

HERMANN NITSCH

(b. 1938, Vienna, † 2022)

1957 Develops the idea of the Orgien Mysterien Theater, a 6-day festival based on the artist's philosophy and which he has been developing down to the present day. The Orgien Mysterien Theater is a new form of the total work of art, one where reality is staged. All the senses are stressed and involved.

1960-1966 Aktionen (action performances) and exhibitions take place in Vienna, resulting in several court trials and three prison terms. He therefore leaves Austria and moves to Germany where he lives till 1978.

1961 Painting Actions and exhibition activity

1962 1. Action (30 minutes), Vienna

1963 Die Blutorgel (together with Adolf Frohner and Otto Muehl) Feast of psychophysical naturalism (with Otto Muehl)

1966 The Destruction in Art Symposium (DIAS), London; 20th action performance, Vienna

1968 Cinémathèque, New York, performance of the 25th and 26th actions; University of Cincinnati, 28th action; moves to Bavaria, Germany, and marries Beate König in Munich from 1969 numerous Actions, exhibitions and concerts in Austria and worldwide

1971 Acquisition of Prinzenhof Castle (location of the Orgien Mysterien Theater)

1972 Participates in Documenta 5, Kassel, curated by Harald Szeemann; first 12-hour action performance (40th) at the Mercer Art Center in New York

1975 The 24-hour 50th action is performed in Prinzenhof

1977 Beate Nitsch dies in a car accident

1980 World premiere of the Allerheiligen (of all saints) Sinfonie (6. Sinfonie), MAK Vienna

1982 Participates in Documenta 7, Kassel

1983 Exhibition: Stedelijk van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven

1984 80th action; "3-day-play", Prinzenhof

1984-1993 Realizes his important work of graphic art "The architecture of the Orgien Mysterien Theater", published by the Fred Jahn Gallery, Munich

1985 World premiere of the 7. Sinfonie, Steirischer Herbst Graz

1986 Exhibitions: Sala Pablo Ruiz Picasso, Madrid; Rupertinum, Salzburg; Secession, Vienna; PAC, Milan; Renaissance Society at the University, Chicago; Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich

1987 20th painting performance at the Wiener Secession, Vienna

1988 Marries Rita Leitenbor; Exhibition: Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich; takes part in the Sydney Biennale

1989 Exhibitions: Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna; Kunstverein, Salzburg; Lühring & Augustine, N.Y.

1989-2003 Hermann Nitsch teaches a class of interdisciplinary art at the Frankfurt Academy of Fine Arts (Städel)

