

Press Release

Thomas Lehnerer. Free Play

8 June – 2 September 2018

I have a small sheet of paper (blank or already drawn on), a piece of canvas or a lump of wax or clay before me, I sit in front of it or walk around with the material. Initially, my mind is focused on just one question, the question of beginning, the artistic question of principle: How does an image come about?

—Thomas Lehnerer, *Methode der Kunst*, 1994

The summer exhibition at Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein is devoted to the Munich-based artist and theorist Thomas Lehnerer (1955–1995). This survey show, the very first, will feature well-known sculptures, series of paintings and drawings, unexhibited works and ideas previously unexplored.

In his short lifetime, Lehnerer did not take the existence of art for granted, instead interpreting its task and content in great depth. In his writings, above all in *Methode der Kunst* [Methods of Art], he elaborated on seminal texts of aesthetics, cultural theory and art history, developing a concept of art expounded in his artwork. His small-format, figurative sculptures, predominantly of bronze, lead or wax, his drawings, watercolours and early spatial installations follow his theoretical premises, addressing universal human themes. He adds further depth to his examination of our existence by incorporating figures from cultural history or theology and a host of found objects. Attention to coincidence and found objects played an important role in the creation of Lehnerer's works and indeed is often a starting point. The seven-part series of drawings and paintings *Die ganze Welt* [The Whole World] (1985–86) together forms a 'counter-world' with the aim of creating knowledge about existence. In general terms, Lehnerer devoted a great deal of attention to the process of creation and inner contemplation. The focus is not on visual aspects, but rather on absolute presence in the creation and viewing of the works. They mark a difference from the world, while simultaneously mediating between the world and the viewer. Lehnerer described this aesthetic dimension as 'free play' between subjective feeling and objective connection to the world.

The exhibition is a production of Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, curated by Friedemann Malsch. It was created in close collaboration with the Thomas Lehnerer Archive.

Publication

The exhibition will be accompanied by a German-language publication with text contributions by Herta Müller, Marcus Steinweg and others.

Opening

Thursday, 7 June 2018, from 6pm

Public guided tours

Thursday, 14 June 2018, 6pm

Thursday, 30 August 2018, 6pm

Take Away (short guided tours)

Thursday, 28 June 2018, 12.30pm

Thursday, 30 August 2018, 12.30pm

Side programme

Thursday, 21 June 2018, 6pm

Museum Filmclub **Les Petites Fugues – Kleine Fluchten**

by Yves Yersin, CH/FR 1979, 145', F/d

Sunday, 1 July 2018, 11am

Public guided tour „One Hour“ **Freies Spiel**

with Friedemann Malsch

Wednesday, 15 August 2018, 10am–8pm

Kunstmuseum Special **National Day**

Short guided tours, activities for children, free admission

Thursday, 23 August 2018, 6pm

Museum Filmclub **Il Vangelo secondo Matteo – Das 1. Evangelium – Matthäus**

by Pier Paolo Pasolini, IT/FR 1964, 131', I/d

Sunday, 2 September 2018, 11am

Public guided tour „One Hour“ **Methode der Kunst**
with Friedemann Malsch

Thursday, 13 September 2018, 6pm

Museum Filmclub **Wittgenstein**
by Derek Jarman, UK 1993, 72', E/d

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