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Trix & Robert Haussmann ***Manierismo Critico***

Exhibition : 2.5 – 31.7. 2013

Opening : Wednesday May 1st 2013

For the re-opening of our newly renovated space, we are happy to present an exhibition of 3 landmark works by Trix & Robert Haussmann, as well as 4 new productions (edited by Hard Hat and Studiolo).

Founded in 1967, the Haussmann's architectural studio "Allgemeine Entwurfsanstalt" is the preeminent representative of « post-modern » architecture and design in Switzerland.

This term, more than just defining a style and period, is meant as a method for questioning Modernist dogma and a reflection on the fundamentals of architecture and design. We are therefore proud that the exhibition at Hard Hat by Trix & Robert Haussmann is entitled *Manierismo Critico*, as this was the title of an exhibition at Studio Marconi in 1981 marking the culmination of their first 20 years of work and became the term used to define their theoretical reflections.

16th century Mannerist design and architecture focused on the disturbance of norms, and positioned itself against the rigidity of Classicism. It was a style that had not really been explored by architects in the past decades, and Trix & Robert Haussmann found that it could serve as a starting point for questioning the established ideas of Modernism.

This "critical mannerism" notably manifested itself in their *Lehrstücke* series, a series of models started in 1977 that playfully explore various design questions, such as the "disturbance of form through function". The *Lehrstücke* serve as intellectual and didactical models, and function as objects of design at the same time.

This importance placed on theoretical content and playfulness can be found in many of the furniture pieces designed by Trix & Robert Haussmann, produced and distributed by well-known design labels such as Teo Jakob or Röthlisberger. Each object they produce is therefore as much a complex vector of meaning as well a design element of rare ergonomic elegance and great technical refinement.

Trix and Robert Haussmann have also worked on architectural and interior design projects for hotels, bars or boutiques. Their most well known and most visible architectural work in Switzerland is the interior of the Zürich main station. Their architectural interventions focus largely on the modification of our perception of space. The space is enhanced, enlarged or modified by means of mirrors and the use of trompe l'oeil and anamorphosis.

The exhibition at Hard Hat explores different aspects of the architects' work: Illusionism, the recourse to traditional techniques (such as intarsia), variations on the same theme and quasi Dadaist literary experimentations.

The 4 new editions are available for sale as of the 1st of May 2013.

Organized in collaboration with Studiolo, Zürich
www.studiolo.ch/