- 1990 Premiere of the 8th symphony, Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna; Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag; Museum der Moderne Salzburg; Nationalgalerie Prague; Kunsthalle Krems; Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin
- 1991 Exhibitions: Galleria Civica di arte Contemporanea, Trent; St. Petri, Lübeck; Festspielhaus Bregenz; Traklhaus, Salzburg
- 1992 Exhibition: Pabellón de las Artes, Seville, Exhibition at Museum Moderner Kunst, Stiftung Ludwig, Palais Liechtenstein, Vienna
- 1993 Exhibition: National Gallery, Prague
- 1994 Exhibitions: Kunsthalle, Krems; Raiffeisenhalle, Frankfurt; Casina Vanvitelliana, Fusaro (Naples); Kärntner Landesmuseum, Klagenfurt
- 1995 Set design and co-direction of the opera "Hérodiade" by Jules Massenet at Vienna's Staatsoper; Künstlerhaus, Vienna; Trinitatiskirche, Cologne
- 1996 Performance of the 96th action, San Martino, Naples; 38th painting performance, Schömerhaus, Klosterneuburg; Exhibitions: Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Wörlen, Passau; Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome and Centre d'exposicions i documentació de l'Art Contemporani, Palma de Mallorca, Centre Cultural, La beneficencia, sala Parpalló, Valencia
- 1997 40th painting action at the Museum of the 20th Century, Vienna; Exhibitions: Kunsthallen Gothenburg; Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Luxemburg; Neue Galerie, Linz; Kunstraum, Innsbruck
- 1998 6 day play at Prinzendorf from 3 to 9 August; The Island Symphony; Exhibitions: Kulturhaus, Weiz; MOCA, Los Angeles; MAK, Vienna; MACBA, Barcelona; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
- 1999 Exhibition of relics, relic installations and video documentation of the 100th action – "6-day-play" at the Museum Moderner Kunst, Stiftung Ludwig, Palais Liechtenstein, Vienna and at the Kiscelli Museum, Budapest
- 2000 Video presentation of an extended version of the "6-day-play" at several venues, including Los Angeles, the Portikus in Frankfurt and Mönchengladbach as well as the development of his concept of theatre and painting. Exhibition: Palazzo Stelline, Milano
- 2001 complete set design of the opera "Satyagraha" by Philip Glass at the Festspielhaus St. Pölten; 107th action at Prinzendorf; Exhibitions: Österreichische Galerie Oberes Belvedere, Vienna; Hamburgerbahnhof, Berlin
- 2002 110th teaching action at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; Exhibitions: Fondazione Morra, Naples; Kulturhaus, Bruck an der Mur; Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg
- 2003 Exhibitions: "Nitsch. Eine Retrospektive", Essl Museum and the 115th action in the Sammlung Essl, Klosterneuburg; Haus der Musik, Vienna; Traklhaus, Salzburg
- 2004 120th action: 2 day play of the O.M. Theatre in Prinzendorf; Exhibitions: Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna; MUMOK, Vienna; Brucknerhaus, Linz; grafische Sammlung in Städelmuseum, Frankfurt; Haus der Musik, Vienna
- 2005 122th action in the Burgtheater, Vienna; Exhibitions: Saatchi & Saatchi, London; Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston; Neue Galerie, Graz; Slought Foundation, Philadelphia; NÖ Dokumentationszentrum für Moderne Kunst, St. Pölten; MARCO, Mexico; awarded the Grand Austrian State Prize
- 2006 Exhibitions: White Space Gallery, Beijing; Mike Weiss Gallery, NYC; Large retrospective at the Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin

2007 Opening of the Hermann Nitsch Museum in Mistelbach; set and costume design for scenes to Goethes Faust by Robert Schumann at the Zurich Opera House NÖ. Exhibitions: Landesmuseum, St. Pölten; Fondazione Morra, Naples; Künstlerhaus, Vienna

2008 Opening of the Museo Archivio Laboratorio per le Arti Contemporanee Hermann Nitsch Napoli by Fondazione Morra with an Orgien Mysterien Theatre exhibition; other exhibitions: the 20th painting action in Museum Hermann Nitsch Mistelbach; Triennale, Yokohama; awarding of the title of Dr. h. c. by the University Cluj, Romania

2009 first performance of the Egyptian Symphony, Hermann Nitsch Museum, Mistelbach; publication of the book "Das Sein"; the Nitsch Foundation is set up; 56th painting performance in the Hermann Nitsch Museum, Mistelbach; Exhibitions: Künstlerhaus, Vienna; Kavernen, Salzburg; De Pont Museum, Tilburg; GAM Turin

2010 130th action Museo Nitsch, Naples; Exhibitions: Masterpieces of the Duerckheim Collection, Hermann Nitsch Museum, Mistelbach; Musée d'Art Moderne, St. Etienne; Stella Art Foundation, Moscow; Bookproject Leviticus, Israel

2011 décor and direction of the opera "Saint François d'Assise" by Olivier Messiaen at the Bavarian State Opera, Munich; 60th painting action in the Mike Weiss Gallery, New York; 131st teaching action at Leo Koenig Inc., New York; organ concert at the Mozarteum, Salzburg; Exhibitions: "Bloodlines" MCA, Denver; "Structures" Leopold Museum, Vienna; "Eroi" in the Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Turin; "Personal Structures" as part of the 54th Biennale di Venezia, Italy

2012 Exhibitions: „Utopia Gesamtkunstwerk“, 21er Haus, Vienna; 5 years Hermann Nitsch Museum, Mistelbach; Explosion: Painting As Action, Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Hermann Nitsch Personale, Carinthian Museum of Modern Art, Klagenfurt; In Vivo Hermann Nitsch, Centre Pompidou, Paris; Explosion: Painting as Action, Fondacio Joan Miro, Barcelona; A Bigger Splash: Painting after Performance Art, Tate Modern, London; 135th action Habana, Cuba; 64th painting action, Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di trento, Rovereto

