

PRESS RELEASE

GODsDOGS Installation & Performance: "Vortex – Sternstunden der Menschheit"

Vernissage: 30th April 6 pm - 9 pm (Performance at 7.30 pm)

Installation: 30th April – 4th May 2014

Other Performance: 2nd May at 7.30 pm

Place: St. Johannes-Evangelist-Kirche (Auguststraße 90), 10117 Berlin

Mixed Media Mystic: GODsDOGS exhibit a spectacular whirlwind installation in a church during the Berlin Gallery Weekend.

During Gallery Weekend the artist couple GODsDOGS will exhibit a lavish installation at a church in the Berlin Auguststraße for the "I AMsterdam YOU BERlin" exhibition. An impressive "Vortex" sculpture, which will also function as the heart of GODsDOGS' performance, rises six meters in front of the church altar. Smashed furniture, found objects, books and frames create a swirling, rising spiral structure. Cubist crumbling cardboards, lively organic forms and miniatures of damaged architectural fragments build other streams of the grand whirlwind structure.

New levels of meaning are revealed through this realignment, as well as the embellishment using paint and drawing on the morphed forms: personal histories torn from the context and reminiscences of past decisions create an insight into of the abyss, show the beauty of awfulness, pose the old philosophical questions of free will, power and helplessness, or if mankind is deterministically doomed to be swept away by the current of external influences.

The performance also shows narrative elements nourished by contradictions. The artists push personal boundaries, display absurd characters through a collage of fragmented speech and movement with references to mythology, film and literature.

About the artists:

The artists Britta and Ron Helbig, who were part of the internationally recognized group "Artists Anonymous" for four years returned as GODsDOGS and are now represented by [janinebeangallery](http://janinebeangallery.com).

Through the clash of cardboard and colour, wit and voodoo, neobaroque filigree and competent construction, the couple creates a beauty of contradictions that seduces and repulses at the same time.

GODsDOGS works is not subordinate to any genre. Their vituous use of the different media like installation, painting, performance, choreography and photography resembles the interplay of the different instruments in an orchestra, to form a fulminant all senses experience with which GODsDOGS lure the spectators in their world. Mostly this world sprawls a whole environment and consists of installations, images, shrines, furniture, heirlooms, lights and sounds: GODsDOGS create an opera omnia in the form of an imaginative architecture with biographical elements in which the spectator can recognize himself.

During their career in dance and physical theatre also inspired by the principle of chance by Cage and Cunningham, the couple assigns a choreographic approach to the visual arts by involving others in the process of creating the objects. So the architectural installation also reflects a corporeal dynamic like in dance.

About “I AMsterdam YOU BERlin”:

The exhibition “I AMsterdam YOU BERlin” brings together works of artists from Amsterdam and Berlin in the large space of the church for the second time.

Participating galleries from Amsterdam are Gallery Bart, Gallery Fontana, Gallery Brandt, Gallery A d K Actuele Kunst and Gallery Wit.

Berlin will be represented in the church by the galleries Jarmuschek + Partner, janinebeangallery, lorch+seidel contemporary, Petra Rietz Salon and Wichtendahl Gallery.

This year’s motto will be the involvement and examination of the exhibition space, the Johannes Evangelist Church. The new exhibition concept with wide-spread presentation walls will create the impression of a common overview-like show. As a special finish, the artist duo GODsDOGs will show a walk-in installation in the choir of the church. The open spatial concept allows to experience the artworks interacting with the location.

Opening hours:

Thursday + Saturday: 11 – 8 pm

Friday: 11 am – 8 pm

Saturday: 12 am – 7 pm

Website: www.iamsterdamyouberlin.com

facebook: I AMsterdam you BERlin

Literary and cinematic references to GODsDOGs’ installation and performance

The subtitle “Sternstunden der Menschheit (Decisive Moments in History),” is inspired by the antique edition of Stefan Zweig book, initially integrated with the installation because of his aesthetics. In the book the author deals with epochal decisions, “an immense richness of events (...) comprised in a single moment, which determines and decides everything” (Stefan Zweig) and thus fitting thematically with the philosophical issues about freedom of choice/interdeterminism.

Edgar Allan Poe’s short story “A Descent Into the Maelström” describes a powerful destructive Vortex. A man’s encounter with the vortex’s terrible beauty changes him irrevocably. Furthermore, it deals with the question, what a person holds on to in life and how a man can survive in this destructive suction, which is seen by GODsDOGs in a symbolic way.

In the Russian cult movies (“NightWatch / Nochnoi Dozor”, “Daywatch”) a magical vortex plays a central role and involves the far-reaching power of decision.

The comparison with the “Space-Time-Vortex” in the cult series “Dr. Who” can be seen with a humorous twinkle in the eye, but points also to the theme of “doors to other worlds,” which is immanent in the work of GODsDOGS.

There are also comparisons with the tornado in the musical “The Wizard of Oz”: in the storm fears, hopes and desires are swirling in a personalized and fantastical way around the protagonist, taking her to another world where she must find out what she really wants and has to make a decision.