



30 Jahre Kunst

Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys
22 April – 25 June 2017

From 22 April until 25 June 2017, Kunstverein München presents 30 Jahre Kunst – the largest exhibition ever assembled by the artist duo Jos de Gruyter and Harald Thys. The exhibition will span the entire first floor of the Kunstverein, with 300 works in all media installed throughout three interconnected exhibition rooms, as well as the Kunstverein's cinema.

After 30 years of collaboration, de Gruyter & Thys continue to spawn a legion of videos, drawings, sculptures, installations, performances, and photographs. These materials offer the artists vehicles, which they populate with humans and their stand-ins – stupefied family members, hysterical puppets, anthropomorphized objects. Some of these characters are friends, or intermediaries that serve in their place. Others are the derelict occupants of a 'parallel world' that goes unrecognized by most, despite its being inexorably entangled with the world most of us identify.

Sometimes their work is perplexing, but the hushed laughter it elicits is tuned to a rather dark station. After all, or overall, the artists wallow in the most depressing of cultural trenches, in the most vile historical quagmires and, when they emerge – indelibly soiled in the moribund and strange aspects of humanity, its absurd technological prosthetics, its endless neuroses and traumas – they wring it out and give it a frozen form, a more appropriately awkward posture.

A new 'Verkaufskatalog' publication – the eighth publication in the Kunstverein's Companion series (co-published with Roma Publications) – will be available at the opening on Friday 21 April. The artists will join the curators for the 'Begrüßungsrede' in the Foyer, after which the Kunstverein will open this unconventional survey to the public.

30 Jahre Kunst is part of the festival KINO DER KUNST, which highlights the relationship between visual art and cinema. As part of this biennial festival, the artists will also give a special artist talk at Museum Brandhorst on April 22 at 6:30 pm, moderated by Kunstverein München director Chris Fitzpatrick.

A fictionalized reconstruction of the life and work of two 'artists' by an equally fictional curator, 30 Jahre Kunst will provide the most exhaustive retrospective view into de Gruyter & Thys' incredibly prolific 30-year-long collaboration – colliding new commissions, reconstructions, residues of films never shown, parts and protagonists from old exhibitions, and ideas and thoughts by the artists not (yet) realized.

Kunstverein München is funded by



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