

DIRIMART

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PRESS RELEASE

HERMANN NITSCH- DAS ORGIEN MYSTERIEN THEATER
VIDEO, PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS
6 NOVEMBER - 5 DECEMBER 2009
OPENING: 5 NOVEMBER THURSDAY, 18.00- 20.30

“Red is the color that registers most intensely, for it is the color of life and death at the same time. ”

Austrian actionist Hermann Nitsch who believes in the need to purify the soul and body of all primitive taboos, is known for his personal museums in Mistelbach (2007) and Naples (2008). The artist's first personal exhibition in Istanbul meets his viewers at Dirimart.

Known for his theatrical actions, Nitsch started to hold performances using animal carcasses, blood, dark oils and fruits accompanied by various cult images and a crowded group of actors from the 1960s on. The artist who presents these actionist performances in the form of a religious ritual questions the descriptions and symbols that are deemed sacred by the Christian faith through the music, dance and pagan rituals. Using religious symbols as tools in his performances, also known as body art, Nitsch may be described as an artist who carries the concept of "Gesamtkunstwerk" (Comprehensive Artwork) to the 21st century.

In his non-stop actions that last for six days, Nitsch performs the cleansing of the soul and body of primitive taboos. The artist has realized 127 theatrical performances and 57 oil actions to date, and expresses the importance of color red for him as follows: "Red if the color that registers the most intensely, for it is the color of life and death at the same time."

The artist who first presented his artworks in the form of a live performance in 1960 as Orgien Mysterian Theater (Theater of Orgy and Mystery), started to hold numerous actions in Europe and

North America in the 1970s. In 1971, he purchased the castle Schloss Prinzendorf in Lower Austria from the Church, transforming it into the center of much bigger exhibitions.

Born in Vienna on 23 August 1938, Hermann Nitsch gave lectures in Frankfurt Staedel Schule between 1989-2004, and teaches as visiting professor in the University of Vienna.

The artist opened his exhibition at Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, MUMOK Museum in 2004, and has held many important exhibitions also including the Saatchi Gallery, London (2005) and retrospective exhibition at Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2006).

HERMANN NITSCH, HERMANN NITSCH- DAS ORGIEN MYSTERIEN THEATER

VIDEO, PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS may be visited between 6 November - 5 December 2009, Monday through Saturday, from 10.00 to 19.00. For information: Dilâ Çakıl: dcakil@dirimart.org