

Testis and Blood in the Work of Ottjörg A.C.: Public Art in Porto Alegre and Remembering Salvador Allende

Talk by Prof. Dr. Márcio Seligmann-Silva, UNICAMP, São Paulo and discussion with the artist.

21 November 2023, 6 pm
Lateinamerika Institut
Rüdesheimer Str. 54-56
14197 Berlin

Introduction and moderation: Prof. Dr. Susanne Klengel / Dr. Helen Adkins

Talk by Prof. Dr. Márcio Seligmann-Silva

Discussion with Ottjörg A.C.

Q & A

Ottjörg A.C. (*1958, Heidelberg) is a visual artist whose principal tool is communication. He works in the media of temporary interventions, often in combination with a unique range of printing processes. By visualising traces and testimonies of the past, he triggers his audience to reflect and discuss links that may have gone unseen. His exchange with people of diverse heritages includes the technical production and presentation of his works in public space, thus positioning him in the realm of socially engaged art.

Augusto Pinochet's coup in Chile marked Ottjörg's initial politicisation and gave him the impetus to become an artist. Still today he wonders how the CIA could support the fall of Salvador Allende – a democratically elected president – and yet boast being the country of freedom. *Democracy has to be bathed* is an irritatingly fragmented quote by Pinochet that was published in *Time Magazine* on October 1, 1973.

A sojourn of several years in Brazil led to *Marcas Urbanas* (2018), an intervention by Ottjörg A.C. associating public monuments in Porto Alegre with horse castration and branding practices. Ottjörg A.C. calls on Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), together with older sources such as the British *Vagabonds Act* (1531), thus providing us with extended ground to discuss the consequences of Western imperialism in South America.

The talk delivered by Prof. Dr. Márcio Seligmann-Silva will focus on Ottjörg A.C.'s concept of Memoria within the context of his recent book *Ferrozine 536* (Verlag für Moderne Kunst, Vienna 2023).

Helen Adkins holds a PhD in art history from Braunschweig University of Art, where she was a lecturer from 2008 till 2018. She works internationally as curator, author and translator and is docent and coach at Berlin's professional artist association (bbk).

Susanne Klengel is Professor of Latin American Literatures and Cultures at the Institute of Latin American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Her areas of interest are the historical avant-garde movements, transatlantic intellectual history, literature and memory, literary and cultural South-South relations, cultural translation, and Latin American literatures of the 21st century.

Ottjörg A.C. currently lives in Sofia (Bulgaria). Apart from being a master carpenter, he studied Philosophy, Communications, and Visual Arts. He studied Sculpture with Alfred Hrdlicka at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and earned a degree in Fine Arts at the College of Fine Arts Berlin.

Márcio Seligmann-Silva holds a PhD from the Free University of Berlin and was a visiting scholar at Yale and at the Zentrum für Literaturforschung (Berlin). Since 2000 he is professor of Literary Theory at UNICAMP, São Paulo, Brazil.



Marca Urbana, 2018–2019. One of a number of interventions by Ottjörg A.C. on the pedestal of a neglected public monument to Francisco de Leonardo Truda inaugurated in 1956 on Alfândega Square, Porto Alegre. (Photo: © 2023 Ottjörg A.C.)