2013 3 day play, Leipzig; 55. Biennale di Venezia; Exhibitions: „Flesh and Blood“ Museum on the Seam, Israel; „Faces“ Ernst Museum, Budapest; „About Caravaggio“ Scuderie Aldobrandini – Museo Tuscolano, Frascati near Rome; "The Senses and Being Retrospective" nitsch museum, Mistelbach

2014 Exhibitions: DIRIMART, Istanbul; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg; Biennale Disegno Rimini; C.I.A. Hong Kong; Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg; nitsch museum, Mistelbach; Museo Nitsch Neapel; Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, 70th Painting Action, Galerie Thoman, Vienna

2015 144th Action, Theatermuseum, Vienna; Exhibitions: Theatermuseum, Vienna, Çanakkale City Museum, Turkey; ZAC Palermo; Exhibitions in progress: Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill/New York; Concert: Sinfonie for Mexico, Ex Teresa Arte Actual, Mexico City

2016 147th Action, Villa Stuck, Munich; Exhibitions: Villa Stuck, Munich; AMO ARENA MUSEO OPERA, Verona; Galerie 422, Gmunden; Art de Temple, Aschaffenburg; Dallas Biennial, USA; Grou exhibitions: mumok, Vienna; Concert: Symphony for Verona, Verona

2017 Hermann Nitsch and His Artistic Pilgrimage UM Museum, Bongdam Hwaseong Korea; Museum CIAC Foligno; IAGA Contemporary Art, Cluj; Graphics, nitsch museum Mistelbach; 149. Action, Pentecost feast, Prinzenhof; 150. Action, Dark Mofu Festival, Hobart, Tasmania; Marc Straus; Parkview Green Museum, Beijing

2018 155th action / action-symphony for the 80th birthday, nitsch museum, Mistelbach; Exhibitions: „Hermann Nitsch – Life and Work“, nitsch museum, Mistelbach; "reliti 152 azione", 10 Anni Museo Hermann Nitsch, Naples; „Hermann Nitsch – A monographic show in Hagen“, Osthaus Museum Hagen; "Hermann Nitsch" Solo Show, Marc Straus Gallery, Armory Show, New York; "Hermann Nitsch – The Orgies Mysterien Theatre", Massimo de Carlo, London; "Hermann Nitsch", Galerie RX, Paris; "Hermann Nitsch – To the concept of the Orgies Mysterien Theatre", Kulturhaus Hinterzarten; "Hermann Nitsch 80", Nitsch Foundation, Vienna; "Drawings 1957-2017", Büro Weltausstellung, Vienna; "Hermann Nitsch 80", Galerie Zimmermann Kratochwill and Galerie Kunst&Handel, Graz; Galerie 422, Gmunden; Group shows: „Double Lives“, mumok, Vienna; „Intriguing Uncertainties“, Park View Museum, Singapore; Lectures: "Hermann Nitsch meets Robert

C. Morgan", Armory Show, New York; "Nitsch&Gelitin", Massimo de Carlo, London; artist talk with Hermann Nitsch, Sammlung Hoffmann, Berlin; „Hermann Nitsch – Matinée“, artist talk, Museum Niederösterreich, St. Pölten; "Nitsch trifft ... Michael Fleischhacker", nitsch museum, Mistelbach; workshop on the musik of the O.M. Theatre, Prof. Leopoldo Siano, nitsch museum, Mistelbach; Concerts: organ concert, mumok, Vienna

