
Exposition	05.09 – 20.10.2007
Vernissage	Mardi, 04.09.2007, 18 – 21h

Artiste	Nikolas Tantsoukes
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Dream narrations
By Dr. Dr. Volker Gebhardt

The artist Nikolas Tantsoukes speaks of his works as PaperCollages.

He produces them in two steps: In a first step of selection and condensation he looks for “objets trouvés” in newspapers and magazines, photo- and art books, advertisings and flyers. These are then in a second step arranged and glued together to form his pictures – a process that can often take several months. Fragments of this prefab reality then form a new realm, one that is unique to the piece of art. In doing this Nikolas Tantsoukes follows the principles of photo collages, as developed by George Grosz and John Heartfield around the end of World War one.



... und aus dieser kurzen Begegnung wird bald Freundschaft...
2006



Der böse Onkel. Euch wird das Lachen schon vergehen
2006

The subjects of Nikolas Tantsoukes' works are widespread, and range from deconstructed portraits to visions of dream sequences, which show some resemblance, if any, to the collage-books of Max Ernst. Unparalleled are the cityscapes, in which the artist embeds his narrations.

Titles like “The Wicked Uncle/You Won't Laugh no more” or “...she was determined to leave the city for good...” give some direction, without patronising. All collages share the urban space that forms the background for the little catastrophes. Here Fritz Lang's fascinating city architecture for his 1926 masterpiece “Metropolis” turns into a nightmare. The matchbox architecture of the 1950ies to 70ies forms a hermeneutical frame of the visual space. The individuals are condemned to act in this urban un-space forming a negative Utopia. No wonder the woman has decided to flee the city. Often the only way out seems an escape to the sky. A husband lifts off saying “huuui – again the lord of the house goes missing before dinner is served...”.

Contact presse

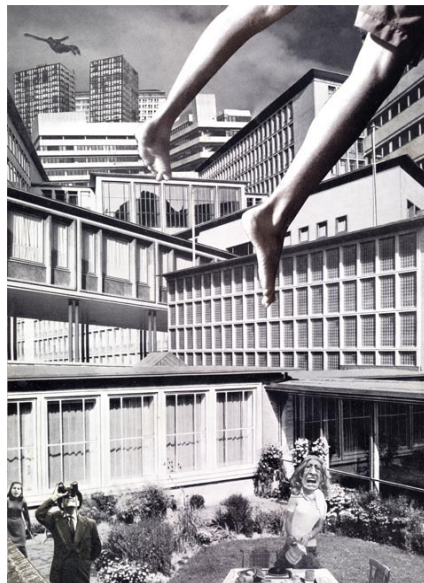
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Tantsoukes uses the architecture of cities in a similar way as Georg Grosz did it in the 1920ies. But while Grosz gives a precise description of the lively chaos of Berlin, Tantsoukes reinterprets this into a metropolis of hostile shoe-box-houses, where the protagonists live their lives of an almost kafkaesque nature.

Though acrimonious, the collages are still humorous, creating a comic-relief despite the disconcerting abundance of events. And, most importantly, the artist gives his composed characters a surprising melancholic humanitarianism. The way these faceless nobodies are presented inspires compassion, not presumptuousness.

The observer understands without being reduced to their level of existence. There is a common denominator with the grandmasters of classical modernism and photography. Artists like Grosz, Heartfield or Hanna Höch were determined to create an artistic statement contrasting the sociopolitical reality of their time.



Huuiii - und schon wieder ist der Herr Gemahl verschwunden, bevor das Essen auf dem Tisch steht...
2006



Letzter gruss
2006

The traumatic experience of World War one, its battles in the drenches of Ypres and Verdun, growing mega-cities with mass unemployment, rigid capitalism and violence were forceful sources of inspirations to comment on the position of mankind. The glittering world of big cities with its losers and winners, flaneurs and delinquents became a central topic of the arts.

Though Nikolas Tantsoukes' work avoids political judgment it is never un-political. Have the basic conditions of society changed since DaDa? His construction of an imaginary world reflects accurately on the position of the individual in today's western metropolis.

Not accidentally the young artist has started his quest in the old and new confusion of Berlin. Using the medium of collages he captures precarious positions of harmony and conflict, of many hopes and failures. The incidental way he narrates pinpoints his stories is most striking in his work.

There is no arrogance in his view, and that is very sympathetic.

Artist

Nikolas Tantsoukes

Born 1971 in Augsburg, Germany

Course of studies: Fashion design and communications design
Fashion and textile designer in Stuttgart (Germany), Milan (Italy) and Berlin (Germany); Owner of a fashion label.

2000-2002: Working in fashion and PR-agencies; Stylist for magazines and TV
Since 2002: Project-oriented supervision and artistic advice for photomarketing.de
2003: First exhibition of paper collages in Berlin - 10 pictures "Hommage to Hannah Höch"
Since 2005: Remittance works and intensification of artistic works for books and exhibitions

Exhibitions

2007
Paris photo, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff
Fotobild 2007, Berlin
Les Elysées de l'art, Paris, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff
"PaperCollage", Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris
"PaperCollage" 1st Solo Exhibition, Gallery NMALMEDÉ-KUNST, Cologne
Photo-London, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

2006
Fotobild 2006, Berlin

2003
Gallery Kosmoskop, Berlin, Friedrichshain (Germany):
10 pictures "Homage to Hannah Höch"

Publications

25. 04. 2007
8 pages for Fototechnik International May/June 2007

01. 04. 2007
1 page for Basso-Magazine, Berlin : "Verehrung der großen allten Dame (H.H.)"

09. 2006
Design of the flyer for Fotobild 2006 - Extra Viewing
Publications in "pluk" and other photo magazines.