



ich tier! (du mensch) - du tier! (ich mensch)

a group exhibition spanning two spaces, at Perla-Mode and dienstgebäude, Zürich
 10-25 april 2010 abrupt interspecies encounters
 opening: 9 april 2010, 6 pm

"I would actually propose that far from worrying our pets, we should be liberating them. The intimacy between people and pets are not just to observe and they are usually the stuff of vivid fantasy on the part of the human partner. While the pet sees the human as a source of food or exercise or maybe even fun, a cross between a wifey and a jailer, the human sees the pet as uniquely here." - Judith "Jack" Halberstam - University of Southern California 2009

The starting point of the project is the exclusive, unforeseen encounter with a non-human living being, an incidental everyday event, and the communication space opening up in it. Ich Tier! (Du Mensch) - Du Tier! (Ich Mensch) is a thematic group exhibition spanning between two art spaces living in proximity of each other - Perla-Mode and Dienstgebäude in Zurich - a bridge between two worlds: the animal and the human world, artistic positions from Switzerland and abroad consider with artistic means in a variety of ways the conflictual relation between human and animal and vice versa.

With the artistic means of expression of performance, video, drawing, silhouette and site-specific installation the participating artists explore the depths of cultural-historically mediated, extremely ambivalent relations between human and animal entities. The exhibition does not advocate something like a "return to nature". Rather to devote our energy to transgressing the limited formal vocabulary and visual language in approaching the human/animal dichotomy. Language, be it artistic, linguistic or gestural in nature, increases the human perception of reality. The participating artists demonstrate a special interest in the moments of shade and silence in which the categorizing boundaries

between human and animal are blurred. Their works of art are saturated with intensity, drawing on a range of art devices derived from reality and fiction, narrative and criticism, wisdom, ritual, phantasmagoria, science, feelings or passions, evocation all the way to banal everyday observations.

The exhibition offers to the spectator an atmospheric yet disturbing context, the thought-provoking topography of terra incognita. The artistic interventions shown evoke a broad spectrum of disturbing subject matter like disgust, discomfiting, mortality, constraint, the vulnerable, vulnerability, fears, disease, dream positions, deterioration, aggression, superstition, cruelty, com-medications, mutilations, variations, beauty. The viewer will be seduced to confront things that apparently will never be fully uncovered, things provoking an embarrassment, escaping through the cracks of a fractured organization of knowledge. This allows us to elaborate the idea of a universe inhabited by different species where so-called "plants", "animals", or "humans" generate a com-edic space "in an existential theater of the absurd". Looking at man as a rather funny creature, something less than perfect, the exhibition brings to the viewer a seductive quality and a special carrier of humor as a tool to disrupt categories and shift boundaries.

The exhibition does not aim to find the borders of the human or to define the animal, but rather to try at least for an instant to think about animals as living biological organisms, rather than as creatures of the literary and philosophical imagination. This does not mean sacrificing the principle of imaginative suggestion in favor of reality. Our idea is to attempt to subvert an awkward door to open, with the means of art, on to a territory beyond metaphysical boundaries and binary divisions between living forms.

the curatorial team: catharina hug, isabel reiss, dimarina sevova

Program of Events: in collaboration with Corner College at Perla-Mode, Langstrasse 84 / Brauerstrasse 37, 8004 Zurich
 Friday, 9 April, 7 pm: Social Disorder and a World Turned Upside Down, performance by eggerschlatter (during the opening)
 Saturday, 10 April, 8 pm: After Effect, D 2007, written and directed by Stephan Geene, 75 min
 Wednesday, 14 April, 6 pm: bar and small talk at Perla-Mode, with a surprise program
 Wednesday, 21 April, 6 pm: bar and small talk at Perla-Mode, with a surprise program
 Friday, 23 April, 7:30 pm: HUMANDOG - If you want to know what is human you have to approach it on all fours; a video / lecture / performance by Mirjam Hofmann
 Sunday, 25 April, 7 pm: Creative Anthropomorphism - animal forms of sociality and cross species desires, a lecture in English by Judith Jack Halberstam, University of Southern California, Los Angeles



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Social Disorder and a World Turned Upside Down
 Performance by eggerschlatter



During the opening, a horse transporter will go back and forth between Perla-Mode and Dienstgebäude. The horse transporter is hauled by visitors of the opening, 10 to 15 people are required. In the horse transporter there will be two coach horses. The hierarchy between the workhorse and those who usually depend on its working power is thus turned around with a simple gesture.



I Animal! (You Human)
 (du mensch!) (ich tier!)

a group show spanning two art spaces
 10-25 April 2010
 With the artists bankleer, Sabina Baumann, Beni Bischof, eggerschlatter, Christian Eisenberger, Klara Hobza, huber.huber, Line Skywalker Karlström, Jakob Lena Knebl, Flo Maak, Lin May, Evi Rüsseler, Hans Scheiri, Giséle Schindler, Bertold Stallmach, Jens Ullrich, Nives Widauer.
 Addresses: Perla-Mode, Langstrasse 84 / Brauerstrasse 37, 8004 Zurich; dienstgebäude, Weichengasse 4, 8004 Zurich.
 Opening hours: Thursday to Saturday, 2 pm-6 pm
 Opening event on Friday, 9 April:
 at Perla-Mode: 6 pm: doors open; 7 pm-9:30 pm: opening, with the generous support of Appenzeller Bier; from 9:30 pm: DJ Party with the charming dj scarlett
 at Dienstgebäude: 6 pm-11 pm: opening party
 Curated by:
 "Ich Tier! (Du Mensch)" at Perla-Mode: Dimitrina Sevova
 "Du Tier! (Ich Mensch)" at Dienstgebäude: Cathérine Hug, Isabel Reiss

<http://www.ichtier-dumensch.ch/>

The project is realized in collaboration with Perla-Mode, Dienstgebäude and corner college.



Special thanks to all participating artists, performers, lecturers, to Esther Epstein, Andreas Marti, Cat Tuong Nguyen, Urs Lehni, Alain Kessi, Sibylle Kayser, Gregory Siegl, Viola Theale, Anna Voswinkel and Corneli Windlin!

And a big thank you to our sponsor for the opening event for their generous support: Appenzeller Bier.

A special publication in limited edition on the occasion of the exhibition, with art works by the participating artists and theoretical texts, is in preparation. It is being published in collaboration with code flow (www.code-flow.net).

