

GALERIE SANDRA BÜRCEL

No one needs the needy

Opening on Thursday, December 18, 19h

20h & 21h Filmscreening: Stan Brakhage „Window Water Baby Moving“, 1959, 16 min

22:30h Thomas Schroeren Concert at Smaragd Bar, Wedding

Exhibition December 19 2008 - February 14 2009

Christmas Break December 21 2008 - January 5 2009

Whatever you do in art, it is connected to delimitation. But at the same time, art can also point to something like the 'human condition'. That is a compound of variables, as the finite nature of the I, language, physical environment, ambition for example. It is what Heinrich von Kleist described as the transcendent effort to stand up against and despite all odds, "for the sake of the frail arrangement of the world". We stand up against the frail arrangement, and for the sake of it, since frailness means convertibility.

How can you stand up? How do you thrive under adversity? What are the obstacles?

The group exhibition „No one needs the needy - Niemand bedarf der Bedürftigen“ presents works of artists who strongly think about material limitations and social conditioning while making their work. This does not mean they renounce the claim for a determined self-reliance of art (valid both, for making and in viewing). The strength and closeness of the work manifests itself in a self-established context in which wishes are permitted to express themselves differently, visionary.

Limits are personal. But they are comprehensible to others all the same. One is interested to see how far another person might go. In a general sense, a work of art is always related to individual and collective exertions. This singularity opens the art piece up for empathy, it assures empathy as a non-arbitrary criterion, and builds its commitment thereupon.

„No one needs the needy“ is not necessarily a vociferous political gesturing. It rather tries to start off from basic private concerns: the propulsive act of walking despite worn-down shoes, the comfort of a hot meal, friendship, shelter, money distress, the luck of an agreement. Art as the matter to get you out of bed in the morning. Often it is stories of simplicity that are an origin of producing. And already the very act of making, sporadic or planned long termed, demands justification, given the fact you might equally *not* have done it. If the artist speaks about such concerns, it is possible he touches onto sensitivities - self-pity, mythical overestimation, or vulnerability -, in a time that gets rougher.

“Now for it! Said I. Play no pranks. Conscience, did you say? No rubbish, if you please. You are too poor to support a conscience. You are hungry; you have come on important business—the first thing needful. But you shall hold your head askew, and set your words to a sing- song. You won't! What? Well then, I won't go a step farther. Do you hear that? Indeed, you are in a sorely tempted condition, fighting with the powers of darkness and great voiceless monsters at night, so that it is a horror to think of; you hunger and thirst for wine and milk, and don't get them. It has gone so far with you. Here you stand and haven't as much as a halfpenny to bless yourself with. But you believe in grace, the Lord be praised; you haven't yet lost your faith; and then you must clasp your hands together, and look a very Satan of a fellow for believing in grace. As far as Mammon was concerned, why, you hated Mammon with all its pomp in any form.”

Knut Hamsun, *Hunger*, translated from Norwegian by George Egerton, taken from www.ebooksadelaide.edu.au/ (Chapter II)

Mammon* = is a term that derived from Christian Bible. “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve both God and Mammon” - Mt 6, 24 Lut

List of artists

Stan Brakhage (USA, *1933, † 2003) / Stanley Brouwn (NL, *1935) / Andrea Büttner (D, *1972) / Ulrich Emmert (D, *1976)

Roe Ethridge (USA, *1969) / Ruth Ewan (UK, *1980) / Ellen Gronemeyer (D, *1979) / Svetlana and Igor Kopystiansky (RU, *1950; UKR, *1954) / Kalin Lindena (D, *1977)/ Dieter Roth (D, *1930, † 1998)/ Thomas Schroeren (*1981, D)

Sue Tompkins (UK, *1971) / Victor Vasarely (HU/ F, *1906, † 1997)