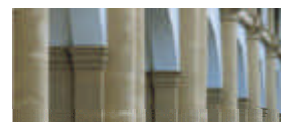


Landesmuseum Joanneum



Schloss Eggenberg



Gavin Turk

Last Year in Eggenberg (The Paradise Show)

Gentleman Jim

Gentleman Jim takes his place as yet another “Hall of Fame” figure in addition to such icons as Che Guevara, Sid Vicious, Elvis Presley or Joseph Beuys positioned by the British sculptor Gavin Turk. Turk is once again playing with his own identity as he slips into the skin of a fictitious self. Anyone who knows this artist and his work will recognise grotesque self-portraits in these life-size figures, expressions of a Utopia, a dream or a nightmare. The search for happiness in ideal worlds and in the here and now, illusion and the real blend into each other, become a metaphor for the absurdity of reality and one’s own existence.

Waiting for Gavo

This same absurdity of humanity is also reflected in the puppet theatre *Waiting for Gavo*. It is based on Samuel Beckett’s celebrated *Waiting for Godot* and is an adaptation by Gavin Turk. Here too a mixture of humour and pathos are apparent describing and further developing the identity of the artist Gavin Turk. The hand-made puppets are no less than additional Gavin Turk self portraits, extended here with figures from the history of art such as Marcel Duchamp, Joseph Beuys and Andy Warhol. The labyrinth of history and the history of art, significance and insignificance, reality and the unreal is accentuated through the paradoxical role of the artist as a weird puppet.

All-in-all this is an alternative version of paradise, that is complemented through “lost” and forgotten objects, relicts, at the interface between everyday and ideal worlds: a crushed polystyrene cup with the dregs of tea, the drink of civilised British culture, stuck to the bottom as a cliché; a match, used and thus worthless – thrown away, already declared to be dead, which Gavin Turk not only brings back to life, but on which he confers immortality. The equivocal symbols of civilisation are sublimated and refined by Gavin Turk, in that he casts them in bronze only to deprive them then once more of their material value, by painting them to appear realistic.

Opening:	21.06.2006, 5 p.m.
Duration:	22.06. - 17.09.2006
Opening hours:	Guided tour only! Guided tours Tue - Sun, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16 and by prior arrangement
Performances:	22. and 23.06.2006, each at 10 p.m., courtyard Only at good weather conditions!
Curator:	Adam Budak
Location:	Schloss Eggenberg staterooms, arcade passages and the courtyard Eggenberger Allee 90, A-8020 Graz
Information on the exhibition and performances:	0043/316/583264-9532
Press information:	0043/316/8017-9213 and -9211

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