

Subkulinaria

Food culture and contemporary art

An art exhibition by Cultura21

8th-17th August 2008

Bridge "Deutzer Brücke", Cologne (Germany)



Acorn Pig Project – by Insa Winkler

Subkulinaria: The taste of the alien

The exhibition „Subkulinaria“ presents the works of twelve international artists who critically deal with food culture inside the Cologne Rhine bridge “Deutzer Brücke” from 8-10 and 15-17 August 2008.

Although arts and the culinary have already been intertwined at the beginning of the 20th century, the question of food has changed substantially until today. Against the backdrop of globalisation, hunger and opulence, genetically engineered food and the loss of biodiversity have become increasingly precarious. As a result, a soaring alienation from nature takes place - a process which is also reflected in contemporary food cultures. On the other hand, different (sub)cultures can be connected by food, and strangers meet at a table to share their meal.

Artists from various backgrounds open up new perspectives on the complex subject in order to embrace its aesthetic as well as its social and political implications. Thus, artists are able to bridge art and life, form and content, utopia and reality.

These frictions are also embodied by the location of the exhibition: the inhospitable inside of the Deutzer Bridge, connecting both sides of the River Rhine, reveals the otherwise hidden side of food. A discursive space opens up which relies on the audience's contribution.

The artists



Davide Tutto (Italy)

The Italian photographer Davide Tutto published a cookbook with recipes from prisoners called „Il Gambero Nero – The black prawn“. A selection of his impressive black-and-white photographs displays the creative cuisine of inmates from different cultural backgrounds.

Claus Dieter Geissler (Germany)

„Costa del Plastico“ is an installation of the photographer Claus Dieter Geissler which consists of a substandard film showing the desert of plastic greenhouses at the coast of Andalucia, proving the growing alienation of agriculture and nature.

Rosa Lachenmeier (Schweizerland)

Rosa Lachenmeier, an artist from Switzerland, in her multimedia series „Container“ shows the river Rhine as a means of food transportation. Unitised modules of global traffic are the motive for her aesthetic musing.



Johannes S. Sistermanns (Germany)

The sound installation of Johannes S. Sistermanns addresses all senses. Sistermanns deals with the Asian concept of the flavourless, procured by the insipid taste of boiled rice.



Wam Kat (the Netherland)

The Dutch activist Wam Kat is founder of the cooking collective „Ramenplan“. In his cookbook „24 recipes to improve the world“ he demonstrates how food and politics are linked.

Chidi Kwubiri (Nigeria)

Chidi Kwubiri with his intuitive installation „Rice and stew very plenty“ raises the question of creativity which is inherent in both food and art.

Gregor Lawatsch (Germany)

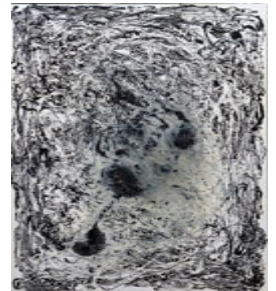
Gregor Lawatsch is an actor and author of roll plays. In his performance „ Eat me, please eat me!“ he mutates into a pig reflecting about an industrialized agriculture.

Alex Mora (Chile)

Alex Mora in his performance pays a potato its credits and highlights its immense nutrition, its culinary variety, and its (inter)cultural meaning. His installation literally grows during the exhibition.

Charles de Moura (Brasil)

The disturbed relationship towards food also goes along with the alienation of the digestive processes. The paintings of Brazilian and Cologne-based artist Charles de Moura seem to forebode the dark forces which are at work inside our bodies.



Martine Sourel (France)

Martine Sourel in her installation reflects about the relation of hunger, poverty and migration in a globalised world.

Dennis Thies (Germany)

Dennis Thies in his video „Ravioli“ contrasts the Haute-Cuisine of the upper class with an imagery of lust and disgust, temperance and excess that have never been larger than today.

Cornel Wachter (Germany)

Cornel Wachter, a painter and sculptor from Cologne, invites all visitors to take a seat at his table and share their thoughts about food. His sculpture literally becomes a social sculpture as it is made up of communication.



Insa Winkler (Germany)

In her video „Eichelschwein“, Insa Winkler observes pigs, which were liberated from intensive mass farming, and wonders if they actually have a soul. A pig race leads from tradition to utopia and from agriculture to art.

Programme

- Exhibiton: 8-17 August 2008,
- Opening times: Friday, Saturday and Sunday 14:00 – 20:00hrs

- **Opening: Friday, 8 August 2008 at 19:00 hrs**
welcome address by Angela Spizig (Mayor of Cologne) and Dr. Konrad Schmidt-Werthern (Executive; Cultural Office of Cologne)
introduction by Susanne Buckesfeld and Davide Brocchi
Alex Mora: performance „Comeback IV, part one“.

- **Saturday, 9 August 2008**
„Unser täglich Brot“ (Our daily bread), documentary by Nicolaus Geyerhalter, 90 minutes. The film demonstrates the perversion of an industrialised agriculture.
15:00 hrs: „Hunger – wenn Genuss fremd ist“ (Hunger - when pleasure is unknown“), presentation by Gertrud Falk from FIAN eV Germany
18:30hrs: Alex Mora: performance „Comback IV, part two“.

- **Sunday, 10 August 2008**
18:30 hrs: Alex Mora performance „Comeback IV, part three“.

- **Friday, 15 August 2008**
16:00 hrs: artist conversation hosted by Susanne Buckesfeld

- **Saturday, 16 August 2008**

17:00 hrs: Gregor Lawatsch: „Friss mich, bitte bitte, friss mich“ (Eat me, please eat me)“, satirical play, 2008.

- **Sunday, 17 August 2008**

17:00 hrs: book presentation: “Wam Kats 24 Rezepte zur kulinarischen Weltverbesserung“ („Wam Kat’s 24 recipes for the culinary improvement of the world“. Wam Kat will cook food for everyone – vegetarian, regional, delicious.

Sponsors

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