

Hermann Nitsch (b.1938)

Born in Vienna, Austria

Action performances:

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.

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

1971: Acquisition of Prinzendorf Castle (location of the Orgien Mysterien Theater)

1972: first 12-hour action performance (40th) at the Mercer Art Center in New York

1975: The 24-hour 50th action is performed in Prinzendorf

1984: 80th action; "3-day-play", Prinzendorf

1987: 20th painting performance at the Wiener Secession, Vienna

1996: Performance of the 96th action, San Martino, Naples; 38th painting performance, Schömerhaus, Klosterneuburg;

1997: 40th painting action at the Museum of the 20th Century, Vienna

1998: 6 day play at Prinzendorf from 3 to 9 August; The Island Symphony

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.

2004: 120th action: 2 day play of the O.M. Theatre in Prinzendorf

2005: 122th action in the Burgtheater, Vienna

2009: first performance of the Egyptian Symphony, nitsch museum, Mistelbach; publication of the book "Das Sein"; the Nitsch Foundation is set up; 56th painting performance in the nitsch museum, Mistelbach;

2010: 130th action Museo Nitsch, Naples

2011: 60th painting action in the Mike Weiss Gallery, New York

2013: 3 day play, Leipzig; 55. Biennale di Venezia

2015: 144th Action, Theatermuseum, Vienna

2016: 147th Action, Villa Stuck, München

2017: 149. Action, Pentecost feast, Prinzendorf; 150. Action, Dark Mofo Festival, Hobart, Tasmania

2018: 155th action / action-symphony for the 80th birthday, nitsch museum, Mistelbach

2020: 158th action, Museo Hermann Nitsch, Naples

Exhibitions:

1972: Participates in Documenta 5, Kassel, curated by Harald Szeemann

1982: Participates in Documenta 7, Kassel

1983: Stedelijk van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven

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

1988: Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich; takes part in the Sydney Biennale

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

1991: Galleria Civica di arte Contemporanea, Trent; St. Petri, Lübeck; Festspielhaus Bregenz; Traklhaus, Salzburg

1992: Pabellón de las Artes, Seville, Exhibition at Museum Moderner Kunst, Stiftung Ludwig, Palais Liechtenstein, Vienna

1993: National Gallery, Prague

1994: Kunsthalle, Krems; Raiffeisenhalle, Frankfurt; Casina Vanvitelliana, Fusaro (Naples); Kärntner Landesmuseum, Klagenfurt

1996: Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Wörlan, 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: Kunsthallen Gothenburg; Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Luxemburg; Neue Galerie, Linz; Kunstraum, Innsbruck

2001: Österreichische Galerie Oberes Belvedere, Vienna; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin

2002: Fondazione Morra, Naples; Kulturhaus, Bruck an der Mur; Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg

2003: "Nitsch. Eine Retrospektive", Essl Museum and the 115th action in the Sammlung Essl, Klosterneuburg; Haus der Musik, Vienna; Traklhaus, Salzburg

2004: Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna; MUMOK, Vienna; Brucknerhaus, Linz; grafische Sammlung in Städel Museum, Frankfurt; Haus der Musik, Vienna

2005: 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: White Space Gallery, Beijing; Mike Weiss Gallery, NYC; Large retrospective at the Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin

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: Künstlerhaus, Vienna; Kavernen, Salzburg; De Pont Museum, Tilburg; GAM Turin

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

2011: „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: „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: „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: DIRIMART, Istanbul; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg; Biennale Disegno Rimini; C.I.A. Hong Kong; Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg; nitsch museum, Mistelbach; Museo Nitsch Neapel; Danubiana Meulenstein Art Museum, Bratislava, 70th Painting Action, Galerie Thoman, Vienna

2015: exhibitions in progress - Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill/New York; Concert: Sinfonie for Mexico, Ex Teresa Arte Actual, Mexico City

2016: 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

2018: „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 Mysteries Theatre", Massimo de Carlo, London; "Hermann Nitsch", Galerie RX, Paris; "Hermann Nitsch – To the concept of the Orgies Mysteries 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: "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;

2020: "Hermann Nitsch – Recent Works", nitsch museum, Mistelbach; "Hermann Nitsch", Galerie Bechter Kastowsky, Schaan; "rush of color", Galerie Jahn Pfefferle, Munich; "The Shape of Color", Galerie RX, Paris; Group exhibition : "Double Lives", Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn; "Nitsch meets ...", nitsch museum, Mistelbach

Design, Graphic Art:

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

1995: Set design and co-direction of the opera "Hérodiade" by Jules Massenet at Vienna's Staatsoper; Künstlerhaus, Vienna; Trinitatiskirche, Cologne

2001: complete set design of the opera "Satyagraha" by Philip Glass at the Festspielhaus St. Pölten; 107th action at Prinzenhof

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

2011: décor and direction of the opera "Saint François d'Assise" by Olivier Messiaen at the Bavarian State Opera, Munich

Concerts:

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

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

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

2011: décor and direction of the opera "Saint François d'Assise" by Olivier Messiaen at the Bavarian State Opera, Munich; organ concert at the Mozarteum, Salzburg

2019: 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 Tretyakov Gallery, Moskau

Teaching practice :

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

2002: 110th teaching action at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London

2011: 31st teaching action at Leo Koenig Inc., New York