Press Kit

PETER FRIEDL
THE DIARIES

EXHIBITION 11 OCTOBER 2014 - 01 FEBRUARY 2015
OPENING ATTENDED BY THE ARTIST FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER, 6PM
PETER FRIEDL
THE DIARIES

The centre d’art contemporain – la synagogue de Delme is pleased to present the solo exhibition The Diaries by Peter Friedl. Since his early beginnings, writing and drawing – in the broadest sense – have been core activities of Friedl’s artistic practice, in which critical intimacy, displacement, political awareness, conceptual transfers, and new models of narration play an important role. For the first time, all of the artist’s handwritten diaries from 1981 to 2014 will be on view in Delme.

More than three hundred closed notebooks are displayed in piles within specially designed museum showcases. As is often the case with Friedl’s projects, juxtaposition and overexposure are the exhibition’s very dynamics. In fact, The Diaries is an epic staging of real time, memory, volume, and text on paper. Thousands upon thousands of densely filled pages covering a period of over thirty years testify to the impossibility of capturing bare life in words. Like Friedl’s other long-term projects such as Playgrounds (since 1995) and Theory of Justice (1992–2010) – both based on documentary photographic images – his diary installation is a study in narration and is open to change.

As private books and authentic documents authored equally by professional writers and amateurs, diaries sit ambivalently on the threshold of literature and history. Their centuries-long tradition has given rise to many ways of constructing, documenting and revoking subjectivity. By blocking access to the contents of his enshrined, closed diaries, Peter Friedl invites the viewer to contemplate the multi-layered meaning of how aesthetic experience and imagination work. In an era of open access and ubiquitous surveillance, overabundant communication and information, the artist’s “real allegory” takes on critically new importance. It questions the power of display and imagination, the drama of form and content as well as the fragility of autonomy.

The Diaries plays with notions of the anachronistic, precarious, and unfinished. Yet Friedl’s installation subverts the myth of immediacy in order to offer an alternative composed of withdrawal, silence, and introspection. Simple, mundane activities such as reading and writing become tools and aids for potential resistance and emancipation.

As a visual prologue to the diary project, the exhibition will include a selection of Friedl’s own childhood drawings from the 1960s. Like the notebooks, the authenticating medium of the drawing can be experienced as a piece of material culture.
BIOGRAPHY

PETER FRIEDEL

Peter Friedl (born 1960) is an artist who lives in Berlin.

His work has been exhibited worldwide, including at Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; MoMA PS1, New York; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; and Hamburger Kunsthalle. He has participated in documenta X (1997) and documenta 12 (2007), the 48th Venice Biennale (1999), the 3rd Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art (2004), the 2nd International Biennial of Contemporary Art, Seville (2006), Manifesta 7, Trento (2008), the 7th Gwangju Biennale (2008), the 28th Bienal de São Paulo (2008), La Triennale, Paris (2012), the Taipei Biennial (2012), and the 12th São Paulo Architecture Biennale (2013).


Since the 1980s, Peter Friedl has published numerous essays and book projects such as Four or Five Roses (2004), Working at Copan (2007), and Playgrounds (2008). A large selection of his writings and interviews was published in 2010 by Sternberg Press under the title Secret Modernity.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

Opening Friday 10 October, 6pm.
Exhibition open 11 October 2014 - 1 February 2015.
Opening Friday 10 October, 6pm.
Wednesday-Saturday: 2-6pm, Sunday: 11am-6pm.
Free entrance.
Guided tour every Sunday at 4pm.

LOCATION AND ACCES

Centre d’art contemporain la synagogue de Delme
33 rue Poincaré 57590 Delme
+33(0)3 87 01 43 42 / cac.delme@wanadoo.fr
www.cac-synagoguedelme.org

FROM PARIS (by train 90 mins):
TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy

FROM METZ (by car, 30 mins):
D955, formerly route de Strasbourg

FROM NANCY (by car, 30 mins):
N74 towards Château-Salins
then D955 towards Metz

PRESS

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Visuals available on request
VISUALS AVAILABLE FOR PRESS

