



MUSA

Museum auf Abruf

Vienna, June 2009

Press Release on behalf of the exhibition opening



COMMON HISTORY AND ITS PRIVATE STORIES

GESCHICHTE UND GESCHICHTEN

26 June – 3 October 2009

Opening: Thursday 25 June, 7 pm

Press-conference and guided tour:

Wednesday 24 June, 10 am

MUSA Museum auf Abruf

MUSA Museum auf Abruf / Museum on Demand

Felderstraße 6-8, 1010 Wien (next to Vienna city hall)

T: +43-(0)1-4000-8400

Barrier-free access & free admission!

www.musa.at

MUSA Museum auf Abruf
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COMMON HISTORY AND ITS PRIVATE STORIES

GESCHICHTE UND GESCHICHTEN

Press conference & guided tour through the exhibition: Wed 24 June 2009, 10 am, MUSA

Exhibition opening: Thu 25 June 2009, 7 pm, MUSA

Duration: 26 June 2009 – 3 October 2009

Opening hours: Tue – Fri, 11 am – 6 pm | Thu, 11 am – 8 pm | Sat, 11 am – 4 pm

Curators: Iara Boubnova, Roland Fink

General Information: www.musa.at

Press releases & images in high resolution quality: www.musa.at/presse.html

COMMON HISTORY AND ITS PRIVATE STORIES

GESCHICHTE UND GESCHICHTEN

The exhibition »**Common History and Its Private Stories. Geschichte und Geschichten**« is an attempt to honour the **twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall** not so much as the main event of recent European history but as an event with massive implications; an event, which triggered a succession of political events with global impacts that are defining our lives in the last 20 years.

The exhibition was **conceived on the basis of the collection of MUSA Museum auf Abruf / Museum on Demand in Vienna**. It pays special attention to the typical for this institution ability to keep close track of the artistic production in Vienna. The defining principles of the museum collection form the basis of the exhibition – it is a composition of personal reactions on the changes; of individual political and social engagement with the process; of witness accounts, reflections, and self-analysis of artists from various generations and background.

Common History – Lack of Distance

Due to the strong increase in dialogue and cooperation in the world of politics, business, art and culture, it has become necessary to readjust and fine-tune our attitude towards everything that is *different*. *National* and *international* aspects have been increasingly intermingled, public entities have been privatised – all these aspects have shaped the recent common history in Europe and beyond.

Common history tends to generalise matters, create myths and stereotypes. It needs a greater distance to finally calm down and be analysed. However, none of us who have witnessed and/or participated in the process have such a distance.

From the Rush of Freedom To A New World Order

Iara Boubnova, curator of »Common History and Its Private Stories. Geschichte und Geschichten« sketches and questions the exhibition's theoretical context:

»We lack objectivity ... but we still remember ... we remember the rush of freedom, the fraternisation with former enemies, the experience of terrorist acts and violence. We are the ones who have both won and lost by the transformation from a society that was permanently confronted with shortcomings to a consumer society. Ours are the pains of the slow realisation – the realisation that freedom is not a habitual drug but a social contract with shared responsibilities. We are the ones who have travelled the way from a bipolar model of the world to a political world order to ... well, to what?«

The exhibition deals with the **common history** all generations have experienced in the past 20 years. Each of these generations have their own traumas and have made their own experiences, observations and conclusions based on the constant daily comparison of »before« and »after« as well as »here« and »there«. The most obvious comparisons can be made between the Europe that was separated by the Iron Curtain and the European Union and its enlarged »family« of candidate countries that are united by common political and economic interests.

Myths, Legends, Desires

The artists who present their works in the exhibition come from different countries and different cultural backgrounds, but they are all witnesses of the change, the transition, and the unification.

Roland Fink, curator of »Common History and Its Private Stories. Geschichte und Geschichten«:

»Due to their experiences with the transition process the artists broach the issue how society deals with romanticised non-remembering and the reflexion on the phenomenon. Childhood memories, (outlived) traditions, desires, maintained legends and myths, and a search for orientation become instruments in the exhibition as well as objects of artistic analysis.«

The exhibition unites different approaches and ways of dealing with these transformation processes.

