

Gallery C2C Prague

Invite you to the opening of exhibition Keine Wunderkammer (Prague edition)

Authors: Aneta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkáčová, Grzegorz Sztwiertnia, Milan Tittel, Mirjana Boba Stojadinović, Žolt Kovač, Ondřej Brody & Kristofer Pateau, Dominik Lang, Pode Bal...

Opening party: 6th June at 18:00 2006

Curatorial conception: Ivana Moncoľová

Curatorial help for Czech rep.: Zuzana Štefková

Opening hours: 7. 6 .-1. 7. 2006 (tue-sat 16:00 – 19:00 or on demand after cell call.: + 420 731 512 512)

Galerie C2C, Za Strahovem 19, Prague 6 – Břevnov

Keine Wunderkammer (Prague edition)

The concept of the Keine Wunderkammer exhibition refers to the collecting principle any museum is based on. Artworks by Serbian, Czech, Slovak and Polish artists who opted for the space or a museum of art or art gallery to become the scene for their artistic action have been collected for this exhibition. The pieces of art at the same time represent windows into the spaces of other European art museums and galleries: Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden, Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava, Galerija Doma Omladine in Beograd...

C2C is one of the small private galleries existing in Central Europe on the basis of a citizen association. C2C gallery was established as a platform for contemporary art with a very good theoretical background. Its functioning and operation depend on the enthusiasm of its founders: Zuzana Štefková, Denisa Kera, Pavol Sedlák – and certainly on the willingness of their friend and family circles to help as volunteers.

The *Keine Wunderkammer* exhibition name can be translated as „No chamber of miracles“ (Chamber of Miracles is termed Wunderkammer in German art history). It refers to a type of Central and Eastern European gallery of private character based on non-market principles. The original aim of this type of art gallery is not to sell the artworks, but to support the exhibitions of art and artistic projects with progressive ideas, and also to substantially contribute to cultural and social exchange of contacts. C2C is an art gallery of this type. Such a private, non-profit gallery, subsidised from public grants is the only guarantee of contemporary art production and exhibition in our state. These types of galleries that can be mostly found on the territories of post-communist countries has today become a phenomenon. They are critical for exploring, discovering and production of contemporary art in the post-communist countries, but the description of this phenomenon cannot be found in any book dealing with museology. It is „*no miracle*“ to have a gallery and present contemporary art to visitors, but it requires sustainable passion to continue operating them.

Wunderkammer or *cabinet des curiosités* is a term for „chamber of miracles or curiosities“, that came into existence in the Late Renaissance period. The chamber of curiosities is part and parcel of museum pre-history. The name of the exhibition does not refer to the art history discourse on the notion itself. However, it does refer to the collecting principle any museum is based on. For the *Keine Wunderkammer* exhibition gallery and museum-like institutions were collected, gathered and maintained. The premises of the museums or galleries feature as „actors in supporting roles“ and at the same time they constitute a podium on which the artistic action takes place. C2C gallery becomes a gallery that offers a view to other galleries: into their exhibition premises, but also into the space necessary for their everyday functioning. Each and every exhibited artistic project takes place in a gallery-like or museum-like institution. It is not by chance that the selected artists are from the former „Eastern Block“: Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic, Serbia and Monte Negro. Their actions in established galleries and museums of art are not isolated activities in the field of contemporary art (Aneta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkáčová, Grzegorz Sztwiertnia).

The name of the exhibition „*Keine Wunderkammer*“ and the utilisation of „Western“ museums or galleries as a „scene“ for the artistic action both refer to the origin of the museum and gallery spaces in the „West“ the system of which is based on strict marketing rules. It contradicts exhibition premises in the former „Eastern Block“ where the other part of the exhibited projects takes place (Milan Tittel, Mirjana Boba Stojadinović, Žolt Kovač). The latter which have been in existence for a long time have their tradition, but their functioning has been undergoing the same transformation and facing the same changes as the political system and governments in this part of the world.

The framework of the exhibited artworks is “the institutions of a gallery or a museum” but the displayed artefacts have no common interconnecting theme. The authors in their videos, photographs and wood prints do not comment upon the existence of the gallery or museum as such. Each of them uses it as a space for the development of their different topics.

Ivana Moncoľová, curator