2019

Exhibitions: "Hermann Nitsch – The total work of art", Lechner Museum, Ingolstadt; "Hermann Nitsch – Rooms of Color", Albertina, Wien; "Hermann Nitsch. Katharsis", Palazzo Ducale, Mantua; "Hermann Nitsch", Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapur; "Hermann Nitsch", Marc Straus Gallery, New York; "Hermann Nitsch. Pittura, Fotografie, Disegni", Studio d'Arte Cannaviello, Mailand; "Hermann Nitsch – Life&Work", The Culture Story, Singapore; Group shows: "Opéra Monde/Opéra Monde/Opera as the World – The quest for a total work of art", Centre Pompidou, Metz; "Intriguing Uncertainties", Park View Museum, Peking; "Disturbing Narrative", Park View Museum, Singapore; "Dark Side", Musja, Rome; "Ikonen", Kunsthalle Bremen; 8. Internationale Biennale for Contemporary Art, New Tretjakov Gallery, Moscow; Concerts: organ concert, Angelica Festival, Bologna; organ concert, Ars Electronica Festival, Stiftskirche St. Florian; "Albertina String Quartett", Albertina, Vienna; "The music of the 6-day-play", nitsch museum, Mistelbach; "Rarely heard music" (Attersee, Lüpertz, Nitsch, Rühm, Wiener) Belvedere21, Vienna; "Moscow Symphony", New Tretjakov Gallery, Moskau; Lectures: "Nitsch meets Brus", nitsch museum, Mistelbach;

2020

158th action, Museo Hermann Nitsch, Naples; exhibitions: "Hermann Nitsch – New Works", nitsch museum, Mistelbach; "Hermann Nitsch", Galerie Bechter Kastowsky, Schaan; "rush of color", Galerie Jahn Pfefferle, Munich; "The Shape of Color", Galerie RX, Paris; "The Orgies Mysteries Theatre", Opera Gallery, Geneva; Group shows: "The Beginning. Art in Vienna from 1945 to 1980", Albertina Modern; "Double Lives", Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn; "Standing aside", Gdansk City Gallery, Danzig; "Passion and Fervour. The Art of Powerful Emotions", LWL Museum für Kunst und Kultur, Münster; "Casper David Friedrich / hermann Nitsch", Albertinum, Dresden; concerts: "Moscow Symphony for String Orchestra", nitsch museum, Mistelbach; events: "Nitsch meets ... Dr. Erwin Pröll", nitsch museum, Mistelbach;

2021

Painting Action "Valkyrie", Bayreuth Festival; exhibitions: "Hermann Nitsch – Bayreuth Walküre", nitsch museum, Mistelbach; "Hermann Nitsch – Sinfonia Napoli", Museo Hermann Nitsch, Naples; "Bayreuth Prelude", Galerie RX, Paris; "Bayreuth Stories", Galerie RX, New York; "Farbe als Material", Burg Vischering, Lüdingshausen; "Hermann Nitsch. The Orgies Mysteries Theatre", Museum of decorative Art and Design, Riga; "Hermann Nitsch. Mythos – Passion" works from the Sammlung Jaegers, Kunsthalle Jesuitenkirche, Aschaffenburg; group shows: "Odore – L'art, L'Odeur, e le Sacré", Galerie Pauline Pavec, Paris; "Resistance", Maruani Mercier, Brüssel; "Tense Conditions", Staatsgalerie Stuttgart; "Radical Austria. Everything is Architecture", Design Museum Den Bosch, s'Hertogenbosch; "Costa/Nitsch. Il Viaggio nell'Ancestrale", Galleria Michela Rizzo, Venezia; concert: „Weinviertel Symphony“, nitsch museum, Mistelbach;

2022

das 6-tage-spiel (in vorbereitung); „hermann nitsch 20. malaktion secession“, oficine 800, venedig; † hermann nitsch starb am 18. april 2022 im krankenhaus von mistelbach.

COLLECTIONS

Works by Hermann Nitsch are to be found in the following museums and collections (selection):

Museum of Modern Art, New York
Guggenheim Collection, New York
Metropolitan Museum, New York
Museum University of Yale
Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, New York
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
Busch-Reisinger Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri
Station Museum of Contemporary Art Houston, Texas
Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
Tate Gallery, London
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
Stedelijk van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Castello di Rivoli, Turin
Museo Capodimonte, Naples
Galleria d'arte moderna, Bologna
Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf
Museum Ludwig, Cologne
Nationalgalerie Berlin
Lenbachhaus, Munich
Nationalgalerie Munich
Museum Brandhorst, Munich
Graphische Sammlung, Munich
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart
Kunsthalle Hamburg
Museum Neue Galerie, Saarbrücken
Schloss Morsbroich, Leverkusen
Kunstmuseum Bern
Kunstmuseum Winterthur
Albertina, Vienna
Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna
Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna
Leopold Museum, Vienna
Lentos, Linz
Rupertinum, Salzburg
Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck