performances (e.g.): Transmission Gallery, Glasgow, Kunsthalle Basel, Hayward Gallery, London, The National Portrait Gallery, London, ICA, London, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, Galerie Kamm, Berlin, Hollybush Gardens, London

Luca Trevisani, born in 1979 in Verona, lives in Berlin and Milano. Exhibitions (e.g.): Museo Marino Marini, Florence (2014), Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin (2014), PAC, Milan (2014), MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (2013), MAXXI, Rome (2012), Casa Museo Giorgio de Chirico, Rome (2011), Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (2011)

Nicole Wermers, born in 1971 in Emsdetten, lives in London. Exhibitions (e.g.): Salzburger Kunstverein (2015), Secession, Vienna (2014), Gropius Bau, Berlin (2013), MMK Frankfurt (2013), MACRO, Rome (2012), Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne (2012), Hayward Gallery, London (2010), Garage Centre for Contemporary Arts, Moscow (2010)

***Lecture: Fabrizio Gallanti**

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The relationship between curatorial practice, exhibition design and architecture has historically been a fertile and problematic terrain for experimentation. Captions, mock-ups, replicas, frames, models, wall-texts, vitrines, Plexiglas, stencils, beamers, stands, audio-guides, flat screens, gypsum walls, plywood, humidifiers constitute an ever changing panoply of apparatuses to engage audiences and generate discourse. The question recurs over and over: how do we use space to communicate?

Fabrizio Gallanti has wide-ranging and international experience in architectural design, education, publication, and exhibitions. He holds a Ph.D. in architectural design from the Politecnico di Torino (Turin, Italy 2001) and an M. Arch. from the University of Genova (1995). In 1998 he was among the founding members of gruppo A12, a collective of architects dedicated to the hybridization of architectural design and visual arts (www.gruppoa12.org), with which he collaborated until 2004. He has taught in Chile, Italy, UK and USA. Between 2007 and 2011 he was the architecture editor at Abitare magazine and chief editor of the Abitare web-site. Between 2011 and 2014 he was the Associate Director Programs at the Canadian Centre of Architecture in Montréal, Canada. In 2014 he was the first senior Mellon fellow at the School of Architecture of Princeton University. He is the founding member of the research practice FIG Projects (www.fig-projects.com).

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Press release

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