

MARK POŽLEP

WHATEVER
HAPPENED TO
MAJOR

TOM

13. 9.—14. 10.

2012

KULTURNI
CENTER

TOBAČNA

001

Muzej in galerije mesta Ljubljane Kulturni center Tobačna 001

Mark Požlep
13. 9. – 14. 10. 2012

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MAJOR TOM

Vljudno vabljeni na odprtje
razstave v četrtek, 13. septembra,
ob 19. uri v KC Tobačna 001.

You are cordially invited to attend
the opening of the exhibition on
Thursday, September 13, at 7 pm
at the CC Tobačna 001.

Kustos razstave / Exhibition curator: Alenka Trebušak

Prostorska postavitve *Whatever Happened to Major Tom* sodi med tista dela Marka Požlepa, ki se vizualno ali simbolično napajajo pri klišejskih motivih iz sveta sodobnih medijskih podob. Umetnik jih predeluje in predstavlja v instalacijah, njihove integralni del pa je pogosto video.

Postavitve tematsko nadaljuje delo *Close to The Clouds*, 2011, v katerem je Požlep posadil palmo na peščeno nasutje poplavljenega razstavnega prostora Umetnostne galerije Maribor. Gledalca je na ta način razpel med iluzijo in realnost, saj ga je fiktivno prenesel na romantičen otoček, ga obkrožil z morjem in obsijal s sončnim zahodom. Umetnik v tokratni razstavi sicer ohranja delček romanticizma izhodiščne instalacije, predstavi pa ji mnoge nove vsebine.

V nasprotju s predhodnim delom premisa projekta *Whatever Happened to Major Tom* ni vzpostavitev umetnega kraja namenjenega bivanju palme, temveč postavitve taiste palme v naravno okolje. Ne gre torej za goli eskapizem potovanja v izmišljene koticke sveta, v ospredju je realni prostor in resnično potovanje. Z vpeljavo momenta dejanskosti Požlep gledalcu omogoča identifikacijo s palmo. Ne samo, da je njena usoda nejasna, potreba po sposobnosti integracije v neprijazno okolje kamnite čeri v unij-skem zalivu je enaka nujnosti slehernikovega vsakodnevnega prilagajanja, sprejemanja kompromisov ali vključevanja v novo skupnost ob spremembah družbenega okolja. Potovanje pravzaprav poteka dvotirno: na eni strani sledimo premiku palme iz mariborske galerije na Školjič, na drugi strani pa spremljamo ja-drnico Cayuco, ki je svojo pot v projektu začela v Hamburgu. Selitvena avantura tako združuje dve različni zgodbi. Poveže ju v pripoved o nekajdnevem sobivanju dveh elementov, njuno medsebojno razmerje pa razkriva identiteto kot nekaj hibridnega in nestalnega.

Naslov instalacije izhaja iz pesmi Davida Bowieja »Space Oddity« iz leta 1969, kjer se prvič pojavi lik, imenovan Major Tom. Z njim je Bowie ustvaril arhetipsko podobo astronavta, ki izgubi povezavo s kontrolo letenja ali namerno prekine stik z Zemljo in ostane v vesolju. Izbira majorja Toma za naslovnega akterja ni nenavadna: Požlepovo tematiziranje znanstvenofantastične materije, superherojev in stvaritev alterega Črnega Šeširja ni daleč od Bowiejevega spogledovanja s tovrstnimi vsebinami. Besedilo pesmi se konča z vrstico: »Planet Zemlja je moder in nič ne morem storiti.« Požlepov beg v svet razburljivih doživetij, njegova avantura, ki astronauta nadomesti z mornarjem, neskončnost veselja pa s prostrano modrino Jadranskega morja, kaže željo po spremembi, po transformaciji sveta in sebe v njem.

Alenka Trebušak

Mark Požlep's installation *Whatever Happened to Major Tom* pertains to that part of his artistic output that visually and symbolically draws on clichéd motifs taken from the world of contemporary media images. The artist transforms and presents them in installations that often include videos.

Thematically, the installation is a sequel to Požlep's *Close to The Clouds* (2011), in which he planted a palm tree on a heap of sand in a flooded exhibition room at the Art Gallery Maribor. Fictively transported to a romantic island, surrounded by the sea and illuminated by a sunset, the viewers were faced with both illusion and reality. In the present show, the artist preserves some of the romance of the previous installation, investing it, however, with new content.

Unlike the earlier work, the premise of *Whatever Happened to Major Tom* is not the creation of an artificial space in which a palm tree could live, but the placement of that same palm tree into a natural environment. This is not just the escapism of traveling to fictional parts of the world; what is in focus is real space and real travel. By introducing actuality, Požlep enables viewers to identify with the palm tree: not only is its fate unclear, but also its need to be able to integrate into the unfriendly environment of a rocky reef in Unije Bay in Croatia equals everyone's need to daily adjust, compromise, or integrate into a new social group when changing one's milieu. Actually, the journey follows two separate tracks: on the one hand there is the palm tree's transition from the Maribor gallery to the island of Školjič, and on the other, the journey of a Cayuco boat that started its trip during this project in Hamburg. The relocation adventure thus brings together two stories, intertwining them into a narrative of a several-day-long coexistence of two elements whose interrelation reveals identity to be a hybrid and inconstant thing.

The installation gets its title from David Bowie's 1969 song "Space Oddity," in which the character of Major Tom appears for the first time. In *Major Tom*, Bowie created an archetypal figure of an astronaut who loses touch with ground control or deliberately cuts off all contact with Earth and remains in space. The choice of *Major Tom* for the main character is not unusual for Požlep: the artist's choice of sci-fi themes and superheroes and the creation of his *Black Hat* alter ego are not far from Bowie's flirting with similar subjects. Bowie's song ends with the lyrics "Planet Earth is blue, and there's nothing I can do." Požlep's escape into a world of exciting experiences, his adventure wherein the astronaut is replaced with a sailor and the endlessness of outer space with the vast blue Adriatic Sea, show a desire for change, for transforming the world and himself in it.

Alenka Trebušak

DOGODKI

ČETRTEK, 20. SEPTEMBER
18.00
Predstavitve projekta.
Mark Požlep

TOREK, 9. OKTOBER
17.00
Vodstvo po razstavi.
Alenka Trebušak

EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
6 pm
Project presentation.
Mark Požlep

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9
5 pm
Guided tour.
Alenka Trebušak



Muzej in galerije mesta
Ljubljane

Gospodarska ulica 15
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenija

T: +386 (0) 1 2412 500
F: +386 (0) 1 2412 540

www.mgml.si

Kulturni center Tobačna 001
Galerija 001

Tobačna ulica 1
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenija

T: +386 (0) 1 2411 770
+386 (0) 1 2411 785
F: +386 (0) 1 2411 782

E: mestna.galerija@mgml.si

Odrpto:

torek – sobota
11.00 – 19.00
nedelja
11.00 – 15.00

Ponedeljki in prazniki
zaprti.

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Saturday
11 am – 7 pm
Sunday
11 am – 3 pm

Closed on Mondays and
public holidays.

Donator / Donor:

TOBAČNA
LJUBLJANA
DONATOR

Projekt je podprla / Project is supported by:



Mestna občina
Ljubljana