

PRESS RELEASE

Gert & Uwe Tobias

Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia - Italy

15 November 2009 - 14 February 2010

Private preview: 14 November h. 6.00 pm with the artists



Gert & Uwe Tobias present their recent work at Collezione Maramotti, an installation composed of twenty one pieces, from large size woodcuts to drawings and sculptures, placed inside a walldrawing covering all the walls of the exhibition space, in Max Mara's former manufacturing premises, now the Pattern Room. The exhibition will be accompanied by an artist's book .

As for all their previous installations, the Tobias brothers have created a poster, a large colour woodcut which symbolises their original way of making writing and images discoursing together. The poster becomes both an art piece, relating to other works on exhibit, and an advertising tool.

In their works, iconic elements, drawn from the popular culture of their country of origin, Transylvania, and images from European folklore, where archaic myths and traditions are transposed with strong naiveté and expressiveness, and often combined with decorative elements, seem to merge with immediacy in a formal contemporary language finding its roots in the early Modernism, in Klee, in Constructivism, in Art Brut, alongside folk culture.

In many of their typewritten drawings - associating sculptural patterns with embroidery - one may find elements from Eastern European Socialist architecture.

All this gives the work an extraordinary originality both formally - for its immediacy and at the same time its ironic post-modern penchant for quotation - and process-like, for the innovative use of media, like the technique of colour woodcuts for large-size pieces.

Besides the large woodcuts, where abstracts and figurative elements merge, Gert & Uwe Tobias create ceramic sculptures, works on paper (gouache, collage, typewritten and pen drawings) by also mixing diverse techniques and materials in a single work.

The artists use an unmistakable palette, intense and luminous, based on the process of colour layering strongly inspired by folklore, although totally devoid of any merely decorative purpose. The logical or totally illogical use of colours with respect to the image, is their ever-present peculiar trait.

The Tobias brothers work both together and separately, but they always sign together everything they produce. Their works, however created and produced, are the result of an extreme visual coherence, to the point that we may speak of perfectly matching visual imagination and formal identity.

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Thursday and Friday afternoon 2.30 - 6.30 pm

Saturday and Sunday morning 9.30 -12.30 and afternoon 3.00-6.00 pm

Free admittance

Collezione Maramotti

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Biography

Gert and Uwe Tobias were born in 1973 at Kronstadt (Brasov) in Romania where they spent their childhood. At twelve they moved to Germany with their family.

They now live and work in Cologne.

Solo exhibitions

2003

Schnitt Ausstellungsraum, Cologne

“Zurück nach vorwärts zu”, Kunstrasen, Das Kuratorenfeld, Düsseldorf

2004

“Come and see before the tourists will do. The mystery of Transylvania”, Galerie Michael Janssen, Cologne

“In eigener Sache - oder noch etwas Kaffee noch etwas Milch”, Kunstgruppe e.V., Cologne

2005

“Roswita meets Dionysos”, The Breeder, Athens

“Servus”, Galerie Eva Winkeler, Frankfurt

2006

“N.S., K.A., C.G., O.R., F.Y.”, Galerie Michael Janssen, Cologne

The Happy Lion, Los Angeles

“Hammer Projects”, UCLA Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles

“Welcome”, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels

Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna

2007

“Projects 86”, Museum of Modern Art, New York

“Utstillingsplakate”, Bergen Kunsthalle, Bergen

“If you build it, they will come”, Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu

“Wohin der Hase läuft”, Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin

“Nichts brennt an, nichts kocht über”, Kunstverein Heilbronn

“Die Hora nimmt kein Ende”, Sprüth Magers Projekte, Munich

2008

Kunstmuseum Bonn

Team Gallery, New York

Kunsthalle Emden, Emden

Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo

2009

“Die Mappe. Gerte & Uwe Tobias”, Galerie Janssen, Brussels

“Gert & Uwe Tobias”, Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf (CH)

“Zurück nach Vorwärts Zu”, Kunsthalle project space, Vienna

“Griffelkunstvereinigung”, Hamburg St Pauli, Hamburg

Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover

The Breeder, Athens

La Conservera, Ceuti

2010

Team Gallery, New York

Wilhelm Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen

Selected group exhibitions

2001

“Neue Besen kehren gut”, Stadtische Galerie Wolfsburg
“Enter”, Kunststiftung Baden - Wurttemberg, Stuttgart
“Heimaten”, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig
“Germania”, Palazzo delle Papesse Arte Contemporanea

2003

“Bis ans Ende der Welt”, Kunstverein Konstanz, Constance

2005

“Künstlerbrüder - von den Durers zu den Duchamps”, Haus der Kunst, Munich
“Der Kunst ihre Räume”, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn

2007

“Made in Germany. Aktuelle Kunst aus Deutschland”,
Kestnergesellschaft, Sprengel Museum und Kunstverein, Hannover

2008

“In Holz geschnitten: Werke von Edvard Munch bis heute”,
Kunsthalle Emden
“Abstrakt”, Museum Moderner Kunst Kärnten MMKK, Klagenfurt
(Austria)

2009

“Saen und Jaten”, Stadtische Galerie, Ravensburg
“State of mind”, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin
“Dead_lines”, Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal
“Germania”, Saatchi Gallery, London