

Žilvinas Landzbergas

“For Ever Again”

November 4 – December 11, 2011

Kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga

Currently working in Lithuania, most notably inspired by new Swiss plastic arts, and coined his fame in Netherlands, Landzbergas is not an artist easy to locate within the gridlines of art geography. However, overview of his works shows some stable patterns, in a way providing the genealogy of meaning also for the current exhibition at kim?

Forever again is an exhibition-object in series which was established by exhibition *Forever after* in Leipzig 2010, but it contains some elements from his earlier shows as well. Such continuity and partial similarity of the objects exhibited is rooted in the artist's conceptual agenda and particular form of the creative praxis. None of the objects displayed here are artefacts *per se* – free standing, self-contained pieces of art. An exhibition-object is constituted by interplay of three elements: objects exhibited, composition of exhibition, i.e. relationships between the objects, and the gallery space. The latter is an active variable in Landzbergas' works: every new exhibition by the particularity of space shapes also the choice of objects exhibited and the manner of display. Figuratively speaking, roughly and heavily material, Landzbergas' objects thus still resist the commoditization of art. Acquiring their meaning in particular spaces, they cannot be sold outside the original context; thus, an exhibition-object acquires some properties of much more "fleeting" art forms like performance or non-material objects / relationships.

At the same time, repeatedly exhibited objects together with the purpose-made artefacts for particular exhibitions more or less intuitively draw their meaning from the author's personal mythology, the latter being accumulated during the creative process, as well as imagined, planned and realized exhibitions. However, this dimension of meaning is neither directly accessible, nor mandatory for the visitors of an exhibition-object; it is not located in dominant position regarding other possible interpretations. Such postmodern relativity is also in a way based in the artistic process the final result of which is an exhibition-object. Landzbergas is somewhat very visual artist. On the one hand, each particular exhibition is conceptualized, imagined, visualized countless times before crating objects and displaying them, but for the spectator the exhibition-object is a spatial reality, experienced while walking inside it, choosing and changing the subjective perspective of the gaze. On the other hand, his works often demonstrate some kind of optical illusions, visual eye-catchers, strange details some of which only afterwards might manifest as a disturbing feeling of something-was-not-right-there. Painted half-transparent curtain, doted light box, or real-like cardboard model of some industrially produced thing serve as a stimulus to stop and watch more carefully, to contemplate upon the status of reality seen.

Although sometimes interpreted as such, Landzbergas' works are not intended as a social criticism or nostalgic representations. Instead of articulating some kind of intended message, their grammar resembles narrative knowledge in a way the later has been juxtaposed to modern / scientific knowledge by Lyotard. They are legends and folktales motifs which come from the author's personal mythology. Like storyteller tells the same fairytale each time a little bit differently (but it is still the same tale), Landzbergas varies his exhibition-objects, always leaving them open for diverse interpretations and further permutations. Their meaning is a fleeting experience of ephemeral time, determined by memories and expectations, particular spaces and subjects; and the understanding of linear time is an ultimate backdrop of our culture, questioned in *Forever After* series.

- Toms Kęncis. Insights based on personal conversation with Žilvinas Landzbergas in Vilnius, 12.10.11.

Žilvinas Landzbergas (1979) currently lives and works in Vilnius. In 2004 he graduated from the Department of Sculpture at Vilnius Academy of Art. Together with Lithuanian artists Mindaugas Lukošaitis and Rokas Petruškevičius, Landzbergas has taken part in artists' group Blizge. From 2005 to 2007 he spent two years working in the artists' residency De Ateliers, Amsterdam. In 2008 Landzbergas was awarded the prize of the modern and contemporary art publisher Thieme Art, the Netherlands. Since 2003, Landzbergas has participated in various international exhibitions. His works have been exhibited in "Modern Art Oxford" gallery (2005) and represented in the "Frieze Art Fair" (2009), UK.