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JONATHAN MEESE

DE PAKT MIT RICHARD WAGNERZ

(*Gestattns': Die Hügelfjanerz heben' ab...*)

Opening: Thursday, June 1, 2017, 7 p.m.

Exhibition duration: June 2 – July 8, 2017

The central theme of this exhibition is Jonathan Meese's diverse, in-depth work with the Parsifal myth. Since 1999, the artist has on numerous occasions addressed the central subject of Bayreuth and its creator Richard Wagner. In 2005, Parsifal, the figure of the "pure fool" appeared for the first time in his oeuvre. The Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden had invited the artist to come up with a performance for the Magazin, which took place parallel to the "Parsifal" Wagner opera conducted by Daniel Barenboim. In three five-hour appearances, in a production titled *Jonathan Meese ist Mutter Parzival*, Parsifal became transformed into Jonathan Meese and Jonathan Meese into Parsifal – with the boundaries between the artist and the Parsifal figure becoming metaphorically blurred.

For the artist Meese, Parsifal stands for the artist of the future, who with his unmistakably clear gaze paves the way to a new world. In 2014, Meese first transformed this material in his concept for a staging of "Parsifal" for Bayreuther Festspiele. He had already been asked in 2012 to take on the dramaturgy, stage set design and costumes. The artist's concept for the Festspiele was rejected but he took this as an occasion to develop a radically new reinterpretation of the Parsifal material for the Vienna Festival (Wiener Festwochen) in cooperation with the Berliner Festspiele. Together with the Austrian composer Bernhard Lang, Meese transformed Parsifal into a science fiction scenario, stripped free of Richard Wagner's religious pathos, in their production *MONDPARSIFAL ALPHA 1-8 (ERZMUTTERZ DER ABWEHRZ)*.

In *DE PAKT MIT RICHARD WAGNERZ* Jonathan Meese is presenting early works referring to Wagner as well as his stage set and costume designs for the Bayreuther Festspiele. The show will also feature paintings, collages, sculptures and films that were created in connection with the new staging, *MONDPARSIFAL*. Parallel to this Jonathan Meese will be presenting the intervention titled *PARSIFAL'S TRAUM: CHEFSACHE 'K.U.N.S.T.'* in the painting gallery of the Vienna Museum of Art History from May 12 to June 18, 2017.

Since the very beginning Jonathan Meese feels most strongly drawn to forms of artistic expression such as installations, actions and performances. In 2004 he began turning to the theater stage where he employed various materials, references, objects and media such as photography, music and literature as pictorial means.

Like hardly any other art of the present day, Jonathan Meese has worked intensively with the figure of Wagner and his world of myths, integrating his heroes in his own world theater. While many of this artist colleagues would prefer not to deal with this figure, also given Richard Wagner's anti-Semitic diatribes and the cooptation of his work by the Nazi regime, Meese's approach seems all the more peculiar, radical and above all uninhibited.

Jonathan Meese was born in Tokyo in 1970, lives and works in Berlin und Ahrensburg.

Solo exhibitions (selected): *PARSIFAL'S TRAUM: CHEFSACHE 'K.U.N.S.T.'*, Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Austria (2017); *Dr. Merlin de Large (Marquis Zed de Baby-Excalibur)*, Carré Sainte-Anne, Montpellier, France (2017); Jonathan Meese: *My Über Daddys* Nationalgalerie Prague, Czech Republic (2015); *MALERMEESE. MEESERMALER*, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria (2013); *Totalste Graphik*, Akademie der Bildenden Künste Wien, Austria (2012); *TOTALZELBSTPORTRAIT*, GEM Museum voor actuele kunst, the Hague, the Netherlands, „Sculpture“, Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA (2010); *FRÄULEIN ATLANTIS*, Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg, Austria (2007); *Mama Johnny*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany (2006); *Sherwood Forest*, Franz Hals Museum, Haarlem, Netherlands (2006); *MOR*, mit Tal R, Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, Denmark (2005); *Képi blanc, nackt*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2004).

Performances and lectures (selected): *L.O.V.E. MONSTERS DO NOT VOTE! (HUMPTY DUMPTY'S LAW OF NATURE)*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland (2016);

"You", Living in the Erzbox: *L.O.V.E. de LARGE (VISIONTELEFON)*, Nationalgalerie Prag (2015); *„Reden aus dem Maschinenraum der Kunst #6. BAYREUTH: EIN MISSVERSTÄNDNIS?“*. Gespräch mit Harald Falckenberg, Roter Salon, Volksbühne, Berlin (2015); *"Oper und Politik"*, Symposium der Deutschen Oper, Berlin (2015); Gespräch mit Clemens Meyer über das Buch *„Jonathan Meese. Wege zur Diktatur der Kunst“*, München Literaturhaus (2014); *Mein Glück und die Diktatur der Kunst*. Werner Spies trifft Jonathan Meese, Lit Cologne, Cologne (2014); *GENERALTANZ DEN ERZSCHILLER (GUIDO QUILLER IST DER TOTALSTE DON GIN SCHILLER, BALLETTIERT EUCH, WIE SCHNURRL'- NONNINEI, ES BRUZZELTS: DR. SCHILLERZ (SCHILLER MI ON, S.V.P.))*, Mannheimer Nationaltheater (2013); *Art is No Ideology (Art is No Democracy)* Art is Love. Art is DR. NO, Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2013); *Lecture mit Durs Grünbein*, Berliner Literaturfestival 2012, Haus der Berliner Festspiele (2012); *DER NON-NOSTALG "MEESEVOLUTIONÄR" SPRICHT: DIE BURSCHNS GESTATTNS A EVOLUTIONUSSNS*, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (2012); *Der 1. BABYSOLDAT der DIKTATUR der KUNST, ZUSTANDMEESE, STEHT IMMER STRAMM (STRAMMMMEESEL strullert: Demorkatisiert mi nit*

