



DIETER MEIER

In Conversation

7 September - 17 November 2013
Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau (CH)

Dieter Meier (b. 1945) is a conceptual and performance artist, draughtsman, sculptor, filmmaker, musician, essayist and poet all in one. For the first time in Switzerland, an extensive survey will be devoted to this multi-talented cosmopolite by the Aargauer Kunsthhaus. Titled *In Conversation*, the show covers Meier's entire career from his conceptual and performative works of the 1960s and 1970s to the present, rendering the far-reaching significance of his output palpable by including works and documentations that are shown here for the first time. The exhibition also offers visitors the opportunity to experience Dieter Meier the musician and adept interlocutor.

In Dieter Meier the Aargauer Kunsthhaus presents an extraordinary artist whose work keeps transgressing conventional boundaries between genres. Based on various images and textual documents, the exhibition offers insights into Meier's early conceptual performances (*Gehen*, 1970, Zürich; *Two Words*, 1971, New York), establishing connections to the subsequent development of his work. In the atmosphere of new departure shaped by Fluxus, conceptual art and actionist tendencies of the 1960s and 1970s, Dieter Meier staged unexpected, situational actions, sometimes allowing the public to participate in them. Conceptual approaches combined with subversive gestures, such as the 5-day event in front of the Kunsthhaus Zürich that consisted in counting 100 000 screws and filling them in plastic bags (*5 Tage* 1969), are typical of Dieter Meier's early

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career. Already at that time, he was interested in the truly "useless," thereby subverting established patterns of the art scene as well as the moral values upheld by society in both critical and humorous ways.

Similar to his appearances in public space, Dieter Meier focuses on unspectacular situations, places and objects in his photographs as well (*20 Pictures within 5 minutes*, 1970; *Lost Sculptures*, 1976; *Non Shots*, 1980). Yet these insignificant entities are charged with meaning and imbued with a subtle aesthetic through Meier's very artistic treatment of them. He often serves as material for his own work, slipping into fictitious roles and various identities for his photo series and video pieces (*As time goes by*, 1974-2013; *Der falsche Magier*, 1982).

As a precursor of Swiss video art, Dieter Meier was one of the first artists to experiment with the medium of film in the late 1960s. His films do not involve any plots or narratives (*My grandparents*, 1972; *Portrait H. Lachmayer*, 1972). Several individual film projections reveal the pioneer spirit of his early and, in some cases, little-known video pieces. Juxtaposed with his photo series, the interconnectedness of these bodies of work becomes evident. Many of Meier's early works would influence the famous video clips of the electronic pop duo YELLO that made music history. Given the artistic significance of the videos made by Meier, these are presented in a gallery of their own.

More recent works - photo series such as *Portraits* (from 2010 on) as well as Dieter Meier's manifestations involving the *ASSOCIATION DES MAÎTRES DE RIEN* (since 2008) - top off the show and illustrate the consistency with which Meier continues to pursue his artistic objectives to this day. In spite of its inclusion in numerous exhibitions to date, Dieter Meier's work has not yet received the attention it deserves. The time has come to reconsider and redefine the significance of this artist and his reception in the visual arts field.

In the late 1960s **Dieter Meier** staged conceptual performances in public spaces and in 1972 he participated in documenta 5 in Kassel. In 1979 he and Boris Blank founded the legendary electronic pop band YELLO that soon gained international renown with innovative sounds and video clips and would go down in music history. Today, Dieter Meier ranks among the most prominent Swiss figures on the international cultural scene. Since the 1967, his films have been shown at film festivals and from 1970 on his work has been featured in art shows both in Switzerland and abroad.

Selected one-man shows (M) and group exhibitions (G): *Dieter Meier*, Galerie Thomas Zander, 2012 (M); *Grösser als Zürich. Kunst in Aussersihl*, Helmhaus, Zürich, 2012 (G); *Dieter Meier. Works 1969-2011 and the YELLO Years*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, ZKM, Karlsruhe, 2011-2012 (M); *Rollenbilder - Rollenspiele. Role Models - Role Playing*, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, 2011 (G); *Dieter Meier. En Passant 1969-2010*, Grieder Contemporary Projects Berlin, 2010 (M); *Schweizer Videokunst der 1970er und 1980er Jahre. Eine Rekonstruktion*, Kunstmuseum Luzern, 2008 (G); *As Time Goes By*, Galerie Baviera, Zürich, 2005 (M).

Curator

Madeleine Schuppli, Director, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau

Catalogue

Dieter Meier. In Conversation

In conjunction with the exhibition a volume will be published (in German) that ties in with the exhibition title in terms of content. In addition to an in-depth essay by Madeleine Schuppli, this volume includes an interview with Dieter Meier and Philip Ursprung, Professor of Art and Architectural History at the ETH Zürich, moderated by Madeleine Schuppli. Includes numerous illustrations of works in the exhibition and extensive biographical information on the artist. Verlag für Moderne Kunst Nürnberg, 2013, approx. 140 pp. ISBN 978-3-86984-458-9 CHF 48.-/CHF 38.- for members and sponsors of the Aargau Art Association

Edition

In conjunction with the exhibition the Aargauer Kunsthaus is offering a limited artist edition by Dieter Meier.

