



Istituto Svizzero di Roma

Sede di Milano

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Press Release

Luca Frei

Opening:

Friday, September 18, 2009 h 6,30 p.m.

during START Milano open on:

Saturday from 2 to 10 p.m. and

Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.

Venue:

Istituto Svizzero di Roma

Via del Vecchio Politecnico, 3 (piazza Cavour)

Milan

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The exhibition runs from September 19 through November 13, 2009

Mon – Fri from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m.

closed on Sundays and public holiday

free entrance

Milan's Istituto Svizzero di Roma (ISR) hosts a solo show by Malmö-based, Swiss-born artist Luca Frei.

Frei presents an installation specially conceived for this event, which basically focuses on some of the exhibition space's peculiar elements and interacting with them in the work presented.

“Il benessere viene meno mentre il ballo delle marionette continua” (There is less and less well-being, while the dance of the puppets keeps going): the artwork is inspired by a sentence taken from *Lettere Luterane* by Pier Paolo Pasolini, published posthumous in 1976, transferred in the form of a neon text on the gallery's ceiling. A fall of 170 golden chains drop from top to floor, creating a sensory environment that allows the spectator to interact with the space and to move within the installation.

The exhibition opens during START, a three-day event of contemporary art in Milan.

During the exhibition period, Luca Frei and ISR host the Milan-based, no-profit curatorial collective Peep-Hole on the occasion of “In Other Words”: a project realized in collaboration with Kunsthalle Zurich.

Enti Finanziatori

Fondazione svizzera per la cultura Pro Helvetia

Segreteria di Stato per l'educazione e la ricerca

Ufficio federale della cultura

Ufficio federale delle costruzioni e della logistica

Partner

BSI

Canton Ticino

Città di Lugano

Università della Svizzera italiana



Luca Frei _ Biography

Luca Frei (Lugano, 1976) lives and works in Malmö. He studied at the Edinburgh College of Art and at the Malmö Art Academy where he graduated in 2002. Frei explores ideas of open mediation of the public in relationship with the exhibition space and context, in order to express meanings and stimulate thought processes in the spectator. His work meets with pedagogical models and theories of more open and active learning systems, perceived in environments that the artist builds in an interactive way: abstract and geometrical elements and three-dimensional structures are used according to new playful combinations in order to stimulate new associations.

His works, as Lars Bang Larsen wrote (*Frieze* 2006) “convey the suspicion that learning, above all, is the desire to energize social space through an emptying out of some of the stuff that culture habitually accumulates: a process that requires not larger syllabuses and tougher questions but a kind of holistic reconstruction.”

Selected solo shows:

2010 Balice Hertling, Paris. 2009 Art Statements, Art Basel (solo show with Balice Hertling). 2008 Watch Out, Studio Dabbeni, Lugano; Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh; Studies/Play, Lunds Konsthall, Lund.

Selected group shows:

2010 “The Incidental Person,” Apexart, New York. 2009 “Textiles, Art and the Social Fabric,” MuHKA, Antwerp; “Generosity is the New Political,” Wysing Arts Centre, Bourne; Swiss Art Awards 2009, Basel; “An Unexpected Thought, Function in Contemporary Art,” Göteborg Konsthall; “In May (After October),” Gallery TPW, Toronto; “It’s Not for Reading, It’s for Making,” FormContent, London; “Gennariello,” Balice Hertling, Paris; “Come In, Friends, the House is Yours!”, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; “Search for the Spirit,” MuHKA, Antwerp; “Audio, Video, Disco,” Kunsthalle Zürich, Zurich. 2008 “After October,” Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York; “Democracy in America: The National Campaign,” Creative Time, New York; “Archaeology of Longing,” Kadist Art Foundation, Paris; “A Town (Not a City),” Kunsthalle Sankt Gallen; “Three interventions by Luca Frei, Marine Hugonnier and Sean Snyder,” Grazer Kunstverein; “Museum as a Medium,” MARCO Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Vigo; “Object, The Undeniable Success of Operations,” SMBA, Amsterdam; “Disobedience,” Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham; “Art Cannot be Untaught,” La Rada, Locarno.

For more information, please contact:

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