

FORUM ST. SEVERIN

FÜR CHRISTLICHE SPIRITUALITÄT, BILDUNG UND KUNST
Katholischer Akademikerverband der Diözese Linz

Memento Mori – Art in Lent
Ursulinenkirche Linz

Heribert Friedl

***Es wird sein Nachleuchten sein, das alles überstrahlen wird.
It's the afterglow that outshines everything.***

sound installation in the church – art intervention in the crypt
from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th until Good Friday, Feb. 2nd

DEATH AND TIME

“For you are dust, and to dust you shall return”, is the guiding theme for artists who are invited to develop a special art project during Lent in the Ursulinenkirche. Since 30 years, different artists are inspired by the location, the main title “Memento Mori” and the topic of caducity.

INVISIBLE

The lush baroque interior of the church transports the visitor into another time. Its function was to give the churchgoers a taste of paradise, of heavenly joys and never-ending insouciance.

The artist Heribert Friedl decided to refrain from adding another visual object and instead created a new sensory perception. The silence is broken by his sound installation six times a day for around 15 minutes. It is comprised by just a few elements as the ticking of a clock, a changing note played by an organ, the harmonic of a guitar and the “breath” of a pair of bellows.

A clock ticking and an organ playing are known sounds and metaphors for the running out of lifetime. But Heribert Friedl also sees a clock as a symbol of infinity, as a spectator to the rhythm of life which goes on and on. The sounds in different frequency ranges overlay to form an intricate pattern, which seems taken out of time and space. The memento stays as a reverberation.

The art installation in the crypt is made from old clothes that seem to be falling apart and that the artist calls his “dead clothes”. The sculpture shows the outline of a man hovering in the room between the graves of the nuns and is a metaphor for the disintegration of human existence. At the same time, it is a remembrance of the person who was wearing the clothes.

THE ARTIST

Heribert Friedl was born in 1969 in Feldbach (Styria) and now lives in Vienna. He studied sculpting at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and now teaches there Site Specific Art. His work is shown in national and international exhibitions since 1994, for example at the museum Folkwang in Essen (Germany), the Fundacion Calauste Gulbenkian in Lisbon (Portugal), the New Gallery in Graz (Austria) and many more. He got great publicity around twenty years ago with his work with scents and their effect.

Forum St. Severin/Kath. Akademikerverband der Diözese Linz, www.fss-linz.at

Kuratorin: Dr. Martina Gelsinger

He calls his installations in seemingly visually empty rooms which he combines with scent “nonvisualobjects”. The visitors connect the scents with different memories and so create their unique own images in the room. In younger works he adds text to the scents and asks for example “how yellow smells”. Heribert Friedl evolves his artwork consequently and now often presents complex systems of subjective perception and objective parameters. His work “Klein Elmelo” in the Kunsthalle Kiel comprised of trees painted in white on a white wall. Visitors were invited to rub them and experience the scent of the forest. Next to scents, music and sound are important components of Friedls work.

THE CHURCH OF THE ORDER OF SAINT URSULA

Until 1968 the Ursuline nuns used the church. After the renovations in 1985 it is used by the Forum St. Severin, the union of catholic academics, as a parish church but also for art and concerts. It is also a main point for inner city pastoral care.

The art projects “Memento Mori” are curated by Dr. Martina Gelsinger, art historian. All projects can be seen on the website: www.fss-linz.at

INFORMATION

Ursulinenkirche, Landstraße 31, 4020 Linz, www.fss-linz.at

Opening hours: daily 8 am to 7.30 pm, the sound installation can be heard at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm and 7 pm

Due to Cov19 prevention the crypt can only be visited after a previous appointment by phone 676/8776-3505 (Forum St. Severin).