»Common History and Its Private Stories. Geschichte und Geschichten« presents **works of**:

Hildegard Absalon, Armin Bardel, Sabine Bitter & Helmut Weber, Luchezar Boyadjiev, Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson, Josef Dabernig, Heinrich Dunst, Anita Fricek, Marianne Greber, Matthias Herrmann, Christine Hohenbüchler, Robert Jelinek, Anna Jermolaewa, Ulrike Johannsen, David Jourdan, Dejan Kaludjerovic, Johanna Kandl, Martin Kitzler, Oleg Kulik, Marko Lulic, Ken Lum, Anna Meyer, Michail Michailov, monochrom, Muntean / Rosenblum, Lisl Ponger, Andreas Reiter Raabe, Peter Sandbichler, Kamen Stoyanov, Katharina Struber, Martina Stuffer, Magda Tothova, Borjana Ventzislavova, Gernot Wieland, Alexandra Zaitseva...

A **catalogue** about the exhibition will be published in summer 2009. It will be available at MUSA and selected Viennese book-shops. It can also be ordered via musa@musa.at or via telephone: +43-(0)1-4000-84730.

A Project of the Department for Cultural Affairs of the City of Vienna in cooperation with ICA Sofia and kindly support by Vienna City Library in the City Hall.

IMAGE GALLERY

COMMON HISTORY AND ITS PRIVATE STORIES. GESCHICHTE UND GESCHICHTEN

	<p>Alexandra Zaitseva „Ein handgewebter Zopfroman“, 2005 Keramik 180 x 60 x 60 cm</p>		<p>Gernot Wieland Aus der Serie „Decode Project 1“, 1999, Farbfoto 45 x 30 cm</p>
	<p>Johanna Kandl „Modernize or die“, 2002 Eitempera / Holz 115 x 150 cm</p>		<p>Gernot Wieland Aus der Serie „Decode Project 1“, 1999, Farbfoto 30 x 45 cm</p>
	<p>Dejan Kaludjerovic „Waiting for the man“, 2002 Acryl / Plastiktuch 120 x 240 cm</p>		<p>Borjana Ventzislavova „We shall overswim“, 2008, Videoinstallation</p>
	<p>Muntean / Rosenblum Untitled (In the world we...), 2003 Acryl/Leinwand 230 x 270 cm</p> <p>Courtesy Georg Kargl, Wien</p>		

EVENTS DURING THE EXHIBITION

Thu 25 August 2009, 7 pm

Lecture „Die Welt hinter Wien“

Martin Leidenfrost reads from his bestseller (in German)

Thu 23 July and 17 September 2009, 5 pm

Guided tour through the exhibition with artists

Sat 3 October 2009, 6 pm

“Long night of the museums”

Live at MUSA:

7.30 pm: Azra

11 pm: Wiener Tschuschenkapelle

Guided tour every Thu, 5 pm (appointment requested in July and August 2009)

Further tours and workshops on demand!

Phone: +43 (0)1 4000-84752

Summer holiday game for 10-13-year-olds in August: Tue 4, Thu 6, Tue 11, Thu 13, and Tue 18

August 2009, 2 – 4.30 pm

MUSA Museum auf Abruf

- is an **exhibition venue** for the collection of the Department for Cultural Affairs of the City of Vienna, which exists since the 1950s. The collection consists of more than 20,000 temporary artworks from different categories by more than 3,500 artists from Vienna.
- is an **Artothek** - a changing stock of artworks - where pictures may be taken out on loan for a period not exceeding twelve months. The loan charge is Euro 2.50 per artwork and month and must be paid in advance since this amount also covers an insurance premium.
- is the **Start Gallery of the City of Vienna** – a launching pad of young artists. It enables graduates of art universities and other newcomers to win an audience for their output through personal exhibitions.

MUSA Museum auf Abruf

- offers guided tours every **Thursday, 5pm** and workshops on request (T: +43 – (0)1 – 4000-84752)
- organizes **guided tours** for people with special needs (persons with impaired hearing, wheelchair user, ...)
- offers **gift vouchers** for the MUSA Artothek (€ 10,-)

Barrier-free access and free admission to all exhibitions and accompanying events!

Information on our current exhibitions and events can be found on our webpage

www.musa.at

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Closed on Mondays, Sundays and holidays