

PAUL WALLACH IN SALZBURG Saturday, May 19, 2018

PAUL WALLACH – SUSPENSION

Art and Church 2018

Duration: until July 1, 2018

Kollegienkirche, Universitätsplatz

Opening: May 19, 2018, 11 am



PAUL WALLACH – DOWN TO THE GROUND

Krauthügel Art Project 2018

Duration: until September 30, 2018

Krauthügel and Hohensalzburg Castle

Opening: May 19, 2018, 7 pm at the castle

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

To mark the finale of the Krauthügel Art Project, Paul Wallach, an American in Paris (*1960), deliberately lets an immense star fall into the landscape. 70 blocks of white concrete have been arranged into lines extending across an area of 40 by 45 meters to fashion a "land drawing" (Wallach), which is furnished with two passageways. Only when viewed from the bird's eye perspective, from the Hohensalzburg Castle, does the installation start to take shape and the geometric composition reveals itself to be a four-pointed, star-shaped structure. Universal spatial conceptions are inversed as the star shines upwards from the ground. Thus in order to appreciate the full impact of the work, visitors must seek a higher vantage point.

Parallel to his project on the Krauthügel, Wallach is also exhibiting his cycle "Suspension" in the Salzburg Collegiate Church (until July 1, 2018).

We cordially invite you to attend the inauguration of these two Salzburg projects featuring works by Paul Wallach. The artist is present and will be available for interviews. The timetable for the opening ceremonies is as follows:

11 am: Kollegienkirche (Collegiate Church), Universitätsplatz

Speakers: **Christian Wallisch-Breitsching** (Collegiate Church), **Claudius Tanski** (University Lecturer in Piano, Mozarteum University) and **Karl Gollegger** (President Salzburg Foundation).

Pianist: Sayoko Sugino (Franz Schubert, Piano Sonata in G major, D894).

7 pm: Hohensalzburg Castle, Mönchsberg 34 (preceded by a tour of the Krauthügel site, at 6 pm)

Speakers: **Karl Gollegger** (President Salzburg Foundation), **Walter Smerling** (Artistic Director Salzburg Foundation), **Wilfried Haslauer** (Governor Land Salzburg), together with the artist **Anselm Kiefer**, whose walk-in installation *A.E.I.O.U.* in Furtwänglerpark first launched the activities of the Salzburg Foundation in the city of Salzburg some 17 years ago.

"My heartfelt thanks go to the artists", states Walter Smerling. "They have fully engaged with the - at the time highly controversial – experiment in Salzburg. Anselm Kiefer was the first, and I'm delighted that with his speech the project has turned full circle - and perhaps a new cycle will begin."

The work for the Krauthügel is Wallach's hitherto largest project and, at the same time, represents a kind of balancing act: a small gesture cast in large-scale format, minimalism in the monumental. Aligned vertically, its 320-meter circumference would reach to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Yet despite its monumental dimensions, this land-art installation is conceived on a human scale. Rising just 40 cm above the ground, the work extends an open invitation to be explored as a space in which to repose, linger, perform or play. For this "walk-in drawing" is intended as a place of encounter. Yet it also facilitates a unique spatial experience, which only becomes discernible through the physical movement of the observer between the natural environment and the castle fortress.



The title "Down to the Ground" alludes not only to the shape of the "fallen star", but also to groundedness of LandArt itself, in whose tradition Wallach operates. From below, the work can be perceived as an autonomous sculpture, which redefines and inscribes itself into the landscape. Viewed from above, our eyes fuse the concrete blocks into lines, which resolve into a coherent image. However, in order to experience this, the visitors must walk and, in so doing, automatically become collaborators of the artist.

"The movement of the visitors", explains Paul Wallach, "and the viewpoint of their observations lay at the core of the work's conception. For me the site of this work is not only the field, but also the space which unfolds between the field and the mountain. The observation of this space becomes perceptible through the physical movement of the visitor. How does the expanse of the field and the height of the mountain combine with my work in such a way as to render this space palpable?"

In the Collegiate Church Wallach is presenting his cycle "Suspension", which directly references his work for the Krauthügel. Conceived site-specifically for the church space, the work comprises enlarged pigment prints of woodcuts, which have been modified to suit the spatial dimensions of the sacred space and which still bear traces of the woodcut originals. White forms appear to float in front of the colours and the "Suspension" itself takes place on both a symbolic and optical level. By virtue of its serial arrangement in the church interior, the fragmented shapes resolve into a fully-fledged star motif.

Paul Wallach was born in New York in 1960. He has become well-acquainted with the city of Salzburg since his *Artist in Residency (Leube)* in 1996. In 2003 he entered the competition for the World Trade Center Memorial. His sculptures have been featured in exhibitions from New York, Paris to Vienna and Berlin. Paul Wallach lives and works in Paris.

In expressing his delight at this "*fascinating work*", the President of the Salzburg Foundation Karl Gollegger remarked that: "*Following 12 years of dedicated commitment by many collaborators to the Salzburg Art Project, or the Walk of Modern Art, it now provides a worthy conclusion to the five-year Krauthügel Art Project. With its poignant symbolism, this work inspires me to reflect upon the star as a symbol of orientation (The Three Magi, seafaring, hope) and the "land-drawing" raises the ever topical issue of "land ethics": What is ethically and aesthetically permissible, and also economically appropriate to preserve the beauty of nature?*"

With the installation by Paul Wallach, the Salzburg Foundation is bringing to a close the five-year Krauthügel Art Project, as planned. The future activities in the city are now being channelled into establishing a Salzburg Biennial for art in the public space.

We request accreditation for the events on May 19, 2018 from: ulrike.godler@moz.ac.at, and will be happy to assist should you have any enquiries.

With warmest regards



Ulrike Godler
Salzburg Foundation



Tina Rudolph
Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur e.V.

Organisation

A project by the Salzburg Foundation and the Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur e.V. (Foundation for Art and Culture), Bonn, in cooperation with the Archabbey of St. Peter (Krauthügel Art Project) and the Roman Catholic University Chaplaincy, Salzburg (Art and Church).

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Press photos

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Images in the text: p1: Paul Wallach, Suspension (woodcut), 2018, photo: Georges Poncet; p2 left: Paul Wallach, Down to the Ground, 2018, photo: Manfred Siebinger; p2 right: Paul Wallach, Down to the Ground, 2018, photo: Salzburg Foundation