



To the press

Stephen Prina
galesburg, illinois+
26 September - 29 November 2015

Press preview: Friday, 25 September 2015, 11 a.m.
Opening: Friday, 25 September 2015, 6 p.m.

Stephen Prina (*1954 in Galesburg, Illinois, USA) integrates a wide spectrum of visual media in his art: from painting, installations and videos to performances. The focal point is the translation and recontextualisation of already existing cultural artefacts. In the process he does not distinguish between his own work and appropriated material and makes revival part of his productive artistic process.

«...an artwork can not be reduced to the ideas that generate it.»
«I ain't n-n-no conceptual artist.» Stephen Prina

Prina's artistic practice can certainly be described as conceptual. However, in contrast to the language-orientated works of conceptual artists of the 1960s and 70s, Prina questions the exhibition and classification conventions of art by museums, the market and art history in installations such as *Exquisite Corpse: The Complete Paintings of Manet* (1988-present) and *Monochrome Painting* (1988-1989). The artist develops his works, which often have a site-specific reference, from project to project. An institution, the history of its collection or previously published catalogues can serve as his starting position. The exhibition venue thus becomes the starting point for his works which on the one hand examine the institutional, social and structural framework of art in the tradition of *Institutional Critique*, and on the other go through a multitude of new, expansive narrations.

Prina's work offers a network of cultural references as well as being self-referential. This is extended by his interest in music, which ranges from Schönberg to Sonic Youth, John Cage, Joni Mitchell and Glenn Gould. His own music releases and his work in the musician and artist collective *Red Krayola*, among others with Albert Oehlen, Jim O'Rourke and David Grubbs, has made him known to an interested audience beyond his work as a visual artist.

At Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen newly created works and appropriated material such as collectible ceramics, souvenirs and art reproductions conglomerate into a kaleidoscopic view of Prina's place of birth Galesburg, a small, peripheral American town which can by all means be compared with St. Gallen. The provincial town of Galesburg serves as a projection surface for personal memories and at the same time embeds Prina's biography in a wider historical and cultural context. Memories which circulate in the world as objects come together and are newly configured in the exhibition space and beyond in the public space of St. Gallen. Galesburg's past attains a spatial equivalent. There is a hint of sentimentality which simultaneously confronts the meticulous form of museum presentation as well as the humour that is innate in Prina's work. Stephen Prina thus interweaves his own biography with the historicising methods of museum exhibition conventions and opens up a story between general and subjective narration.

*The exhibition will be shown at Museum Kurhaus Kleve in January 2016.
A publication is being planned.*

Stephen Prina (*1954 in Galesburg, Illinois, USA) lives and works in Los Angeles and Cambridge (Massachusetts, USA), where he teaches as professor for Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard. Solo exhibitions (selection): Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne (2014); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Petzel Gallery, New York (2013); Wiener Secession; Kölnischer Kunstverein (2011); Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2010); Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo, Sevilla; Bergen Kunsthall; Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (2008). Group exhibitions (selection): Centre Pompidou, Paris (2014); The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2013); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012); Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2012); Documenta IX, Kassel (1992); Venice Biennale (1990). Prina's works are part of various public collections, amongst them: Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Contemporary Art; Museum Boijmans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

Events and Educational Program:

Opening

Friday, 25 September 2015, 6 p.m.

Art Snack – Short guided tour and a snack

Thursday, 8 October 2015, 12.30 p.m.

Admission: CHF 10/members CHF 7; no registration required

Public Guided Tour I/Introductory event for teachers

Tuesday, 20 October 2015, 6 p.m.

Drawing Afternoon – For children from 4 to 8 years-old

Wednesday, 21 October 2015, 2 – 3.30 p.m.

Admission: CHF 5; registration until the previous day at: info@k9000.ch

Art for young and old – Inventing stories together

Sunday, 1 November 2015, 2 – 3.30 p.m.

Admission: Regular admission for adults/CHF 5 for children from 5 years-old; registration until 28 October: beck-woerner@k9000.ch

Art Lunch – Guided tour followed by lunch

Thursday, 12 November 2015, 12 noon

Guest cooks: Barbara Affolter, Kristin Schmidt and Stefan Späti, Culture Department, St. Gallen

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

Public Guided Tour II

Sunday, 29 November 2015, 3 p.m.

Workshops for School Classes

From 10 October on we are offering workshops at the exhibition.

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, Martel AG, St. Galler Tagblatt. The educational programme is made possible by Raiffeisen and Kulturförderung Appenzell Ausserrhoden.

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Opening times:
Tues to Fri 12 noon–6 p.m.
Sat & Sun 11 a.m.–5 p.m.