

# Universalmuseum Joanneum Press office

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## Günter Brus Biography

- 1938** born in Ardning; lives in Graz
- 1954-1958** School of Arts and Crafts in Graz
- 1958-1960** Academy of Applied Arts, Vienna; dropped out
- 1958-1964** Informal drawings and paintings; meets Viennese Actionists. Meets his future wife Anna in 1961
- 1964** 1st *Ana* Action, Vienna, first ever use of the human body as an artistic medium, shift from Informel Art to “self-painting”
- 1965** *Selbstverstümmelung* (“Self-mutilation”) Actions, Vienna, *Wiener Spaziergang* (“Viennese Walk”)
- 1966** Participation in the *Destruction in Art Symposium*, London; radicalisation of Actionist Art, first production of Actionist scores
- 1968** *Kunst und Revolution* (“Art and Revolution”) Action with Franz Kaltenbäck, Otto Muehl, Peter Weibel and Oswald Wiener at Vienna University, sentenced to 6 months in prison
- 1969** Flees to Berlin
- 1970** Last Action, *Zerreiβprobe* (“Acid test”), in Munich

- 1970-1975** Returns to drawing, publishes the *Organ der österreichischen Exilregierung* ("Organ of the Austrian Government"), the *Schastrommel* ("Fart Drum"), later called the *Drossel* ("Thrush") (till 1977; with Otmar Bauer, Hermann Nitsch, Gerhard Rühm, Oswald Wiener); creation of, among others, *Irrwisch* ("Flibbertigibbet"), *Der Balkon Europas* ("Europe's Balcony"), *Die Zernunft* ("Crushed by Reason"), *Das Namenlos* ("Nameless"); *Selten gehörte Musik* ("Rarely Heard Music") concert held together with Hermann Nitsch, Dieter Roth, Gerhard Rühm, Oswald Wiener in Munich's Lenbachhaus
- 1976** The prison sentence is commuted to a fine after Anna Brus meets Austrian president Rudolf Kirchschläger
- 1976-1985** Picture-text cycles, named *Bild-Dichtungen* ("picture-poems") by Günter Brus, including those on William Blake and Franz Schreker; novel *Die Geheimnisträger* ("The Bearer of Secrets"); stage sets, including *Erinnerungen an die Menschheit* ("Memories of Humanity") (Author: Gerhard Roth, steirischer herbst 1985)
- 1986-2009** Picture-poems and individual sheets, literary works, including *Amor und Amok* ("Amor and Amok") in 1987, *Morgen des Gehirns, Mittag des Mundes, Abend der Sprache* ("Morning of the Brain, Midday of the Mouth, Evening of the Language") in 1993, *Die gute alte Zeit* ("The Good Old Days") in 2002, *Das gute alte Wien* ("Good Old Vienna") in 2007; numerous exhibitions and retrospectives in Europe and the USA.
- 1992** Appreciation Prize from the State of Styria for fine arts
- 1997** Great Austrian State Prize
- 2008** Laying of the corner stone of the BRUSEUM in the Neue Galerie – Universalmuseum Joanneum; *Ein Fest für Brus – Ausstellung BRUS' + BLAKE's JOBs* ("A Celebration for Brus" – exhibition "BRUS' + BLAKE's JOBs"), symposium and celebration of Günter Brus' 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, Neue Galerie Graz
- 2009** Acquisition of the literary estate of Günter Brus for the BRUSEUM
- 2010** BRUSEUM exhibition *Günter Brus – Crossing the border* in the Janus Pannonius Múzeum Pécs to mark the Capital of Culture Year
- 2011** Opening of the BRUSEUM in the Neue Galerie, Graz in the Joanneum Quarter