



Museum Ludwig

Franz West: Auto-Theatre

**Museo d'Arte
Contemporanea Donna
Regina (MADRE), Naples**
15 May-23 August
www.museomadre.it

This touring exhibition from the Ludwig Museum, Cologne, is the first major European retrospective of Franz West and brings together more than 30 works, dating from 1972 to the present, including his "Adaptives" (Passstücke) series of portable sculptures, collage, papier-mâché sculptures as well as site-specific installations. The versatile Austrian artist has designed a wallpaper work specifically for this show, along with other pieces.

The title of the show underlines the performative and interactive dimension of West's work, which revolves around the idea of what he calls a "participatory model", involving an invitation to viewers to use the objects on display. The work becomes a combination of two elements, the object itself and the action that follows its fruition. In biology, adaptability is the capacity of an organism to transform itself in relation to its environment. West has drawn on this scientific model and incorporated it into his work. This dialogue with the viewer has also been extended to include furniture sculptures which he has produced since the mid-1980s that blur the boundaries between the visual and the applied arts.

MADRE curator Mario Codognato says, "The museum is housed in a 19th-century building, a great example of historical stratification, and consists of spaces of domestic dimension, where it will be possible to show one piece a time. It will be interesting to see how these works of art act autonomously."

West has often worked with other artists. Co-productions with Michelangelo Pistoletto and Heimo Zobernig are included in the show. The exhibition will travel to Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz (24 September-9 January 2011). Above, *Tournure*, 2001, *Auto Sex* (with Heimo Zobernig), 1999, and *Spiegel in Kabine mit Passstücken* (with Michelangelo Pistoletto), 1996.
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