

CAC

FALSE RECOGNITION. THE 14TH VILNIUS PAINTING TRIENNIAL

Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius

18 June – 15 August 2010

Curator: Evaldas Stankevičius, with advice from Anders Kreuger and Magda Kardasz

Organisers: the CAC Vilnius and the Lithuanian Artists' Union

Opening on Friday 18 June at 6 pm

Many of the problems contemporary painters are facing are not new. Shall painting be used to make images, or shall it by-pass any quest for illusion and express itself through gesture and tactility? Shall painting stay on the surface or shall it create depth? Shall it visualise ideas or attract attention to its own materiality?

Newness in painting might be something that at first looks very small, even insignificant. It might be a change of tone rather than a change of programme. It might be a shift in confidence or craftsmanship. But this might amount to 'a new way of seeing' that manifests itself as painting.

The 14th Vilnius Painting Triennial takes a broad look at what 'new thoughts in painting' might mean, and also at some 'new names in painting': artists who exemplify the tension between tradition and newness and whose work embodies different attitudes towards the image, the gesture, time and subjectivity.

But the Triennial does not only focus on younger artists. Some new names may belong to painters who have been around for a while but have not yet become 'old names', or to painters who have been identified with one set of thoughts but are now beginning to formulate new ones.

Painting tends to be appreciated differently in different regions of the world. The Triennial takes Lithuania and the Baltic Sea Region as a point of departure. This reflects not just geographic proximity but also a certain visual sensibility that has emerged in this part of Europe over a longer period of time and can perhaps also be detected in contemporary painting.

The 14th Vilnius Painting Triennial is entitled *False Recognition*, in reference to a ground-breaking essay by the philosopher Henri Bergson (1859–1941). *Memory of the Present and False Recognition* was published in 1908. It analyses a phenomenon similar to the well-known experience of *déjà vu* but much stronger, when we have the sensation of reliving in the present moment not just an image or an isolated situation but a whole sequence of events.

Bergson speaks of the present as a crystal or prism that constantly moves ahead, refracting time into one ray that bends off into the past, becoming 'pure memory', and another one that bends off into the forever-unknown future, becoming 'pure perception'. These pure entities are never manifested as such, of course; they blend to form various gradations of memory and perception which sometimes, as in false recognition, become confused.

As an exhibition title 'False Recognition' is used metaphorically. It describes the difficulty of isolating new

thoughts against the backdrop of a long tradition. It also underlines how difficult it can be to define what is truly new in an environment permeated by recognition of what is already known. New thoughts in painting cannot always be neatly captioned.

Participating artists:

Jānis Avotiņš (LV); John Baldessari (US); Romualdas Balinskas (LT); Lina Bjerneld (SE); Niels Bonde (DK); Michaël Borremans (BE); Koen van der Broek (BE); Ina Budrytė (LT); Damien Cadio (FR); Henrikas Čerapas (LT); Hadassah Emmerich (NL); Takeo Hanazawa (JP); Hannaleena Heiska (FI); Jörg Herold (DE); Kim Hiorthøy (NO); O Jun (JP); Patricija Jurkšaitytė (LT); Tillman Kaiser (AT); Eglė Karpavičiūtė (LT); August Künnapu (EE); Raoul Kurvitz (EE); Matts Leiderstam (SE); Tor-Magnus Lundebj (NO); Victor Man (RO); Inga Meldere (LV); Eglė Ridikaitė (LT); Nina Roos (FI); Viktor Rosdahl (SE); Adam Saks (DK); Praneet Soi (IN/NL); Radek Szlaga (PL); Ričardas Povilas Vaitiekūnas (LT); Aušra Barzdukaitė – Vaitkūnienė (LT); Ruslan Vashkevich (BY); Alfonsas Vilpišauskas (LT); Jakub Julian Ziolkowski (PL)

Principal funding:

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania

Sponsors:

ACE Logistics
Antalis
Arctic Paper
Colemont
Entargo
Flexpro
Sapnų sala
Selecta
Vilniaus diena
Volfas Engelman
Žalia giria

Partners:

Center for Contemporary Arts, Estonia
Danish Arts Council
EU-Japan Fest
FRAME: Finnish Fund for Art Exchange
Iaspis
Polish Institute, Vilnius
Mondriaan Foundation
Nordic Culture Point
Office for Contemporary Art Norway
Vilnius Municipality

Contemporary Art Centre
Vokieciu 2, LT - 01130, Vilnius
tel: +3705 2121954, fax: +3705 2623954
email: info@cac.lt // www.cac.lt