



Barbara Roth - Press Folder

1. Press Release of the Exhibition
"Barbara Roth – ocean dust"
at the Baukunst Galerie
3 December 2009 to 19 February 2010

2. Biography and Exhibitions
 - Biography
 - Solo-Exhibitions (Selection)
 - Group-Exhibitions (Selection)
 - Works in Public Space
 - Works in Public Collections (Selection)

3. Bibliography (Selection)

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PRESS RELEASE: Barbara Roth – ocean dust

03/12/2009 -19/02/2010

The Baukunst Galerie opens on Wednesday, the 2nd of December 2009 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. the remarkable solo show “ocean dust“ with new works of the Swiss artist and sculptor Barbara Roth. In the gallery her art was primarily presented in the summer of 2000 in the form of spring steel sculptures. In 2005 the subsequent solo exhibition included chrome steel sculptures, wooden objects and nitro prints. The current show does not only present brass sculptures but also photos and delicate drawings and paintings in watercolor, graphite and acrylic on cardboard, wood and zinc plates representing an impressive cross section of the experimental spectrum of Barbara Roth’s oeuvre.

Barbara Roth was born in 1950 in Basel and lives and works in Zurich. After her architectural studies from 1971 to 1974 at the ETH in Zurich she was a student of the sculptor Peter Meister in Zurich from 1979 to 1980. Roth received multiple art scholarships and realized several installations in public space. Her works were exhibited amongst others at the Museum Helmhaus in Zurich in 2005, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Esfahan in Iran in 2006 and the gallery “die Halle“ in Langnau am Albis in 2007. In 2008 the Tokyo Publishing House and the gallery Shigeru Yokota organized a major solo exhibition of Barbara Roth’s works in Tokyo.

In the 90s Barbara Roth put the emphasis of her art on her interest in spatial problems and the exceeding reduction of her formal vocabulary. Her works are more references to imaginary worlds and visionary steric concepts than models of precise architectures. Beside sculptural drawings of spring and chrome steel batons she created wooden cubes and wall panels with linear notes of movement and space alluding to blueprints and game boards.

In contrast to the wall panels the brass sculptures of the current exhibition are solely presented in a horizontal position on wooden racks and pedestals. Thereby the spectator is allowed to look at them from a bird’s eye view, which was inspired by the view out of the window during an air trip as the title “Architektur II (Flug) / architecture II (flight)“ refers to. The first group of works on the pedestals with its linear engravings and accurately mounted plates and cubes on the surface reminds on minimalist models of architecture in an urban landscape (“architectural landscape“ 2008). Either from a close or an afar vision the sculpture’s multiple reduced scale opens up a new distant perspective of space and exposes the graphical character of a landscape. Their strict reduction elevates the fantasy of the spectator to utopian dimensions and serve as a projection field for own ideas of possible spaces.

The title “Messgerät / measurement instrument“ (2007) of the second group of works on the racks refers to the active alignment, filtering and selecting of visual information. These brass sculptures with its quadrants and semicircles are inspired by cartography, which always had a considerable effect on our construction of reality by structuring and mapping knowledge according to specific criteria as religion, politics or economics. Roth makes use of the main cartographic characteristics – the semicircle of the globe, its projection on the plain, the system of the longitudes and latitudes and the bench marks for orientation and adjustment – and thereby the “Messgerät“ refers as a “pars pro toto“ to the history of the surveying of our world and its main influence on the image of ourselves and our world.

In the presented filigree drawings in graphite, watercolor and acrylic on cardboard and wood Barbara Roth also utilizes segments of circles and space coordinates, generates raised structures by paper collage and imitates the glossy, silky polished surface of maps by the application of shellac. In poetic delineation from the ancient masters she modifies the outline of the continents (“antarctic“ 2008), drifts them apart, weightless like clouds above the ocean and befogged by a blue green dust. This atmospheric aspect, where the exhibition title alludes to, also applies to her photos, which were created on her journeys to Iran (2006) and Japan (2008). In form of miniatures they do not image concrete places but rather the alternating appearance of clouds, waves, roads and mountains due to time and weather. Thereby the shapes of hills and water in acrylic on zinc plates constitute the link between her photos, drawings and sculptures.

It is characteristic for Barbara Roth, that she configures the quintessence of the perceived sensations and information. Her creation of an own, very reductive, sign and classification system provides space for our own projections. Thereby her oeuvre clarifies and playfully questions our perception as an intelligent, active construction process.



BIOGRAPHY

- 1950 born in Basel, Switzerland
- 1971-74 studies architecture at the ETH Zurich
- 1979-80 student of the sculptor Peter Meister, Zurich
- since 1981 studio in Zurich
- 1981 scholarships of the city of Zurich
- 1982 scholarship of the Kanton Zurich
- 1984/85 scholarships of the city of Zurich
- 1988 visiting professor at the Escuela de Artes Plásticas, Managua, Nicaragua
- 1990 1st prize in the competition: "Brunnen am Neumarkt", Zurich
- 1997 work contribution, Steo Foundation
- 1998 work contribution, Esther Matossi Foundation
- 2002 "Atelier Paris", scholarship of the city of Zurich, Studio in Paris
- 2004 work contribution, Steo Foundation
- 2006 two month working stay in Iran
- 2008 work contribution, Steo Foundation; working stay in Japan

Barbara Roth lives and works in Zurich.

