

NEON

Thomas Hirschhorn | Talk

***Cavemanman*, 2002**

Installation at the exhibition *Dream On*

former Public Tobacco Factory – Hellenic Parliament Library and Printing House

Thursday 3 November 2022, 19:00

Free Entrance

NEON presents a talk by Swiss artist Thomas Hirschhorn followed by a conversation with art historian Dimitris Paleocrassas on Thursday 3 November at 19:00 at the former Public Tobacco Factory, admission free.

The artist will talk about his work, and more specifically about the installation *Cavemanman* currently on view at the former Public Tobacco Factory as part of the group exhibition *Dream On*.

Cavemanman is an immersive installation, a labyrinthine, life-size “cave” made from everyday materials, wood, cardboard and tape. An environment representing the collective mind, created from books, posters, videos, shelves, beverage cans and dolls.

According to Dimitris Paleocrassas, curator of *Dream On*: “There’s not much to be said about this magnum opus. In fact, one most probably remains speechless in shock and awe at this mega-ambitious installation, this total dream.”

Hirschhorn says about his work: “I feel as an artist I have to do too much. I have to do the whole thing. It’s always about the whole world. It’s always about the entire possibility, the entire thing. And of course, that’s pretentious and it’s ambitious, but in another way, it’s stupid, also, to want to do this. I have, as an artist, to stand out this ridiculousness of this ambition and this pretension. It’s always about the whole world. So that’s why I like to be over-formed, to make too much, to put everything inside. To try again and again, to put everything into the work.

I’m part of this chaotic world. I’m a part of this unclarity in the world. I see as one of my missions as an artist to work in this unclarity, to work in this chaos. Not to bring clarity, not to bring clearness, to struggle with the chaos.”

Dream On

former Public Tobacco Factory – Hellenic Parliament Library & Printing House, Lenorman 218, Athens

A collaboration between the Hellenic Parliament + NEON

Curator: Dimitris Paleocrassas, Art Historian

Duration: 8 June – 27 November 2022

Opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday: closed

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday: 11:00-19:00

Saturday: 12:00 - 20:00

Free Entrance

Reservation required via neon.artsvp.co

More Information neon.org.gr

NOTES TO EDITORS

Thomas Hirschhorn (b. 1957, Bern, Switzerland) lives and works in Paris, where he moved in 1983, after studying at the Kunstgewerbeschule Zürich.

His work has been presented in many international exhibitions such as *Skulptur Projekte Münster*, Münster (1997); the Venice Biennale (1999 and 2015), where he represented Switzerland in 2011; Documenta 11, Kassel (2002), 27th Sao Paolo Biennale (2006); 55th Carnegie International, Pittsburg (2008); 9th Shanghai Biennale (2012); *Manifesta 10*, St. Petersburg (2014); *Atopolis Mons* (2015); Kochi-Muziris Biennale (2018); *Steirischer Herbst*, Graz (2021). A complete survey of his *Pixel Collage* works was presented at Fondazione MAXXI, Rome in 2021. With each exhibition – in a museum, gallery or alternative space – and with every work in public space, Hirschhorn asserts his commitment toward a non-exclusive public.

Over the years, Hirschhorn has created more than seventy works in public space, questioning the autonomy, the authorship and resistance of a work of art, and asserting the power of art to touch and transform the other. 'I want to use art as a tool to establish a contact with the Other – this is a necessity – and I am convinced that the only possible contact with the Other happens "One to One", as equal'. Through his experience of working in public space, Hirschhorn has developed his own guidelines of 'Presence and Production' in being present and producing on location during the full course of his projects.

Thomas Hirschhorn has dedicated works to philosophers, writers, artists he loves, in the form of large sculpture works such as altars, kiosks, monuments, maps and collages. With his series of four monuments: *Spinoza Monument*, Amsterdam (1999); *Deleuze Monument*, La Beauté, Avignon (2000); *Bataille Monument*, Documenta 11, Kassel (2002); and *Gramsci Monument*, The Bronx, New York (2013), produced by Dia Art Foundation, New York, Hirschhorn asserts his will to 'establish a new definition of monument in provoking encounters and creating an event'.

NEON is a non-profit organisation that works to bring contemporary culture closer to everyone. It is committed to broadening the appreciation, understanding, and creation of contemporary art in Greece, and to the firm belief that this is a key tool for growth and development.

NEON, founded in 2013 by collector and entrepreneur Dimitris Daskalopoulos, breaks with the convention that limits the contemporary art foundation of a collector to a single place. NEON's space is the city. It acts on a multitude of initiatives, spaces, and civic and social contexts. It seeks to expose the ability contemporary art has to stimulate, inspire, and affect the individual and society at large. NEON constructively collaborates with cultural institutions and supports the programmes of public and private institutions to enhance increased access and inventive interaction with contemporary art.

Press inquiries

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