

FRISE Press Release

The exhibition „On the Origin of Worlds“ at the independent art center FRISE/Hamburg throws light upon more personal aspects of the work of KP Brehmer, who taught as an art professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg, Germany, from 1971 to 1997. His unique style was characterized by a (self-) ironical detachment, and avoided the lofty gestures of the artist in favor of substantial political messages. The exhibition focuses upon background material to KP Brehmer’s work complex “Soul and Feeling of a Worker”, which was transposed into a musical score, as well as to his drawings from the 1970’s and ’80’s and to his super-8 film diaries from the 1980’s.

Originally, the exhibition *On the Origin of Worlds*, had been planned as part of an extensive KP Brehmer retrospective to be shown at the Kunsthalle Hamburg in 2009 which, however, unfortunately had to be postponed for financial reasons.

Nonetheless, we have decided to realize this exhibition as an individual project in the hope that it will be followed by the comprehensive presentation planned at the Kunsthalle at a later point. We are very much looking forward to seeing more works of an artist whose astonishing acuteness and aesthetic/political farsightedness has lost none of its perspicacity in the years since KP Brehmer's death in 1997.

The call for a democratization of the arts and the realization of its potential as an instrument of critical resistance saw a renaissance in Hamburg in 2009.

With its subtitle *Art - Politics and the Personal*, this exhibition will also relate to the current (art-)political discourse in Hamburg, where in the past months a large number of local artists have vehemently claimed their „Recht auf Stadt“ (“right to the city”), voicing their own political position on urban planning and sociology.

Under the title *What Keeps Mankind Alive?*, last year’s Istanbul Biennial referred to the political dimension of art as well. It is certainly not a coincidence that the cycle *Soul and Feeling of a Worker* and other works produced by KP Brehmer were prominently exhibited in the context of the Biennial.

KP Brehmer tried to subvert commercial structures of the art business by producing unlimited or falsely declared special editions and proofs. This work strategy will be continued with a collaboration between FRISE and KP Brehmer’s son Sebastian.

Together we will publish an edition of 12 postcards based upon the edition *Series* /by KP Brehmer from 1964/66 where he writes: "A few words of wisdom for my friends: the future of art does not lie in your products but in their reproduction. Throw your pallets onto the junk heap. Let your products rotate in the printing presses. Install art postcards in every house! Place Chagall, Beuys, Vostell above all the girls' beds! (From the *Small Manifesto of the Art Postcard*)

In the spirit of the inventor, you can transform this set into an original "do-it-yourself" KP Brehmer work. Our heartfelt thanks go especially to: Sebastian Brehmer, Anna Brenken, Gunnar F. Gerlach, Belinda Grace Gardner and to all those who have supported this exhibition and helped to make it possible.

Curated by: Sabine Mohr

Opening of the exhibition 3rd March 8pm
Duration of the exhibition: 3rd – 28th of March
Opening hours: Friday to Sunday 5pm – 7pm
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