SOLO-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2008 "RAUM, dancing earth", TPH - Tokyo Publishing House, Tokyo
- 2007 "Die Meere - vermessen. Bilder, Skulpturen, Zeichnungen", die Halle -
Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst, Langnau a. Albis (CH)
- 2006 "Lecture d'espace", Kunstkasten, Winterthur (CH)
- 2005 "Sculptures and Works on Paper", Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
"5 x 6 x 6", Kunstkammer, AZB, Schlieren (CH)
- 2004 "Miniaturen", die Halle - Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst,
Langnau a. Albis (CH)



- 2001 "Sculptures and Drawings", Trinitatiskirche, Cologne
1999 "sites flottants", Stiftung für Eisenplastik, Sammlung Dr. Hans Koenig,
Zollikon (CH)
1998 Hochbauamt, Walchetor, Zurich
Galerie Kunstgarten, Aarwangen (CH)
1997 Galerie Kornfeld, Zurich
1996 Galerie Haldemann, Bern (CH)
1988 Escuela de Artes Plasticas, Managua (NIC)

GROUP-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2009 "SECHS RICHTIGE + 1", Halle Zehn, Cap Cologne e.V., Cologne
2008 "Komplett Innen und Außen", AZB, Schlieren (CH)
2007 "Barbara Roth, Adriana Beretta", Galerie Hans-Trudel-Haus, Baden (CH)
2006 "Swiss Transit Esfahan-Visual", Museum of Contemporary Art of Esfahan,
Esfahan (Iran)
"Das kleine Format", Villa Meier Severini, Zollikon (CH)
2005 "Format klein - Ausdruck gross", Skulpturengalerie Krafft + Partner AG,
Gebenstorf (CH)
"Take-away 2", Galerie Kunstgarten, Aarwangen (CH)
"Lokale Aufhellungen", Museum Helmhaus, Zurich
"Spaziergang in Zwischenräumen", Psychiatrischen Klinik Münsterlingen,
Zurich
"Sculptures", Visarte im Metropol, Zurich
"RAUM für Räume", Shedhalle Rote Fabrik, Zurich
Galerie Hans-Trudel-Haus, Baden (CH)
"Brückenschlag", Sculpture exhibition, Opfikon (CH)
2004 "Skulptura", Glarus (CH)
2003 Galerie Hans-Trudel-Haus, Baden (CH)
"take-away 1", Galerie Kunstgarten, Aarwangen (CH)
2002 "10 Jahre Bildhauerei, 10 Jahre Malerei", Galerie Kunstgarten,
Aarwangen (CH)
2001 "Marion Richter, Barbara Roth", die Halle - Galerie für zeitgenössische
Kunst, Langnau a. Albis (CH)
Galerie Haldemann, Bern (CH)
2000 "Barbara Roth and Gunter Frenzel. Sculptures", Baukunst Galerie,
Cologne
1998 "Kunst im Park", Pontresina (CH)
"balance. Kunstphase Schlieren 1998", Schlieren (CH)
1997 Projekt Carschenna II, Skulpturengarten, Thusis (CH)
1996 Galerie Haldemann, Bern
1995 Galerie Kornfeld, Zurich
Galerie Kunstgarten, Aarwangen (CH)
Kunstsymposium, Nationalgalerie Dakar (SEN) und Oberegg (CH)
Shedhalle, Zurich
1991 "Wegzeichen", Balgach (CH)



- 1990 "ars ad lacum", Lachen (CH)
"Bildhauersymposium", Adliswill-Langnau (CH)
1986 Galerie Walcheturm, Zurich
"Zeichnungen und Druckgraphik", GSMBA, Kunsthaus Zurich
1985 "Skulptura", Zollikon (CH)
"AZB", exhibition in the gasworks Schlieren (CH)
"Skulpturenausstellung", Boswil (CH)
"Junge Zürcher Bildhauer an der Limmat", Zurich
1981 Salon de la jeune sculpture, Paris

WORKS IN PUBLIC SPACE

- 2009-14 "zürich-transit-maritim", art in public space, elaboration 2009 to 2014,
with Jan Morgenthaler, Martin Senn and Fariba Sepehrnia, Zurich
2001 sculpture "tiges", Dübendorf (CH)
1999 sculpture "structure ouverte", city of Schlieren (CH)
1998 Universitätsspital, Zurich
1992 sculpture "l'étranger", Brunnen am Neumarkt, Zurich
sculpture "las víctimas de la guerra", Managua (NIC)

WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (SELECTION)

Fuji Xerox Print Collection, Tokyo
Stiftung für Eisenplastik, Sammlung Dr. Hans Koenig, Zollikon (CH)
City of Zurich
Kanton Zurich

BIBLIOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

- 2008 **Frauenfelder**, Kathrin: *RAUM – dancing earth*, Cat.: Galerie Shigeru Yokota,
Tokyo Publishing House, Tokyo 2008.
- 2005 **Frauenfelder**, Kathrin: „Optionen und Visionen zu den neuen Arbeiten von
Barbara Roth“, in: *Kunst+Stein* 3/2005, S. 22-24.
- 2004 **Omlin**, Sibylle / **Morgenthaler**, Jan: *miniaturen*, Zurich 2004.
- 1999 **Frauenfelder**, Kathrin: *sites flottants*, Zollikon 1999.
- 1997 **Kesser**, Caroline: *temps espace*, Zurich 1997.
- 1993 **Renggli**, Hans: *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Zürcher Bildhauer im Gaswerk
Schlieren*, Cat.: Ursina Jakob, Zurich 1993.