

**Pavel Büchler** - «Now and Again»

13.6. - 11.7.2015

Opening: Fri 12.6.2015, 6pm

We are delighted to be holding the first solo exhibition in Zurich by the artist Pavel Büchler entitled "Now and Again". Büchler was born in Prague in 1952, lives in England since the 1980s and teaches in Manchester since 1997. He currently ranks among the internationally renowned concept artists.

Pavel Büchler's biographical East-West coordinates are repeatedly and subtly expressed in his artistic work - through his sceptical approach to language and communication, which he enriches with irony and humour, through his precise references to ideological and philosophical systems, and through his preference for literary texts that give expression to the absurdity of the everyday. Striking are the outdated technical media he frequently uses, such as loudspeakers, projectors and typographical techniques, and the traditional artistic media, like the watercolour and ink drawing. Often these evoke nostalgic feelings that strongly contrast, however, with the contents being transported.

Featuring his 2-channel sound piece, *Dialogo sopra I due massimi sistemi del mondo* of 2013, as well as a new series of "Modern Paintings", this exhibition presents current works from two important work groups by Pavel Büchler. For the text-based *Dialogo*, the artist has transcribed a fragment from Galileo Galilei's *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* of 1632 in Morse code. The sound track to this passage is provided by fog horns from Cape Arago, USA, and from Vancouver. In the text section chosen by Pavel Büchler the protagonists tellingly speak about their doubts and their fears of loss of orientation in view of the radical issues in question. A slight dizziness is in fact appropriate, although today it is caused not so much by the existential oppositions between the Copernican and Ptolemaic world views being debated at the time, as by the media transformations which Pavel Büchler puts the text through. Representational systems are also being argued about here, both communicative and epistemological.

In his long-term project "Modern Paintings", Pavel Büchler recycles found canvases. In the process of its transformation, the paint is detached off the canvas, the canvas is washed and the patches of paint are re-applied to the canvas reversed back to front in a free patchwork. It may well be a matter of historical chance that simultaneously with the emergence of Concept Art in the 1970s, the idea of recycling also appeared on the political agenda. One way or the other, this is an interesting thought given that both movements are concerned with the economy of the means, with reutilizing processed resources and finding a use for them in a new form. This also involves a certain degree of self-referentiality. The inherent potential of existing materials and objects is sounded out, as is, in the case of art, the inherent potential of ideas. In Büchler's "Modern Paintings" the concepts of authorship, style and composition are up for discussion as these works involve separating the painted canvases from their frames or subjecting them to other procedures so as to then integrate them into a puzzle.

*Elisabeth Gerber*

**Current and upcoming shows**

2015 Ikon Gallery Birmingham (Solo, cat.); Time Out: On Lazing about and Doing Nothing, Sprengel Museum, Hannover; Problem of God, K21/Ständehaus, Düsseldorf.

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**Awards**

The Northern Art Prize, 2010

Paul Hamlyn Foundation Awards for Artists, 2012

**Public Collections**

Tate Gallery, London, UK; Concertgebouw Brugge ; Fundació la Caixa, Barcelona; Bury Museum and Art Gallery, Bury, UK; The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK; NorrlandsOperan, Umeå, S; Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, Antwerp, BE; National Gallery, Prague, CZ; Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, UK; Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, ES; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, UK; Neues Museum Westerbürg, Bremen, D; Kunstmuseum Bern, CH; National Museum of Photography, Jindřichuv Hradec, CZ; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tampere, F; Moravian Gallery, Brno, CZ; Albertina, Vienna, AT; The Arts Council of England, London, UK; Museum of Art, Olomouc, CZ; Franklin Furnace Archive, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; Museum of Applied Arts, Prague, CZ; Czech Museum of Fine Art, Prague, CZ