

PRESS
RELEASE

Basel, May 2014

Křištof Kintera
I AM NOT YOU

Museum Tinguely, Basel: June 11 – September 28, 2014

With irony, a twinkle in his eye and sometimes dark humor, the young Czech artist Křištof Kintera turns art and life on their head. He creates a new Golem out of hundreds of light bulbs, satirizes our safety mindset with an armored stroller, or attempts to sell a fully conductive, but function-free device in an electrical store. He meets Tinguely's aesthetic head-on with his dysfunctional and absurdly added-on machines.



Křištof Kintera, My light is your life – Shiva Samurai (5 KW / 50 HZ), 2009
© 2014, Křištof Kintera, photo: Martin Polák

Křištof Kintera will be the guest at Museum Tinguely in summer 2014. The exhibition, which is being devised in close collaboration with the artist, aims to present Kintera's work in such a manner that its spontaneity, the artist's complexity and dedication are conveyed to visitors. The idea is to make the tour of the museum in Basel entirely special; Kintera brings the lofty museum experience back down to earth. This is not necessarily only back to earth with a bump, however; the landing is cushioned with humor and irony, too.

The exhibition "Křištof Kintera. I AM NOT YOU" presents at Museum Tinguely and at the surrounding museum's park Solitude 35 of his partly large-format sculptures and installations.

With Tinguely he shares an extroverted and critical artistic attitude that questions everything, takes it apart or even reconfigures it – creating friction with art institutions and seeking a creative clash just as much as it seeks to unsettle everyone concerned. Thus, to Kintera, the museum becomes a playground and the beholder's uneasiness becomes the basis for re-experiencing accustomed surroundings.

One of the earliest objects is *It* (1996), a sculpture on rollers that shape-wise is somewhere between egg and computer mouse. Approximately 40 cm long, it has a cord attached to it that allows *It* to be pulled through the exhibition space – or the city. The beholder becomes a co-designer, a participant, the exhibition is made changeable and participative. Or the city is put on show...

Revolution (2005) was created one year after Kintera's study stay at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. Based on a figure that he had already developed in 1999 with the *Talkmen*, Kintera created a nearly one-meter-high human figure that, at intervals, bashes its forehead against the wall. It does this with such force that, little by little, the wall is destroyed. This violent *Revolution* pits the figure against itself; the turmoil is taking place in and to its head. *Bad News* (2011), on the other hand, is entirely outward-looking; here, the protest of a horned demonic figure is made loud and clear with drum, music, and sound recordings.

Demon of the Growth (2013) is a monumental installation comprising balls and spheres, colorful, gaudy, merry, and given shape in amorphous growth. With a work like *Spirit Leaving Gravitation* (2014) the circle is complete; here, Kintera is entirely playful, almost decorative – and yet with a deeper meaning, ironic, and with a tiny pinch of sarcasm.

Krištof Kintera lives and works in Prague, where he was born in 1973. He completed his art studies at his home city's Academy between 1992 and 1999, following them up with research stays and fellowships in Columbus Ohio, Birmingham, and Munich. A longer stay at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten Amsterdam completed his training in 2003-2004. During his studies Kintera took part in many different projects, in which performance and theater often played an important role. One major project in 1999-2001 was the alternative multicultural space and group *Universal NoD*. Kintera engages in social and societal debates with his art and is present in the public space in Prague with various works.

Publication

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalog in individual sheet form comprising documents and photos from the artist's workshop as well as an interview between Krištof Kintera, Roland Wetzels, Andres Pardey and the gallery owner Jiří Švestka (in English). Each copy packaged in an individual handmade box. Only available at museum's book shop: 68 CHF, ISBN 978-3-9523990-7-1

General information Museum Tinguely:

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Special opening hours:

Special opening hours during ART BASEL, June 10 – 16
9 a.m. – 7 p.m. (also on Monday)

Admission prices:

Adults: CHF 18
Students, trainees, people with disabilities: CHF 12
Groups of 20 people or more: CHF 12 (per person)
Children aged 16 or under: free

For further information and press images please have a look at our website:
<http://www.tinguely.ch/en/presse/pressematerial/2014.html>