

CORNELIA SCHMIDT-BLEEK PLOTTING REVOLUTION UNDER AN APPLE TREE

Opening Friday, September 8, 2006, 6 pm - 9pm

Exhibition September 9 – October 21, 2006

Opening hours Tue - Sat 11am - 6pm

Cornelia Schmidt-Bleek's work regularly draws on elements of botany to describe social and political conditions. In her current exhibition PLOTTING REVOLUTION UNDER AN APPLE TREE, the artist takes the apple as a point of departure to weave together various stories marked by the pioneering spirit and moments of knowledge.

One of these is the falling apple that inspired Isaac Newton to develop his theory of gravitation, thus becoming the symbol of a revolutionary physics. In the form of a filigree and translucent curtain made of threaded apple seeds, Cornelia Schmidt-Bleek copied the circumference of the tree under which Newton is meant to have sat in 1666 when the apple fell. On the one hand, the artist thereby describes a space of discovery and inspiration, on the other hand, the seeds recall genetic codes and the surfaces of microchips, at the heart of every computer.

It probably wasn't a seed that led the inventors of Apple Computer to choose a picture of Newton sitting under a tree for their first logo. Rather, the revolutionary aspect this scene contains should stand symbolically for the revolution of Apple Computer. However, because of bad reproducibility, this logo was quickly discarded and replaced by the silhouette of an apple with a bite taken out of it.

Cornelia Schmidt-Bleek transforms the original logo, enlarged, into a work of intarsia, thus playing with the apparent contradictoriness that not only affected the inventors of apple, but also the whole hippie movement of the late 60s in the USA: back-to-nature on the one hand and accelerating technological developments on the other.

One thing to come out of this counter-culture lifestyle was the mail-order catalogue 'Whole Earth Catalog – access to tools', which Cornelia Schmidt-Bleek uses in another work. The Whole Earth Catalog offered the possibility of becoming independently informed about the most diverse themes, it summarised the philosophical ideas of the time, but also gave practical tips, and was described by one of the inventors of Apple Computer as a precursor of Internet search engines.

The apple as link for a branching network extending across art history, science, life culture and legends, but also an image for alternative and new ways of life.