Preview for the Media

Thursday, 5 September 2013, 10 am

Welcome address and introduction by Madeleine Schuppli, Director, Aargauer Kunsthaus; tour of the exhibition, followed by drinks and snacks in the foyer. Dieter Meier will be present.

Exhibition Opening

Friday 6 September 2013, 6 pm

6.15 pm Welcome address and introduction by Madeleine Schuppli, Director, Aargauer Kunsthaus, followed by drinks and snacks in the foyer and, at 7 pm, a performance by Dieter Meier at the piano within the exhibition. Starting at 7.30 pm, opening party at Alte Reithalle, Aarau.

Special Events

Conversations

Conversations within the exhibition, followed by drinks and snacks in the foyer. Admission plus CHF 8.-

Tuesday, 10 September 2013, 7 - 7.45 pm

Dieter Meier in conversation with Seraina Rohner, Director of the Solothurn Film Festival

Tuesday, 24 September 2013, 7 - 7.45 pm

Dieter Meier in conversation with Martin Meyer, head of the features section of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Thursday, 14 November 2013, 7.45 - 8.30 pm

Dieter Meier in conversation with the audience, moderated by Madeleine Schuppli, Director, Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau

Musical performance

Within the exhibition Dieter Meier sings a song with piano accompaniment.

Friday, 6 September 2013, c. 7 pm (Exhibition Opening)

Thursday, 12 September 2013, 7.45 - 8 pm

Thursday, 24 October 2013, 7.45 - 8 pm

The museum and the café bar will be open until 8.30 pm.

Panel Discussion

Tuesday, 29 October 2013, 6.30 pm

Max Dax, Editor-in-chief Electronic Beats Magazine, Stefan Zweifel, Journalist and Translator and Madeleine Schuppli, Director Aargauer Kunsthaus, discuss Dieter Meier's artistic output and its impact across genres. Moderated by Dr. Dora Imhof, Art Historian, ETH Zürich. Followed by a reception. Admission plus CHF 12.-

Events in Cooperation with Partners

Guided Tour and Concert with Dieter Meier and OUT OF CHAOS at KIFF, Aarau

Thursday, 31 October 2013

Combine art and music!

6.30 pm guided **tour** of the exhibition at the Kunsthaus with Anna Francke

8.30 pm concert **OUT OF CHAOS**, Dieter Meier and band at KIFF - Kultur in der Futterfabrik, Tellstrasse 118, Aarau (doors will open at 7.30 pm)

Advance sales through www.kiff.ch and Box office at the Aargauer Kunsthaus.

Combined ticket for museum admission, guided tour and concert at KIFF CHF 45.- / red. CHF 35.-

Volkshochschule Zürich

Lecture series *Dieter Meier - The Artist as Entrepreneur*
Registration and information at www.vhszh.ch, T 044 205 84 84,
info@vhszh.ch

Guides Tours

Thursday, 6.30 pm

12 Sep. with Madeleine Schuppli, followed by a Musical Performance by Dieter Meier

3 Oct. with Astrid Näff, **17 Oct.** with Dorothee Noever, **24 Nov.** with Nicole Rampa, followed by a Musical Performance by Dieter Meier

31 Nov. with Anna Francke, followed by concert at KiFF

14 Nov. with Astrid Näff, followed by Conversation with Dieter Meier

Sunday, 11 am

8 Sep. with Astrid Näff, **22 Sep.** with Dorothee Noever, **29 Sep.** with Anna Francke, **13 Oct.** with Dorothee Noever, **20 Oct.** with Brigitte Haas, **3 Nov.** with Brigitte Haas, **10 Nov.** with Dorothee Noever, **17 Nov.** with Anna Francke, **17 Nov.** with Brigitte Haas

Art Education

Children's Opening: Secret!

Friday, 6 Sep. 6 - 8 pm

Children celebrate their own exhibition opening!

For children of 5 years and older. Meet at the studio, lower floor

Art Hunt

Saturday, 24 Aug. / 31 Aug. / 7 Sep. / 14 Sep. / 21 Sep.,

10 am - 12.30 pm (ages 9 - 13), 1.30 - 3.30 pm (ages 5 - 8)

Children learn about art

Art Parents

Wednesday, 25 Sep. / 30 Oct., 9 - 10 am

For parents of small children

Family Sundays

Sunday 15 Sep. / 13 Oct. / 10 Nov., 11 am - 4 pm

For families with children (5 and older)

Open Studio

Sunday, 29 Sep. / 27 Oct., 11 am - 4 pm

Art Excursion

Sunday, 10 Nov., 2 - 4 pm

For the whole family

Art Picnic

Thursday, 19 Sep., 12 - 1 pm

Lunch hour tour, afterwards
sandwiches in the studio

INVITED!

Associations, clubs and societies from the Cantons of AG, ZH, LU, NW, UR, SZ and ZG are cordially invited to the Aargauer Kunsthaus in 2013! Your group will be granted **free admission to the Aargauer Kunsthaus**. Following the visit, individual group members will receive two vouchers for an additional museum visit at any time. 39 Aargau museums are participating. Information and registration at www.eingeladen.ch.

Opening Hours

Thursday - Sunday 10 am - 5 pm, Thursday 10 am - 8 pm

Images for the Media

Images are available for downloading on our website at www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch > Media. Please remember to make mention of photo credits.

For additional information please contact:

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