

November 23, 2008–April 19, 2009

Medium Religion

Beginning in November, a new major exhibition at the ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art Karlsruhe, Germany

Beginning 23 November, ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe Germany will be showing a new theme-based group exhibition: "Medium Religion". Based on the much discussed "return of religions" the thematic show provides a comprehensive view into the medial reproduction and meaning of religion, especially in the geopolitical hot spots of the Middle East, Asia, Russia, the United States, and South America. Many works will be shown for the first time in Germany and have been specially prepared and researched for the exhibition.

"Medium Religion" aims to present both documentary and artistic perspectives surrounding the topic. For example, media aspects of religion will be showcased using current examples of religious video propaganda. Also presented will be works by individual artists who have confronted images from such propaganda in their works. Shown, for instance, will be suicide notes from religiously inspired terrorists, religious-propaganda television series, and documentaries about current sects and religious groups. The artistic works juxtaposing the documentaries arise for the most part from the same context as the religious movements that they thematize. They are neither affirmative nor critical with regard to the religious rituals, images, and texts of the respective cultures, but rather blasphemous. They place the religious symbolism of the respective culture in an unconventional context in order to provoke a different perception. They thereby enable both a critical analysis of the respective religious iconography as well as its crossover into modern culture.

Today's religious movements operate primarily with images capable of spreading around the world in a flash by means of mass media. Video has become the chosen media for religious propaganda as it can be produced and distributed particularly fast thanks to today's technology. The return of religions that people have been talking about recently does not necessarily mean that more people have become religious. Instead, religions have moved from the private sphere of personal belief out into the public sphere of visual communication. In this, religions function as machines for the repetition and mass medial distribution of mechanically produced images. For another, this repetition is based on the repeatability of the religious ritual, which is the basis for the emergence of all subsequent media technologies for reproduction.

The exhibition focuses on death as religion's first and prime theme: on death as the result of a political, artistic, or private martyrdom, similar to the central role it plays today in the political consciousness of secular modernism. The exhibition will show in an exemplary way how the iconography of this civil religion is ritualized and presented artistically, and how this works.

Press Information

September 2008

Page 1/2

Place

ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art
Ground floor

From/to

November 23, 2008
–April 19, 2009

Opening

November 22, 2008

Time

7 p.m.

Location

ZKM_Foyer

Press Conference

November 21, 2008

Time

11 a.m.

Location

ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art

Press Contact

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Medientechnologie Karlsruhe (ZKM).



Presented will be works by artists and scientists, among them Adel Abdessemed, Oreet Ashery, Maja Bajevic, Paul Chan, Omer Fast, Barbad Golshiri, IRWIN, Kajri Jain, Vitali Komar, Korpys/Löffler, Alexander Kosolapov, Rabih Mroué, Dorcas Müller, Sang-Kyoon Noh, Nira Pereg, robotlab, Dorna Safaian, Anri Sala, Michael Schuster, Wael Shawky, Joshua Simon, and Jalal Toufic.

Accompanying the project will be a publication with contributions on the topic and documentation of the exhibition.

Medium Religion

November 23, 2008–April 19, 2009

An exhibition at the ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art

Opening: Saturday, November 22, 2008 at 7 p.m.

For media representatives, a press conference and subsequent tour of the exhibition will take place on Friday, November 21, 2008 at 11 a.m. You are very cordially invited to attend.

Press conference: Friday, November 21, 2008 at 11 a.m.

By request, we are happy to supply photo material free of charge for announcements.

DATA & FACTS ON THE EXHIBITION:

Curators: Boris Groys and Peter Weibel

Project directors: Anne Däuper and Antonia Marten

Exhibition site: ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art, Atria 1+2, ground floor

Exhibition area: 3,000 m²

Number of works presented: ca. 55

Number of participating artists: ca. 45

Opening hours: Wed–Fri 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat–Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.,
Mon+Tue closed

Admission: adults: € 5; discounted: € 3; children: € 2

Information: +49-721-8100 1200 (info desk)

Guided tours: Sun 3 p.m.

Further information at: www.zkm.de

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