

bit international. [Nove] tendencije

Computer and Visual Research. Zagreb 1961–1973

The history of computer-based arts has not yet been adequately described, and is only rarely reflected on in conjunction with the other arts. This area of the arts is hereby denied the development of a diverse discourse and the generation of a competent and critical audience, which is a basic condition for other media, i.e., painting, sculpture, and even film and video. In a series of exhibitions, the ZKM has taken on this task, for example, with “Algorithmischen Revolution.” In the exhibition “bit international. [Nove] tendencije: Computer and Visual Research. Zagreb 1961–1973,” the ZKM | Karlsruhe turns its attention to one of the most important artistic movements of the 1960s, which was of enormous influence in its day, but has sunk into near oblivion today: New Tendencies. Beginning with an exhibition of concrete and constructive art in Zagreb in 1961, New Tendencies quickly developed to a dynamic movement triggering an international Op-Art boom. Art became “visual research” (GRAV; Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visual / Group for Research in Visual Art). They continued to stake their avant-garde claim by including the computer in the program as a medium of “artistic research” in 1968.

During that same summer, parallel to “Cybernetic Serendipity,” the legendary computer art exhibition at London’s Institute for Contemporary Arts, the program “tendencije 4 – Computer and Visual Research” began in Zagreb. The Gallery of Contemporary Art Zagreb, known today as the Museum of Contemporary Art, addressed the theme of computer and visual research with a series of exhibitions, symposia, and publications on the theme of computer and visual research from 1968 to 1978. They thereby established a unique platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge from the areas of art, the natural sciences, and engineering. During the height of the cold war, artists and scientists from around the world presented their works and attended symposia in Zagreb. They came from Brazil, West Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Poland, the Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the US. The gallery’s multilingual magazine *Bit International* established Zagreb as an initiator for aesthetic and media-theoretical reflection that was unknown anywhere else in the world at the time.

“Tendencije 4” (1968/69) established a relationship between the computer-generated works and constructive and kinetic art, “Tendencije 5” (1973) set them in a context together with the conceptual art of the time. The organizers of the Zagreb Tendencies attempted to consciously accompany and form the historical transition in which the computer, the symbol processing machine, was first perceived as a machine of artistic creation. The arts of electronic media are not seen as isolated phenomena, but rather, are included in the history and in the discourse of the fine and performing arts. In collaboration with the MSU | Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb and an international network of collectors and private archives, this exhibition offers the first overview of the “[New] Tendencies” and their program “Computer and Visual Research”: For the first

Press Release

January 2008

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Opening

February 22, 2008

Time

7 p.m.

Location

ZKM | Media Museum

Press Conference

February 22, 2008

Time

11 a.m.

Location

ZKM | Media Museum

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time in nearly forty years, graphics, paintings, films, sculptures, as well as computer-generated lyrics and literature are once again available for a broader audience. The project allows an expansion of media-theoretical and historical discussion and sensitizes our awareness of the historical centers of art and culture in eastern Europe.

Curated by Darko Fritz. Scientific support Margit Rosen, Peter Weibel. A brochure on the exhibition will be published in German.

Artists in the exhibition include:

Marc Adrian • José Luis Alexanco • Kurd Alsleben/Cord Passow • Getulio Alviani • Giovanni Anceschi (Gruppo T) • Anonymous Collective • Marina Apollonio • Vojin Bakić • John Baldessari • Manuel Barbadillo • Otto Beckmann/Oskar Beckmann/Alfred Grassl • Jan Baptist Bedaux/Jeroen Clausman/Arthur Veen (Compos 68) • Alberto Biasi (Gruppo N) • Hartmut Böhm • Frank Böttger • Vladimir Bonačić • Davide Boriani (Gruppo T) • Rechenzentrum, Institut Boris Kidrič • Martha Boto • Ennio Chiggio (Gruppo N) • Ivan Čížmek • Gianni Colombo (Gruppo T) • Waldemar Cordeiro / Jorge Moscati • Giovanni Antonio Costa (Gruppo N) • Wim Crowel • Carlos Cruz-Diez • Charles Csuri / James Shaffer • Dadamaino • Gerardo Delgado • Hugo Rudolfo Demarco • Gabriele De Vecchi (Gruppo T) • Milan Dobeš • Juraj Dobrovič • Piero Dorazio • Ángel Duarte (Equipo 57) • Effekt • Darel Eschbach • Michel Fadat • Willam A. Fetter • Alan Marc France • Herbert W. Franke • David R. Garrison • Karl Gerstner • Rolf Glasmeier • Gorgona • Gerhard von Graevenitz • Hein Gravenhorst • Horacio Garcia-Rossi • Lily Greenham • Gruppo MID • Dieter Hacker • Leon D. Harmon • Grace C. Hertlein • Miljenko Horvat • Gottfried Jäger • Raimer Jochims • Sture Johannesson/Sten Kallin • Rudolf Kämmer • Hiroshi Kawano • On Kawara • Julije Knifer • Kenneth C. Knowlton • Hans Köhler • Edoardo Landi (Gruppo N) • Ben F. Laposky • Julio Le Parc • Sol LeWitt • Walter Leblanc • Auro Lecci • Wolfgang Ludwig • Heinz Mack • Frank Joseph Malina • Robert Mallary • Piero Manzoni • Enzo Mari • Jean-Claude Marquette (G.A.I.V.) • Manfredo Massironi (Gruppo N) • Almir Mavignier • Gustav Metzger • Leslie Mezei • Tomislav Mikulić • Petar Milojević • Manfred Mohr • Jane Moon • François Morellet • Bruno Munari • Monique Nahas/Hervé Huitric (G.A.I.V.) • Frieder Nake • Maurizio Nannucci • Georg Nees • A. Michael Noll • Koloman Novak • Lev Nusberg (Dvizenije) • OHO • Duane Palyka • Sergej Pavlin • Henk Peeters • Helga Philipp • Ivan Picelj • Otto Piene • Marko Pogačnik • Uli Pohl • Rogelio Polesello • Manuel Quejido • Zoran Radović • Ludwig Rase • Karl Reinhartz • Vjenceslav Richter • Christian Roeckenschuss • Sylvia Roubaud/Gerold Weiss • Paolo Scheggi • Manfred R. Schroeder • Lillian Schwartz • Ana und Javier Segui • Nikola Sérman • Soledad Sevilla • Jesús Raphael Soto • Aleksandar Srnc • Joël Stein • Thomas Michael Stephens (ARC) • Kerry Strand • Alan Sutcliffe • Miroslav Šutej • Zdeněk Sýkora • Paul Talman • Luis Tomasello • Goran Trbuljak • Miloš Urbásek • Stan VanDerBeek • Gregorio Vardanega • Grazia Varisco • Victor Vasarely • Nanda Vigo • herman de vries • Ante Vulin • Aron Warszawski • John Whitney • Ludwig Wilding • Rolf Wölk • José Maria Yturralde Yvaral • Edward Zajec • Walter Zehringer • Vilko Žiljak • Anton Zöttl

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