

Ballgasse 6

Steffi Alte, Alighiero e Boetti, Georg Petermichl, Heimo Zobernig

curated by Peter Pakesch

with Ballgasseland, a video by Hans Küng, Dorit Margreiter, Mathias Poledna and Florian Pumhösl

11 April 2024 —

22 June 2024

Galerie WONNERTH DEJACO is pleased to present a special project, which revisits the history of its location at Ballgasse 6 in a unique way. Less than four years after its opening, the gallery is expanding the exhibition activity to the loft building in the courtyard of this address, where the renowned gallery Schapira & Beck was located and, above all, the legendary Galerie Peter Pakesch.

WONNERTH DEJACO have invited Peter Pakesch to curate the exhibition for this pop-up project. Pakesch decided to present the artistic positions of Steffi Alte, Alighiero e Boetti, Georg Petermichl, Heimo Zobernig and a video by Hans Küng, Dorit Margreiter, Mathias Poledna and Florian Pumhösl. This combination sets an atmosphere of a particular contemporary art practice that, interlinking three generations, has always been aiming at tying the local to the international art discourse.

Ballgasse, and specifically number 6, has a historically relevant and impressive history, dating back to the ball courts of the 17th century. Its fame in the contemporary art world dates back to Peter Pakesch's gallery, which helped numerous artists start their international careers in the years from 1981 to 1993. The show combines positions that build a bridge between then and now: Georg Petermichl from the gallery program of WONNERTH DEJACO and Heimo Zobernig from the gallery program of Peter Pakesch: Zobernig's work literally bridges (architectural) changes between the 1980s and the 2020s. He uses materials like cardboard and paper to signify the spacial alterations that other leaseholders left in the meantime and presents a large black screen that, in its specific placement, refers back to one of the early shows at Galerie Peter Pakesch. Petermichl's video and photograph are, both, from the beginning of his artistic career. They each offer different socio-psychological aspects to the changes between the 1980s and the current art practice. Steffi Alte is contributing a room-sized sculpture that she made during her studies at the Academy of fine arts for fellow students to show in. Between 2009 and 2010 the "demoraum k" served as an exhibition space and is now conceivable in its sculptural expression. A work by Alighiero e Boetti is reminiscent of a show that Peter Pakesch always wanted to realize but never got the proper means to do so. The video piece by Hans Küng, Dorit Margreiter, Mathias Poledna and Florian Pumhösl investigates about the "loft" as the

predominant idea of an art space like Galerie Peter Pakesch back in the 1980s and 1990s.

About Peter Pakesch

Peter Pakesch (born in 1955) worked as a curator for Forum Stadtpark and the Steirischer Herbst festival until the late 1970s. This was followed by a study visit to New York and the founding of Galerie Peter Pakesch at Ballgasse 6 and Ungargasse 27 in 1981, until 1993. In 1985, Peter Pakesch founded the Grazer Kunstverein together with Helmut Strobl and shortly afterwards the magazine Fama & Fortune Bulletin together with Johannes Schlebrügge. After numerous exhibitions at the Grazer Kunstverein and the National Gallery in Prague, he took over the job of director of Kunsthalle Basel in 1996 where he stayed until 2003. From 2003 to 2015, he was director of the Universal- museum Joanneum and founding director of the Kunsthaus Graz. Peter Pakesch has been Chairman of the Board of the Maria Lassnig Foundation since 2015. Since then, he has worked on exhibitions and projects with artists such as Maria Lassnig, Oswald Wiener, Michel Majerus, Andy Warhol, Christopher Wool, Joseph Kosuth, Pedro Cabrita Reis, Ute Müller, Karel Malich, Christoph Meier, Căcilia Brown, Liesl Raff, and the art of the 1980s. Established in 2020 by Victoria Dejaco and Michael Wonnerth-Magnusson, WONNERTH DEJACO exhibits and represents local and international artists. Strongly connected with Austria's contemporary art scene, we present and promote artists through our cross-disciplinary exhibition program. With a focus on emerging artists, we envision the gallery as a site of personal encounter and intellectual exchange where lively discourse is actively created and nurtured. Therefore, we encourage the artists who work with us to produce exhibitions that are challenging, innovative, and conceptually rigorous.