

# Universalmuseum Joanneum Press

Universalmuseum Joanneum  
Mariahilferstraße 4, 8020 Graz, Austria  
www.museum-joanneum.at

press@museum-joanneum.at  
Telephone +43-316/8017-9211

## The BRUSEUM

### **BRUSEUM, Joanneum Quarter, 8010 Graz**

Opening hours: Tues-Sun, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Information: +43-316/8017-9351

Founded in 2008, the BRUSEUM is a museum as well as a centre of expertise and documentation, set up specially for the life and work of the Styrian and internationally renowned artist Günter Brus (\*1938 Ardning). The BRUSEUM, which will be opened at the new location of the Neue Galerie Graz in the Joanneum Quarter on November 26, is conceived as an exhibition venue that generates good publicity in the long term. It is dedicated to the preservation of key works of the artist as well as to academic editing of his work. Brus' artistic oeuvre in the Collection as well as his literary estate have been merged with the extensive material on the artist in the Archive of the Neue Galerie, and the large bibliographical holdings, which comprise exhibition catalogues and literary works of Günter Brus. These collections have been made available both locally as well as publicly in digital form through a database for research purposes.

Thus the BRUSEUM sees itself as a scientific institution, its changing exhibitions and events such as symposiums, lectures, film screenings and publications illuminating individual aspects of the oeuvre and interactions with other artistic modes of expression, its research results appreciated beyond Austrian borders.

The foundation for a Brus Museum within the Neue Galerie Graz, a long cherished idea, was laid in 2008 by the acquisition of a complex of works for the Collection, as well as by the purchase in 2010 of the literary estate of the former actionist, painter, illustrator and writer. The acquired visual-arts oeuvre consists of works from all his creative periods, from the early Art Informel via Actionism to the picture-poems, from 1960 to the present day. Moreover, many of the printed graphic works could be acquired. Part of the literary estate, given to the museum, encompasses the lion's share of Günter Brus' work manuscripts, which were created from 1970 onwards. 22 cards with 22,215 hand and 1,917 machine-written or printed pages document his literary creation. The acquisitions were carried out through the initiative over many years of former head curator Peter Weibel and former head of the Neue Galerie Christa Steinle, and financed by the Universalmuseum Joanneum GmbH with a generous special budget by the State of Styria.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the Neue Galerie has continuously collected the works of Günter Brus so as to give to the world-ranking artist, resident in Graz, due recognition locally. Moreover, numerous exhibitions and events prove that the Neue Galerie has put the focus on the creative work of Günter Brus for some time now: in 1996 Peter Weibel curated the exhibition *Lightning-fast Ideas on Preconceived Notions*, and in 2003 the Neue Galerie commissioned the

picture-poem *Venus in Fur* as part of the Capital of Culture project *Phantom of Pleasure*. The large retrospective *Orbiting Works* took place in 2004 in collaboration with the Albertina in Vienna, and in 2006/7 the cycle *Franz Schreker. The Drawn Ones*. In 2008, on his 70th birthday, Günter Brus was honoured with an exhibition, a symposium and a ceremony. The resulting symposium catalogue, published in the German edition by Cologne publishers *Walter König* in 2009, and in the French edition by publishers *Les presses du réel Dijon*, are proof of this scientific event featuring top-class experts. In the 2009 exhibition series, *Confluences and Differences*, picture-poems by Günter Brus were contrasted with printed graphic works by Max Klinger and Alfred Kubin.

In 2009, the BRUSEUM was invited to stage its exhibition *The Great Poetry Machine* in the *kunsthau muerz* in Müzzzuschlag. In 2010 the exhibition *Günter Brus. Crossing the border* took place in Pécs in Hungary as part of the Capital of Culture Year. In addition, on the occasion of this exhibition, the *Janus-Pannonius-Múzeum Pécs* hosted the symposium *Art and Psychoanalysis*. Furthermore, in 2010 the audio book CD *Günter Brus. The Bearer of Secrets*, read by actor Wolfram Berger, was produced together with the Vienna label *col legno* and presented in the Graz Literaturhaus.