BAWAG
Contemporary
BAWAG FOUNDATION

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BAWAGcontemporary

Heidrun Holzfeind
Strictly Private

February 9 – April 1, 2012
Opening: Wednesday, February 8, 7 p.m.
Press preview: Wednesday, February 8, 10:30 a.m.

The Austrian artist Heidrun Holzfeind's work has attracted increasing attention in recent years. Based on theoretical considerations on architecture as a social space and the reflection of power relations in urban systems, Holzfeind questions the utopian promises of modernist residential buildings. Closely combining this interest in architecture and urban development with issues of individual life plans, she has produced a highly original and unmistakable oeuvre.

"My works are portraits of simple persons at a point in their lives at which they start thinking about their achievements, goals, hopes, and place in society," the artist writes about her critical view of social structures. In her works, she unflappably fathoms the boundaries between history and identity, personal fate and today's political narratives, reality and fiction.

Her video work *Colonnade Park* (2011), for example, portrays Mies van der Rohe's modernist residential buildings in Newark though interviews with their inhabitants. The three glass and steel towers built between 1954 and 1960 mark the beginning of Newark's urban renewal. The interviews with the inhabitants focusing on their life in these classically modernist highrises are confronted with views of the flats and from the windows.

CU (Mexico City, August 2006) and *Mexico 68* from 2007, a slide installation and video interviews dealing with the Ciudad Universitaria in Mexico City, the main campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, combine architectural shots and video interviews with activists of the student movement of 1968, which has had a formative influence on an entire generation. With these works, Heidrun Holzfeind has essentially contributed to the rephrasing of documentary issues and redefined the use of photography and video between art and social practice.

The BAWAG Contemporary exhibition centers on a new group of works concerned with the Austrian architect Ernst Schwadron (Wien 1896–1979 New York).

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Ernst Schwadron was the eldest son of the cofounder of the construction and ceramics company Brüder Schwadron, whose early showroom houses the BAWAG Contemporary exhibition spaces today. The architect's flat was located in the penthouse of the same building on Franz-Josefs-Kai 3. Ernst Schwadron saw himself forced to emigrate to New York in 1938 and built his own house near the city in the 1940s. In her new group of works, Heidrun Holzfeind primarily explores references of space and time.
(Christine Kintisch)

Accompanying Program

February 22, 9 p.m.
Soundperformance

March 7, 8 p.m.
Screening
LIVING ENVIRONMENT III

March 23, 8 p.m.
Artist Talk
Heidrun Holzfeind
in conversation with
Christian Witt-Dörring

March 28, 9 p.m.
Soundperformance

Free admission
For details see bawagcontemporary.at
Subject to alteration

BAWAG Contemporary
open daily from 2 to 8 p.m.
Accompanying events
Guided tours
each Thursday at 6 p.m.
Admission free

Curator:
Christine Kintisch
Organization:
Elisabeth Hofbauer
Technical coordination:
museum standards, mu.st. OG

Curator concerts:
Stephen Mathewson
Curator film:
Norbert Pfaffenbichler
Educational program:
Wolfgang Brunner

Social Media:
Alina Brad
Webmaster:
Christian Leberwurst
Sound engineering:
prilfish veranstaltungstechnik
Video:
Kurt van der Vloedt – artvan
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Oliver Ottenschläger
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Press Download:
bawagcontemporary.at/presse

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Heidrun Holzfeind
Biography

Born in Lienz in 1972.
Studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Lives and works in Vienna.

Selected solo exhibitions
2012
Strictly Private, BAWAG Contemporary, Vienna
2011
Tsunami architecture, OK Offenes Kulturhaus Oberösterreich, Linz
(with Christoph Draeger)
2010
Za Zelazna Brama, CCA Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
2009
CU/Mexico 68, De Vleeshal, Middelburg, Netherlands
2008
CU/Mexico 68, Sala de Arte Publico Siqueiros, Mexico City
2007
CU/Mexico 68, Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck, Austria

Selected group exhibitions
2011
Communitas, Camera Austria, Graz, Austria
Videonale, Bonn, Germany
2010
Documentary Fortnight Exhibition, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Living Modern, CCS Bard, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
2009
Architecture and its Discontents, Kaleidoscope, Milan
After Architecture, Centre d'Art Santa Mònica, Barcelona
See this Sound, Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz
2008
Manifesta 7/Principle Hope, Rovereto
2007
Exits and Dead Ends, Festival der Regionen, Upper Austria

Prizes
Camera Austria Preis für zeitgenössische Fotografie der Stadt Graz 2011
Gerhard und Birgit Gmoser-Preis für Gegenwartskunst, Secession Wien 2011