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This Universal G-Magazine keeps you up-to-date with the latest news, knowledge, joy, and happiness from the wonderful world of The Bond Club.



Art Exhibitions

Bio/Shock

Written by Piet Linnebank and interviewed by Richard Voller

Like all other galleries Ron Mandos on the Prinsengracht is known for its white almost sterile exhibition space. It seems like many years ago there has been a silent agreement among all galleries especially the 'serious' ones to keep the space white. The reason might be to not let the space take the thunder from the artwork or something. Or it might even be that the space should remind us of a hospital, implying that Art is a serious matter, because you know it has to be sold for big money. So it is not a laughing matter, understand? I repeat, do you understand?

So having understood this we, Richard Voller and me, Piet Linnebank walk into his gallery a couple of days before the opening on Saturday 18th April 2009 and see that AA (Artists-Anonymous) have turned it into the exact opposite of a large, white, well lit space. Firstly it is divided into several rooms and they all look rather different. The first we enter looks like a dark cave. Or like an exploded toyshop. Or like a serial killer's hide out.

The second room looks like a seedy nightclub or a tittie bar. It even has a stage with a pole; you know nowadays among housewives, pole dancing is so popular. On a TV that stands on the stage a bare-chested girl is making herself up, looking at us as if she was looking in a mirror.

In the third room a table is set for a feast. What looks like a huge nicely grilled turkey dominates the centre; a few slices are already cut off and put on the dishes. Suddenly it dawns that it is not a turkey but a human being beheaded, folded like a turkey. Not a real one, of course, maybe in a few years. Whooo! More and more I feel like I am on the film set of the next Hannibal Lector movie.

Artists Anonymous 2009 -Courtesy Ron Mandos Galerie



In the next room we see a big white chair that looks like a dentist chair but without a drill. "A plastic surgery room", Ed, the only British member of the Artist-Anonymous explains. The other two members of AA are from Germany.

To enter the next room we have to go through what looks like the entrance of a nineteenth century submarine, the Captain's Cabin. It is decorated with fake rusty iron classical columns. A huge TV stands on a table. A 3D TV! Sponsored by Philips!

"Please when you write about us mention their name a lot" OK, here we go Philips, Philips, once for every dimension. It is quite spectacular. Giant spaceships turning halfway outside the box, flying axes thrown at me by some Viking, A big snail makes a seemingly successful attempt to escape the TV. Stuff like that.

Ed: "Although the technique is ready, they are not bringing it out. They don't have the marketing resources. But it is definitely the TV of the future. If you watch it long enough it might also give you a giant headache" I think by myself. Evertjan who is preparing his camera to interview Maya later comments; "When the train came out in the early 19th century they were afraid that the cows would stop giving milk"

"Not a lot has to be done anymore before the opening on Saturday" Maya tells us. "We just have to throw sand on the ground, that's basically it". The artists do not reveal their family name. They are Artists-Anonymous. But their anonymous state doesn't stand in the way of their fame and success. Rumour has it they are sponsored by the Deutsche Bank and international Art Pope Charles Saatchi has work of there's in his collection.

"We call ourselves Artists-Anonymous because we want to get rid of the myth of the individual artist. Nowadays everything that has any success has a whole team behind it, or do you think that someone like Britney Spears did it all by herself?"

"Bio/shock is the name of the show" Maya explains, "It is not a travelling exhibition, it's a one off! Like all other exhibitions it will be here for 5 weeks, and that's it!"

"We actually shaped this exhibition like a video game. Bio / Shock is actually an existing video game, this exhibition is like the missing link between art and video games"

"Do you realize that a lot of people nowadays spend more time in the virtual world of computers, games and TV than in the real world? And it is only the beginning!"



Below: The Amazing Phillips 3D TV



Artists Anonymous 2009 - Courtesy Ron Mandos Galerie



Artists Anonymous 2009 - Courtesy Ron Mandos Galerie

Trial :: http://www.docudesk.com

"I was told by someone here that this video game is actually about a frustrated little girl who runs around causing absolute chaos to everything and everyone around her like a modern day Alice in Wonderland".

Maya rolls her eyes and asks "Who told you that?" A voice behind one of the walls says: "Sorry that was me, Maya"

"The whole thing is like a self portrait of the group. We all play stereo typical roles just to be recognizable in a group. But if you cling too much to your role you fall into predictable patterns. This creates boredom and addictive behaviour. Thanks to the computer it is much easier to play many roles. Within AA, I am a painter, but also the spokesperson. In real life I am a mother, also a dancer and I am also the person that does the striptease on the TV and much more!"

"You know we are only at the beginning of discovering how the computer is changing our lives. We use it everyday and we hardly see the possibilities. It could be like Pandora's Box. What is now still virtual one day will become real, that is the main reason why we built this real life videogame. It was so much work! But we think it is very important to warn people, create awareness. In the end with the computer we hope it will be like everything else in this world. If we treat it right, it will treat us right!"