All the images > Courtesy Peter Friedl
The Diaries, 1981-2014 (detail)
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The Diaries, 1981-2014 (detail)
Courtesy Peter Friedl
"Untitled, 1964"
(May 1964)
Ballpoint pen on paper
24 x 19 cm
Courtesy Peter Friedl
**Untitled, 1964**  
(November 1964)  
Pencil, colored pencil on paper  
14.9 x 19.9 cm  
Courtesy Peter Friedl

**Untitled, 1965**  
(23 April 1965)  
Pencil, colored pencil on paper  
21.3 x 29.7 cm  
Courtesy Peter Friedl
Untitled, 1966
(15 February 1966)
Pencil, colored pencil on paper
29.7 x 42 cm
Courtesy Peter Friedl

Untitled, 1968
(30 November 1968)
Ballpoint pen on paper
29.7 x 42 cm
Courtesy Peter Friedl
Playgrounds, 1995–2014
Digitized color slides, 6 wall projections
Dimensions variable
Installation view Artspace, Auckland
Courtesy Peter Friedl
Photo: Sam Hartnett

Theory of Justice, 1992–2010
Newspaper clippings
16 display cases: steel, Plexiglas, painted plywood
100 x 160 x 75 cm each
Exhibition view Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, 2010
Collection Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid
Photo: Begoña Zubero
UPCOMING EXHIBITION

JEAN-LUC GUIONNET - THOMAS TILLY
Mid February - May 2015

LINDRE-BASSE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

CAPUCINE VANDEBROUCK
July - September 2014
Open Studio 17 September 6.30 pm.

OPJ CYGANEK
October - December 2014

RONAN LE CREURER
March - May 2015

VINCENT CHEVILLON
June - August 2015

PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

ERIC BAUDELAIRE - Anabases
With texts by Homay King, Jean-Pierre Rehm, Pierre Zaoui, Morad Montazami
Graphic design by Regular
32 euros

ZBYNEK BALADRAN - Dead Reckoning
Ed. La Synagogue de Delme. Coproduced with Jocelyn Wolff Gallery.
Texts by Zbynek Baladran and François Piron.
Graphic design by deValence.
5 euros

PUBLIC COMMISSION

BERDAUER & PÉJUS
Gue(ho)st House

Inaugurated on 22 September 2012, Gue(ho)st House is an architecture-sculpture made out of an existing building. It offers new visitor reception spaces dedicated to mediation and documentation, and allows everyone to prolong their visit to the exhibitions at the art centre.
LA SYNAGOGUE DE DELME
CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE

The Centre for contemporary Art in Delme is located in a former synagogue, built in an Oriental style in the late nineteenth century. Not least among its special features are a dome, an arcaded entryway decorated with latticework, and windows with geometric stained glass.

The synagogue was partly destroyed during the Second World War. The outer walls survived, but the interior was rebuilt along stricter lines after the war. The synagogue was permanently de-consecrated in the early 1980s for lack of sufficient numbers of worshippers. The first art exhibition was held in 1993.

The many artists who have exhibited in this unusual venue in the past twenty years, generating an identity and reputation for the art center both locally and internationally, include: François Morellet, Daniel Buren, Tadashi Kawamata, Ann Veronica Janssens, Peter Downsborough, Marc Camille Chaimowicz, Katinka Bock, Julien Prévieux, Gianni Motti, Yona Friedman, Eric Baudelaire, Clément Rodzielski … All have developed a special view of the venue by creating site specific works.

In addition to three or four temporary shows presented in the former synagogue every year, the Delme art center manages an artist-in-residence program in the village of Lindre-Basse in the heart of the Lorraine regional park area.

The Delme synagogue, of modest size and located in a rural region of Lorraine, has always positioned itself as an art lab, a site of artistic exploration and production. The art center makes a concerted effort to establish a dialogue with all potential audiences, focusing on the local area.

La synagogue de Delme Centre for Contemporary Art is a member of DCA–Association pour le Développement des Centres d’Art, Art en Résidence and Lora - Lorraine Art Contemporain.

La synagogue de Delme Centre for Contemporary Art is grateful for support from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Lorraine contemporary art authority (DRAC), the regional and departmental governments of Lorraine and Moselle, and the municipality of Delme.