



To the press

Dani Gal

«Do you suppose he didn't know what he was doing, or knew what he was doing and didn't want anyone to know?»

9 November 2013 – 19 January 2014

Press preview: Friday, 8 November 2013, from 11 a.m. on

Opening: Friday, 8 November 2013, 6 p.m.

The starting point of the films and sound installations by Dani Gal (*1975, Jerusalem, IL) are mostly existing historical documentaries which the artist examines and subtly manipulates or artistically reconstructs on the basis of his research. In addition to conventional text and image analysis he uses language and sound to exemplify his central themes of history, the writing of history and the associated mechanisms of selection and exclusion which define how certain events are perceived. He is concerned with putting formed opinions on historical events into perspective or giving them new impulses.

In his exhibition Dani Gal presents the short film *Wie aus der Ferne* (As from Afar), co-produced by Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, which is based on a text by Ludwig Wittgenstein about memory images. To what extent are images of a memory different from images that come with expectation from images of a daydream? With this question as a central theme he examines the friendship between Simon Wiesenthal and Albert Speer. The former was a Holocaust survivor who dedicated his life to the search for Nazi criminals, the latter was Hitler's architect and confidant who showed regret after being sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and was prepared to take responsibility for Nazi crimes.

Gal's documentary approach and his poetic narration highlight the gap between reality and representation and between memory and invention by revealing history as an open process of subjective interpretations. The 30-minute film is a quiet reworking of a sub-plot of the postwar period. In the style of a historical reconstruction Gal plays out a possible meeting between Wiesenthal and Speer. The fact that they met several times in Vienna in the 1970s is documented by their correspondence.

The architectural model which plays a main role in the film is presented and staged in the exhibition to illustrate the tension between fictional reconstruction and reality. Additionally on show are frottages, a double projection and an audio installation by the artist concerned with similar themes. The exhibition offers visitors a generous insight into Dani Gal's working method. Visitors are exposed to the question of to what extent contemporary art concerns itself with historical legacy and political issues and what idea of history or temporality can arise from it.

Biographical information:

Dani Gal (*1975, Jerusalem, IL) studied at Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste Städelschule in Frankfurt/Main (2000–2005) and at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City (2005). Today he lives in Berlin. Solo exhibitions took place at the following institutions and galleries: Jewish Museum, New York; Kunstraum Innsbruck, AT (2014); Turku Art Museum, FIN (2013); Freymond-Guth Fine Arts, Zürich; Galerie Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf (2012); MAK, Wien (2011). Further, he participated in various group exhibitions (amongst others): Performa 13, New York (2013); New Museum, New York; Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco; Kunsthaus Baselland, CH; MACRO Museum, Rom, IT (2012); 12. Istanbul Biennale, TR; 54. Biennale di Venezia, IT; (2011).

Events and educational program:**Guided tours**

Tuesday, 12 November 2013, 6.30 p.m.

Sunday, 12 January 2014, 3 p.m.

Workshop for families

Sunday, 17 November 2013, 2 – 3.30 p.m.

Admission: CHF 18 (adults)/CHF 9 (children and young people from 6 to 16 years-old)/ free entrance for children under 6 years-old; registration until 13 November at: gavranic@k9000.ch

Art Lunch

Thursday, 28 November 2013, 12 noon

Guided tour followed by lunch

Guest cooks: Ottokar Vydra and Margrit Bötschi with the Solidaritätshaus St.Gallen

Admission: CHF 25/members CHF 22; registration at info@k9000.ch

Artist Talk

Sunday, 19 January 2014, 3 p.m.

Giovanni Carmine, director Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, in conversation with Dani Gal. In cooperation with Omanut, Society for the promotion of Jewish art in Switzerland

Workshops for school classes

From 11 November we are offering workshops at the exhibition free of charge.

More information: www.k9000.ch (Art Education/Workshops for Schools).

High-resolution images can be found in the press kit on our website (Information/Press). For further questions please contact Giovanni Carmine (carmine@k9000.ch) or Maren Brauner (brauner@k9000.ch).

The Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen is supported by St. Gallen City Council, Kulturförderung Kanton St.Gallen, Swisslos, Migros-Kulturprozent, Kulturförderung Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Martel AG, St. Galler Tagblatt. The educational program is made possible by Raiffeisen.

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Opening times:
Tuesday to Friday 12 noon–6 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m.