



Alexander Vaindorf *Fallrise*

Opening Friday, June 29, 2007, 7 p.m.

Duration June 29 – July 21, 2007

Artist talk Monday, July 2, 2007, 8 p.m.

Uqbar, in cooperation with the 4th Ars Baltica Triennial *Don't Worry – Be Curious!*, is presenting the first Berlin solo exhibition of Alexander Vaindorf (born in 1965 in Odessa, lives in Stockholm). The installation *Fallrise* deals with the history of the monument of the Eternal Flame in Belgrade, a 27-meter-high concrete obelisk topped by a bronze fire. The monument was erected without legal basis in the Park of Peace and Friendship. A young architect constructed it within nine days in June of 2000, exactly one year after the end of the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia. For some it symbolizes the victory of Slobodan Milosevic over Nato, while others perceive it as commemorating the victims of the bombing. Vandalism commenced soon after Milosevic's fall: The bronze letters of the inscription, conceived by Mirjana Markovic, the leader of the influential neo-communist Yugoslav Left, and Milosevic's wife, were removed one after the other until only two commas were left. The spotlights have also been stolen, and the obelisk has been covered with a great deal of graffiti.

The project *Fallrise* comprises three storylines: A video of 2002 depicts the architect's view of the historical events and his role during the erection of the monument. Alexander Vaindorf showed this video to teenagers and asked them to write letters of response to the architect. The letters and drawings of the teenagers are part of the book *Left Commas*, which includes the story of the architect and photos of the monument's change in appearance between 2001 and 2006. A second video from 2006 documents the reaction of the architect to the book and the letters, as well as interviews with several teenagers nearby the obelisk. The monument of the Eternal Flame and its role in Serbian society serves Vaindorf as an example for reflection on the ambivalent mechanisms of the (re)construction of history. He explores how the perception of historical events and monuments alters in relation to the changes in social systems and power structures.

On **July 2 at 8 p.m.**, Alexander Vaindorf will give a **talk** and present excerpts of his works that deal with the reaction of individuals, predominantly teenagers, to certain sociopolitical events. On June 29, his film *One Particular Sunday* will be shown in the scope of *Rencontres Internationales* at the cinema Babylon Mitte. For further information on the artist's work see: www.alexandervaindorf.com

This presentation of Alexander Vaindorf's work is the second installment of an exhibition series by **uqbar** in cooperation with the 4th Ars Baltica Triennial of Photographic Art *Don't Worry – Be Curious!*, in the scope of which artists from the countries bordering the Baltic Sea are presented, whose work addresses problems and fears resulting from upheavals in present-day society. The 4th Ars Baltica Triennial is a project of Stadtgalerie Kiel, curated by Dorothee Bienert, Kati Kivinen, und Enrico Lunghi. The project has been made possible by the support of the European Union's program Culture 2000, the German Federal Cultural Foundation as well as by the Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein and institutions in the Ars Baltica partner countries. For further information see: www.arsbalticatriennial.org

Current

June 25, 8 p.m. at uqbar

Artist talk – Anita Di Bianco

in cooperation with the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, www.bethanien.de

Preview

24 August – 14 September 2007

Julita Wójcik

21 September – 12 October 2007

J & K (Janne Schäfer, Kristine Agergaard)

uqbar

a project by Dorothee Bienert, Dortje Drechsel, Marina Sorbello, Antje Weitzel

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Thursday – Saturday 2–7 p.m. and by appointment

With the support of DEGEWO