

Tatiana Trouvé

Il Grande Ritratto

06.02.-16.05.2010

This text is published on the occasion of the exhibitions

Tatiana Trouvé

Il Grande Ritratto

Kunsthaus Graz

Universalmuseum Joanneum

February 6 until

May 16, 2010

The labor of an alchemist or a prophetic vision? The research of a passionate archeologist or the design of a phantom (landscape) architect? Tatiana Trouvé's tableaux vivants are born out of an uneasy marriage of fantasy and science, there where utopia corresponds with the strong will to unmake the world, and the rational argues with the undisciplined psyche. In her seemingly apocalyptic landscapes, time has been frozen in the stillness of a memory and a suspended event, and a space has been rewritten and reconfigured according to a subjective, quasi-surreal grammar. Welcome to *Il Grande Ritratto!*

Tatiana Trouvé

Il Grande Ritratto

Tatiana Trouvé creates a bleak, eerie world that is at once familiar and yet completely alien. She redefines the exhibition room, designing a landscape, a back-drop that could come from a film. The architectural installation acts as a stage where everyone who sets foot in it is drawn into a story that is constantly being rewritten. We are in her pictures.

The rooms she has built in, dark chambers with shrunken doors and reduced-height false ceilings, create a disconcerting, oppressive atmosphere suggestive of something concealed that can't be discovered. If you can enter them, beware of claustrophobia – the cramped space might feel suffocating. Sometimes you might feel like a voyeur, at other times it's like being at the cinema. Tatiana Trouvé lets us in on a disturbing secret, into worlds of the unconscious, maybe an apocalyptic mood. As in Dino Buzatti's novella "Il grand ritratto", the secret becomes a place of exile. The Italian SF writer's story served Trouvé as a significant source of inspiration for this work.

Like the novella, the architectural installation takes us through dark corners and hidden nooks and crannies of a frozen landscape of the soul. Taking Buzatti's book as her starting point, Trouvé unfolds a large drawing in space, somewhere between love, science, fantasy and passion. Black cables and wires seem to get swallowed up in space, columns block the way and turn into a dark forest. A grille forms a wall you see through but can't pass, locking you in and yet liberating. The ambivalence of the human soul and the absurdity of unsolved questions turn out to be mirrors of the self. Global, individual or collective fears are exacerbated and well up. It is the deepest recesses of the human soul that make this world so creepy and fill you with unease.

Tatiana Trouvé loves the aesthetics of machines. She furnishes her architectural installations with household appliances and furnishings that are functionally obsolete. This junk carries the stamp of the past and the no-longer-wanted. The cast-off shoes are signs of human existence. You think of waiting rooms, labs,

torture chambers and fitness studios – rooms that interest Trouvé. She'd love to create sculptures from echoes, or from failure and emptiness. The little lifts are symbols of arrival and departure in equal measure. They are half-open, and you could get in. Where would they take you?

Traces of fire, spilt fluids, cavities and stones can be taken as symbols of the four elements governing all existence – fire, water, air and earth. The equilibrium has gone, and things are malfunctioning all over the place. The world is devoid of humans, emptied, in bits, just as if the decline and fall of our modern society were proceeding unstoppable. The future we divine lies somewhere between apocalypse and hope.

Tatiana Trouvé

Tatiana Trouvé was born in Cosenza (Italy) in 1968. Her childhood was spent in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, where her father taught architecture. Subsequently she studied art at the Villa Arson (state art college) in Nice and in Holland, later moving to Paris. Failing to establish herself on the art scene there in the early days, she found herself looking for a job. The constant refusals and continuing lack of artistic recognition led to a major work, the *Bureau d'Activités Implicites* (Office of Implicit Activities). From 2002, she developed this side of her work further under the title Polder.

She had her great breakthrough in 2005 when she took part in the Biennale in Venice. In 2007, a further boost was the Prix Marcel Duchamp, France's premier award for a new-generation artist. In summer 2008, she had a solo show at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and took part in the European Biennale for Young Art, Manifesta7. In the meantime, Tatiana Trouvé has become one of France's best-known artists.

The exhibition at the Kunsthaus Graz is her first presentation in Austria.

Events and Education

Into the Night – Andrey Tarkovsky

Film night Andrey Tarkovsky:
The Mirror (1974, 108 min, in Russian with German subtitles)
Stalker (1979, 163 min, Russian with Engl. subtitles)
Nostalgia (1983, 125 min, Italian with Engl. subtitles)
Introduction by Andrey A. Tarkovsky, president of the Andrey Tarkovsky International Institute and son of the director
Feb 23, 2010, 6pm, Space04

Science Fiction and Secrets. Dino Buzzati's Novella „Il grande ritratto“

Lecture by Werner Helmich
March 9, 2010, 7pm, Space04

Into the Night – Béla Tarr

Film night Béla Tarr
Damnation (1987, 116 min)
Werckmeister Harmonies (2000, 145 min),
March 23, 2010, 6pm, KIZ Royal-Kino, in co-operation with KIZ RoyalKino

Into the Night – Jean Cocteau

Film night Jean Cocteau:
The Blood of a Poet (Le sang d'un poète, 1930, 55 min, French with English subtitles)
Orphée (1950, 95 min, French with German subtitles)
Testament of Orpheus (Le testament d'Orphée, 1959, 77 min, French with English subtitles)
13.4.2010, 6pm, Space04

Lectures by Pamela M. Lee and Louise Neri

Louise Neri: *Tatiana Trouvé's Sculpting in Time*
Pamela M. Lee: *Tatiana Trouvé's Bureaucratic Imaginary*
in connection with the exhibition Tatiana Trouvé. Il Grande Ritratto
17.4.2010, 6pm, Space04
In co-operation with *contemporary art in graz* – gallery days

Guided tours in English

Saturdays 2pm
And by arrangement in English, Slovenian, Croatian, or French
Requests:
T +43 (0)316/8017-9200

Curator
Adam Budak

Text
Monika Holzer-Kernbichler

Translation
Paul Aston

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Andrea Weishaupt

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