

Information for the press
July 14, 2015



ZHANG HUAN: "MY TEMPLE"

Presentation: Friday, July 24, 2015, 11 a.m., Krauthügel, Hans-Sedlmayr-Weg in Salzburg

Duration: until September 29, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are hereby cordially invited to the presentation of the second *Art Project Krauthügel*. **On Friday, July 24, 2015 at 11 a.m.**, we introduce to the public the installation "My Temple" **by the Chinese artist Zhang Huan**. The art project will be revealed by **Karl Gollegger, president of the Salzburg Foundation, Walter Smerling, chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, and Governor Wilfried Haslauer** in presence of the artist.

The Krauthügel, a 80,000 square meter meadow area below the fortress Hohensalzburg, will not only be an artistic area for the public but also a spiritual place: Zhang Huan will built a temple on these grounds for which he will use historical components from a 17th century Ming Dynasty temple. The artist creates a correlation network between art and history, art and nature, rationality and spirituality. His temple, which seems to have arisen from ancient China, is charged with the history of many generations that the artist transforms from their timeframe into actuality.

At the entrance of the filigree architecture is an empty plastic bag, a familiar object of everyday consumer life. It floats as a peculiarly delicate strange object between the wooden beams of the installation. The ancient material wood meets the material of the present (and future?) plastic. While the natural material wood represents durability and historical growth, the bag is a product of fast pace and reproducibility. However, it can also be read as a symbol of transportation and movement, as a vacuum that needs to be filled. For Zhang Huan it symbolizes the "illusion of the future and the expectation of a new life."

About his work the artist says: "The temple was the remains of sacred place where my ancestors worship their forefathers four hundred years ago. Each time I walk into My Temple, I am surrounded by great mental aura which is unsophisticated, silent and mysterious. It's an illusion, an illusion arising from epiphany which has something to do with the imaginary past, present and future. It's an illusion of happiness, love and death."

The artistic director of the Salzburg Foundation, Walter Smerling, defines Zhang's temple as an archaeological Concept of Art: "The artist uses the past to better understand the present, and directs a new look at the old China. It's about the lost mentality of today's society."

Biography

Zhang Huan was born in 1965 in Anyang in Henan Province and spent much of his childhood in the countryside. In the early 1990s he moved to Beijing, where he attended the Academy of Fine Arts studying painting. In 1993 he graduated. Then he joined a group of artists named after the New York City borough "East Village" in the outskirts of Beijing. Initially he staged performances that he documented photographically or filmed. In the late 1990s he managed his international breakthrough with a participation in the Venice Biennale and solo exhibitions in Asia, Europe and the US. Today Zhang Huan lives in Shanghai and New York.

Art project Krauthügel

The art project Krauthügel is a five-year collaboration between the Salzburg Foundation, the St. Peter's Abbey and the Foundation for Art and Culture, which was launched last year with the presentation of three sculptures by Anthony Cragg. Until 2018, the Salzburg Foundation will invite an artist every year to realize a temporary work for the Krauthügel and transform the site over the summer months into an Open Air Gallery.

Best Regards,

Ulrike Godler
Salzburg Foundation

Tina Rudolph
Foundation for Art and Culture

Press photos

Press photos you can download at www.salzburgfoundation.at beginning July 24, 2015 at the press section. Please note the credit information. The free of charge publication is only permitted in connection with this exhibition.

Title: Zhang Huan, *My Temple*, 2015, 700 x 1260 x 800cm

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