



## ***5 Days to the End of Art***

### **A project of the Kunsthalle Fridericianum Curatorial Workshop Programme**

Under the motto *5 Days to the End of Art* taken loosely from Joseph Beuys, the Kunsthalle Fridericianum will be staging five exhibitions from the beginning of June 2006. In this series, which dovetails in theme and time, four members of the curator workshop and the artistic director René Block will be providing insight into their current work in independent exhibitions. The apodictic title of the exhibition series *5 Day to the End of Art* is by no means intended to proclaim the often evoked “end of art” but a search for the conditions of contemporary artistic and curatorial practice. What is the societal and political relevance of contemporary art? What is the future of exhibiting and curating? What sort of education and training do curators now need?

#### **In Kassel**

The debate on practical and theoretical issues of curating and exhibiting and the implementation of a comprehensive exhibition concept have been a permanent element in the *documenta* since Harald Szeemann's *documenta 5* in 1972, and has since rapidly spread around the world. Contemporary exhibition projects are no longer conceivable without a curator. This is due not only to a strong desire for greater professionalism but is also a response to new demands that have arisen with developments in contemporary art. The common image of the curator still vacillates between two opposing poles. The curator is seen either as an artist who stages exhibitions in the sense of a Gesamtkunstwerk – at the cost of the artist's autonomy – or as an agent who intervenes and directs at a minimal level. Resolving this dichotomy is a key endeavour in the curatorial training and its external promulgation. Kassel as the venue of the *documenta* is accordingly not only an important locus for the latest developments and trends in contemporary art but also a locus for new perspectives and approaches in communicating art production and in curating.

#### **The Curatorial Workshop Programme**

In this spirit, the Curatorial Workshop Programme is the practical implementation of René Block's concept of a role for the Kunsthalle Fridericianum – as one of the major international institutions for contemporary art – in conveying knowledge to a young generation of curators, and giving them the opportunity to gather experience and realise first projects of their own. Since 2003, the curator workshop has constituted a key element at the Kunsthalle Fridericianum. Over this period, young, international curators have accompanied the programme of the Kunsthalle, expanding it with independent exhibition projects. The approach adopted by the curator workshop is the practical integration of young curators in the day-to-day work of the institution Kunsthalle Fridericianum. Over and beyond the theoretical discourse of university curator programmes, it permits members to test their own curatorial enterprise and to experiment in exhibition work from the first outline of an idea to the realisation stage. This procedure distinguishes the workshop strongly from other programmes.

#### **The Project**

In the final year under the artistic directorship of René Block and before the *documenta 12* interrupts the work of the Kunsthalle for a year, the Curatorial Workshop Programme is going a step further with a joint project covering the entire exhibition programme from June to December 2006.

The open structure of the Programme allows each member to develop and stage his or her own exhibition idea for the series *5 Days to the End of Art*. The general dialogue in the development process of the individual projects sets the framework reflected in the structure of the exhibition series. All five exhibitions will dovetail in time, revealing substantive links and cross-references that have developed in processual and joint work in the workshop. At the same time, the distinctiveness of the individual approaches will mirror the varying perspectives, interests, and procedures of a young generation of curators.

### **Workshops**

The activities of the Curatorial Workshop Programme are flanked by theoretical workshops and conferences, which are devoted to contemporary curatorial issues and present different concepts. The focus is on exchanges with other curators and curatorial programmes. In October 2006, a workshop is to be organised in preparation for this year's October Salon in Belgrade. Apart from investigating the local art scene in Belgrade, the Curatorial Workshop Programme will be addressing existing conditions and developing locality-specific models of exhibition organisation.