

Pavel Büchler - "A quiet place out in the city"

28 February - 12 April 2025

Opening: 27 February 2025, 5-7pm (the artist will be present)

Pavel Büchler (*1952, UK/CZ) belongs to the first generation of Eastern European conceptual artists who developed their positions - as he himself says - through a creative misunderstanding of Western concept art. His works often refer to the canon of western culture, literature and history. The exhibition "A quiet place out in the city" shows four works that belong to this context.

With "Score", Büchler comments on John Cage's composition 4'33" from 1952. The defined time is made tangible by counting every single second when looking at the work, a duration that is almost but not quite perceived as silence by the recipient since it is accompanied by different sounds and thoughts. In another work on paper, Büchler refers to a well-known publication: in "A l'Interieur de la Vue" (1948), Max Ernst illustrated poems by Paul Eluard. One of these is the "Troisième Poème visible" - which remains hidden from us, but opens up a wealth of associations and can perhaps also be read as an homage to surrealism.

For the exhibition "A quiet place outside the city", Pavel Büchler has developed a site-specific work and gilded one of the small sections of the window frame with pure gold. With this minimal gesture, Büchler makes us let our gaze wander outwards through the golden frame, like a 'close-up' and explore the surroundings expectantly. This artistic gesture conjures up a number of associations not least with the American conceptual artist James Lee Byars who was often in Bern in the 1970s and 1980s - and who would perhaps even describe this situation here as "a perfect place". Perfect, also for the floor work "Ovid", which refers to Ovid's description of Pygmalion's sculpture. In place of the standing, lovely female figure made of ivory, there are two old footballs lying one inside the other, in the center of which a glowing yellow billiard ball appears.

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Recent shows (selection)

2024 *Signs of Life*, Gallery of Fine Arts, Cheb
7th Lyon Biennale: Crossing the Water, curated by Alexia Fabre, Grandes Locos, Lyon
L'image revenante, Musée Rath, Geneva
2023 *Signs of Life*, Moravian Gallery, Brno
2022 *Level*, Base, Florence
Late Harvest, Jiří Švestka Gallery, Prague
2019 *Il Ritmo dello Spazio*, Museo della Grafica, Pisa.
IMAGE (of) SILENCE, National Gallery Prague.
2018 *Sanguine: Luc Tuymans on Baroque*, curated by Luc Tuymans, Fondazione Prada, Milan.
2016 *Confusion of Tongues: Art and the Limits of Language*, Courtauld Institute of Art, London.
Quand Fondra la neige, où ira le blanc, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice.
Generosity: On the Art of Giving, The National Gallery, Prague.
Nothing Happens, Twice, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston.
2015 *Last Year at Marienbad: A film as Art*, Kunsthalle Bremen and Rudolfinum, Prague.

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

Awards

The Northern Art Prize, 2010
Paul Hamlyn Foundation Awards for Artists, 2012

Public Collections

Tate Gallery, London, UK; Sprengel Museum, Hannover, D; Concertgebouw Brugge, BE; 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; Museum of Applied Arts, Prague, CZ; Czech Museum of Fine Art, Prague, CZ