

DIETMAR HERZOG

ART IS LANGUAGE

March 31 - April 21, 2000

Opening Reception: April 7, 6 - 9 p.m.

Lecture: April 13, 7 p.m.

Art Is Language:

Diane LaBelle: You have told me that the theme of this series is "Large Symbols". Is this a new idea for you?

Dietmar Herzog: No, it is not. Where I studied seven years ago, I had this idea but I stopped it to work on other things. This work was still present on the walls of my studio during this time but it was in the background. I don't know why I remember this idea now. I don't know.

DL: When did you come back to this concept?

DH: October and November of last year. I remember when the idea became part of my imagination- in my studio in Germany, two artists came to see me to go with them to have coffee. They commented on how happy I looked and I knew that I had this concept inside my head. I remember hoping that the artist friends did not stay much longer so that I could start my new work. The idea was in my head and I felt good.

DL: Was this work that you wanted to do in Bethlehem, as part of the artist-in-residence program?

DH: At first, I had another program planned to do in Bethlehem but then I felt that I had to go on with this work. I looked at the pictures that I made seven years ago when I first had the idea. I decided what was good and asked what can I do better now from seven years ago. What is different now?

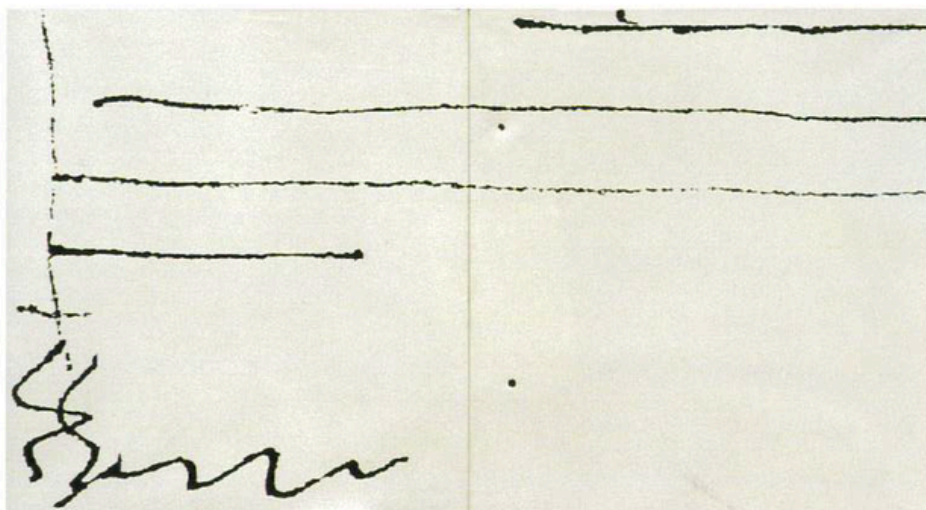
DL: In creating this work, you begin with text. What text do you use?

DH: Different philosophical texts such as Goethe's *Metamorphosis*, and other poets, also Rudolf Steiner, and text from art history. I am very interested in writings of great authors. I am inspired to work with these texts, to draw on them and to interact with them. This is the beginning of my artistic journey. While reading the text, I underline and write comments, and make marks in the margin - all as direct reflections of the text. When the

text is completely separated from these graphical processes, the marks I made become visible and autonomous. They have an individual rhythm and carry my reaction to the text within them. The power of the contents of words, their relationships and connections changes to a graphical expression - the line.

The concept of a word, with its subjectivity, emotion, and spirit, is thereby lifted from a linguistic to a graphical-artistic plane. For example, relationships and comparisons between words are continued by arrows; emphasis is achieved through underlining, and concentration of the text occurs by means of circles.

The result is a sort of "visual language", which creates a graphical text of equivalent meaning.



DL: So the title of this series relates to this process?

DH: Yes, the title of this series is "Large Symbols".

And it is always about the next picture for me. I look at the ones I do and I think about the next one.

Dietmar Herzog is the fifth artist in residence at the Banana Factory and the second artist in residence from Bethlehem's sister city in Germany, Schwaebisch Gmuend.

*Diane LaBelle
Director, Banana Factory*

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Biography

1956 Born in Reutlingen
1976-1981 Student of Civil Engineering
1981 Degree in Civil Engineering
1986 Student of Freie Kunstschule
(Free Artschool) and P. ART,
Stuttgart

1987-1994 University of Art- Staal.
Akademie der Bildenden
Kuenste, Stuttgart. Student of
free painting and free graphics
with Professor Baumgartl and
Professor Schoofs

1993-1994 Masterschool with Professor
Schoofs
1994-present Independent artist

Major Exhibitions (Ausstellungen)

1989 Alpirsbacher Galerie, Alpirsbach
1989 Galerie Karin Gundel, Freiberg/Neckar
1992 Museum Bochum
1993 Kunstverein Villingen-Schwenningen
1994 Galerie 103, Stuttgart
1994 Galerie der Stadt Fellbach
1995 Galerie der Stadt Boeblingen
1995 IG Metall (Metal Tradesunion), Frankfurt
1996 Galerie Timm Gierig, Frankfurt

1999 Kunstverein Schwaebisch-Gmuend
1999 Galerie Pelikan, Szekesfehervar/Hungary
1999 Kunstverein Heidenheim
2000 Galerie im Prediger, Schwaebisch-
Gmuend
2000 Banana Factory, Artist in Residence,
Bethlehem, PA

Exhibitions (Exterior)

1995 "Place of Questions" (*Orte der Fragen*),
Installation in the Hoefingen Trainstation/
Baden/Wue

1995 "Three Experiments with Time" (*Drei
Versuche mit der Zeit*), Installation in
(Slate quarry) Schiefersteinbruch
Holzmaden/Baden/Wue

1996 "Horizon" (*Horizont*) Installation in
(Slate quarry) Schiefersteinbruch
Holzmaden/Baden/Wue

1996 "Lost Pictures" (*Bild verloren*) Black
Box in room for experimental art,
Kunstverein Boeblingen

1997 "At the Same Time" (*Zeitgleich*)
Installation Kirche Mauren/Boeblingen

1998 "Passage" (*Tor/Durchgang*) Installation
in Stuttgart Trainstation

1998 "Tower in Tower" (*Turm im Turm*)
Installation in Koenigsturm,
Schwaebisch-Gmuend

1998 Artists Workshop in Szekesfeshervar/
Hungary

1999 "Inside-Outside" (*Innen-Aussen*)
Installation in Kunstverein Aalen



2000 Gallery Season

Abstraction

Jan. 14 - Feb. 26

Curator: Berrisford Boothe

Rwandan Refugees:

A Story of Life

Lucian Niemeyer

March 3 - April 15

Dietmar Herzog

Artist-in-Residence

March 31 - April 30

Young Artists 2000

April 21 - May 27

Curators: Sue Berkenstock &

Lois Hofschild

Local Color

June 2 - July 15

Curator: TBA

Parkland Art League

Exhibition

July 21 - Sept. 2

Lehigh Art Alliance Juried

Exhibition

September 8 - October 21

Outsiders

Oct. 27 - Dec. 9

Curator: TBA

Sine Materia

Valerie Constantino

Oct. 27 - Dec. 9

Banana Factory Artists

Annual Exhibition

Dec. 15 - Jan. 21, 2001

"to kindle, support and celebrate
the artistic, cultural and creative
spirit of the Lehigh Valley."



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