



NEW FRONTIERS DRAWING

opening: 02.10.2013, 7pm, duration: 03.10 – 21.10.2013, Halle F3

The current generation of practising new architects are, according to the evaluation in Wikipedia, not to be regarded as Digital Immigrants any longer but already as Digital Natives; especially since the progress of digital tools for planning and realisation has probably changed the thinking involved and the way architecture is made once and for all. After years of an understandable, if usually unreflected, enthusiasm for everything virtual we see numerous hand-made drawings, sketches, diagrams and delightfully slipshod study models along with the associated need to make themselves and what they do quasi-understandable while also being distinctive.

However, it would be naive to take out the anti-digital cudgels for architectural romanticism as actual reality has already superceded the progressive promise of a virtual reality. This reality has, without doubt, made what was until only recently inconceivable not only conceivable but in many cases also realisable. Although some things have naturally been lost: the thinking, drawing and modelmaking — or, in very different terms: that very particular, unmistakable intensity of the original, something which cannot be programmed as a 'shortcut'.

For a few years, primarily in Europe, waves heralding a post-digital movement have become palpable. Of course, much seems clumsy, but also touching in its sincerity, as results and new gestures of making something. And was it not the revered Nick Cave who saw this need as fundamental when he said that young people, in particular, feel a yearning for more substance, a yearning that is not for any particular past at all but simply a longing for content.

We showed exceptional examples for this 'backlash tendency' — although initially only Austrian works gleaned from a competition held in 2012, the year of the exhibition — at the Berliner Architekturforum AEDES (additional venues: Forum Frohner, Krems, and Galerie d'Architecture, Paris). In this context 'NEW FRONTIERS Drawing' presented hushed and subtle dialogues between spatial catalysts, sober constructions and daring backward- as well as forward-looking utopias, between architectural reception and the scope of its eloquence. For "...the further that everyday life glides into the digital realm, the further the Pods and Pads spread and everything is groped and hardly anything is really understood, the more many people's need for the here and now grows", wrote Hanno Rautberg in Die Zeit (Nr. 22/2012).

Our here and now emphasises synchronicity, which is shown specifically in the rediscovery of drawing, a counter-movement towards the rendering comprehensible and communication of what it actually is that we are doing here.



Contributors to the exhibition: Dietmar Franz, Lukas Göbl, Sebastian Heinemeyer, Lucas Horvath, Timo Huber, Marianne Lang, Claudia Larcher, Markus Leixner, Constantin Luser, Christoph Monschein, Patrick Pregezbauer, Walter Prenner, Franz Riedl, Josef Saller, Florian Unterberger and Nicole Wogg

Organised by NEW FRONTIERS — Verein zur Förderung experimenteller Architektur
(www.new-frontiers.cc)

Curators: Dieter Ronte and Florian Medicus

Jury, competition (Mai 2012): Lilli Hollein, Dieter Ronte, Günter Zamp Kelp and Florian Medicus

Exhibition design: Lukas Göbl, Oliver Ulrich — Office for Explicit Architecture

Exhibition opening Architekturzentrum Wien (Az W): Wednesday, 2 October 2013

Guest speakers:

Dietmar Steiner, director of the Az W

Dieter Ronte, director of the Forum Frohner / Curator, Krems / Bonn

Florian Medicus, Architekt / Curator, Salzburg / Vienna

Brief reading, manifesto statements: Barbara Göbl-Kramer

Following the Opening: party with Jason Neustart, Mother's Cake, SitoSun, and others

A catalogue has been published to accompany the exhibition at the Berliner Architekturforum AEDES in October 2012. This catalogue is available at the Az W for the duration of the exhibition.

The press release as well as high definition, rights free press photographs are available as downloads at:
www.azw.at/presse_NewFrontiers

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