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on), Donaufestival, Krems (2011); DIE DIKTATUR DER KUNST IST VERSACHLICHTE FÜHRUNG. KUNST IST IMMER ERZNEUTRALITÄT, NUR KUNST SOLL DIE TOTALE MACHT ERGREIFEN, Staatsschauspiel, Dresden (2001); KUNST ungleich KULTUR. Scarlettierbaby's Metabolismus schreit: speichel('n) ist Kunst ! Kunst ist eine Befehlszentrale, keine Bittstelle! Kunst ist kein Wunsch-Dir-Was! Toecutter's Metabolismus brüllt: KEIN MENSCH IST REVOLUTION! KEIN MENSCH IST KUNST! KUNST ungleich DEMOKRATIE quod erat demonstrandum, Schmela Haus, Düsseldorf (2010); Liebes München, ich entdemokratisiere (mich für) Dich: Ganz wie Sie wünschen, ich metabolisiere ... Servus, Frank Renda, gestattns Burschns!, Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich (2009); DIKTATUR DER KUNST (TOTAL WUTHERING HEIGHTS OF JAPANESE MUMINS), then ANIMALBABYREVOLUTION Performance, Studio Matthew Barney, New York (2007); Noel Coward is Back: Dr. Humpty-Dumpty vs. Fra No-Finger Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London (2006); Jonathan Meese ist Mutter Parzival, Performance, Staatsoper unter den Linden, Berlin (2005); Fort Knox de DAF, Bayerisches Staatsschauspiel, Munich (2000); ERZISIS - LICHTYRANNONON - Richard Wagners ALTER OZEAN - PRIVATARMEE: ECHNATON, Performance als Teil der Ausstellung Erzreligion Blutlazarett / Erzsöldner Richard Wagner / Privatarmee Ernte und Saat / Waffe: Erzblut der Isis / Nahrung: Blute, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main (1998).

Group exhibitions (selected): Jonathan Meese, Tal R, Daniel Richter: The Men Who Fell off Earth, Holstebro Kunstmuseum, Holstebro, Denmark (2017); Drawing Island, The Journal Gallery New York, USA (2017); *Retour au meilleur des mondes*, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France (2016); Zwischen zwei Horizonten. Deutsche und französische Avantgarden aus dem Saarländmuseum, George Centre Pompidou, Metz, France (2016); Borscht & Champagne. Selected Works From The Collection Of Vladimir Ovcharenko, Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia (2016); Rabenmütter. Zwischen Kraft und Krise. Mütterbilder von 1900 bis heute, Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz, Austria (2015); DEMONSTRATING MINDS - Disagreements in Contemporary Art, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland (2015); Revolutionen, Ludwig Museum Budapest, Hungary (2014); Freundliche Übernahme – Künstler zeigen ihre Sammlung, Marta Herford Museum für Kunst, Architektur und Design, Herford, Germany (2014); Euphorie und Unbehagen – Das jüdische Wien und Richard Wagner, Jewish Museum Vienna, Austria (2013), Utopie Gesamtkunstwerk, 21er Haus, Vienna, Austria (2012); *Figura cuncta videntis* (das allsehende Auge) / Hommage an Christoph Schlingensiefel, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna, Austria (2010); Paul Thek. Werkschau im Kontext zeitgenössischer Kunst, Kunststiftung Phoenix Art, Sammlung Falckenberg Hamburg, Germany (2008); „Dionysiac“, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France (2005); „The Triumph of Painting. Part II“, Saatchi Collection, London, Great Britain (2004).

Solo exhibitions of Jonathan Meese / Galerie Krinzinger

DE PAKT MIT RICHARD WAGNERZ (*Gesttns':Die Hügeljanerz heben' ab...*) (2017);

"Jonathan Meese. DR. NO SPORTARZAHN (EVOLUTIONSSCHRITT DE FIT)" (2015); *Jonathan Meese „ERZHAGENERZ ERZVONERZ ERZTRONJERZ“ LIEBT NUR DEN GESICHTSAUSDRUCK „KUNST“, VOOM. (ERZTRÜFFELSCHWEINCHEN „SCHLAU“ GEFÄLLT NUR DER KUNST, BASTA) KUNST UNGLEICH EXTREMSPORT...* (2012); *„DON'T CALL US, WE CALL YOU* (2007); *Solo für Onkel Schnapp-Gebiss* (2004); *Van Gogh 1924 (Selbstbildnis mit Spindel)* (2001).

Group exhibitions featuring Jonathan Meese / Galerie Krinzinger

Zeichnung 2010 (2011); *ARTISTS OF THE GALLERY – A SPECIAL SELECTION* (2009); *Hommage an Rudolf Schwarzkogler* (2002).

Group exhibitions featuring Jonathan Meese / KRINZINGER PROJEKTE

curated by_Vienna, Verkauf in Nebenräumen / Sales in the Side Rooms, curated by Harald Falckenberg (2015); *„Why painting now?“* (2013).

WIENER FESTWOCHEN

Jonathan Meese, Bernhard Lang, Simone Young

MONDARSIFAL ALPHA 1-8 (ERZMUTTERZ DER ABWEHRZ)

Dates: Sun, June 4, 6 p.m., Tue, June 6, 6 p.m., Thu, June 8, 6 p.m.

Location: Theater an der Wien, tickets: www.festwochen.at

