

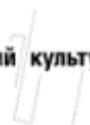


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Benediktinerstift
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“BEYOND SEEING: ART THAT BRINGS TOGETHER THE BLIND AND SIGHTED” EXHIBITION

A joint project by the
Benedictine Admont Monastery,
Austrian Cultural Forum in Moscow
and WINZAVOD Centre for Contemporary Art

November 28, 2013 – January 12, 2014

Press preview: November 27 at 5:00 pm

Opening: November 27 at 6:00 pm

Public Talk with Curators: November 28 at 8:00 pm

The exhibition “Beyond Seeing” features works of art from the international collection of the famous Benedictine Admont Monastery in Austria.

The Admont Abbey has amassed one of Austria’s most important collections of contemporary art. For this exhibition, it will show one of its most prominent projects, “Beyond Seeing” for the first time outside of Austria. A monastery of the Benedictine order, the Admont Abbey was founded in 1074 and is one of the oldest monasteries in Austria.

The exhibition project presented in the Red Hall of WINZAVOD Centre for Contemporary Art will showcase sculptures, multimedia objects, photographs and works involving Braille alphabet, which all together can only be deciphered through a dialogue between seeing and non-seeing visitors.”

The project was first envisioned 11 years ago when, in 2002, the Admont Monastery commissioned 25 artists through its “*collection in progress*” project to create works designed specifically for an exhibition titled “Beyond Seeing.” The exhibition is intended for blind, visually impaired and seeing visitors alike.

The works in the exhibition are united by a central focus on the non-visual experience of art. Each object is perceived differently by seeing and non-seeing individuals. At the same time, each piece has its own artistic form that speaks to the aim of the project; this renders these objects, paintings, installations and multimedia works visually diverse and gives each one a unique, often striking aesthetic. Many of the works can be touched, listened to and even sniffed, which makes this art accessible—perhaps even familiar—to non-seeing individuals. Seeing visitors, in turn, will come face-to-face with an entirely new and unexpected side of art, and will have an opportunity to imagine how the world of blind people “looks.”

Artists: Yuri Albert, Thomas Baumann, Wolfgang Becksteiner, Adi Brunner, Hannelore Demel-Lerchster, Johannes Deutsch, Heribert Friedl, Matthias Gommel, Michael Gumhold, Stefan Gyurko, Maria Hahnenkamp, Julie Hayward, Tomas Hoke, Anna Jermolaewa, Karl Karner, Michael Kienzer, Karl Leitgeb, Michael Maier, David Moises, Werner Reiterer, Constanze Ruhm, Emil Simeister, Gustav Troger, Norbert Trummer, Martin Walde, Hans Winkler, Fabio Zolly.

Exhibition Curator: Michael Braunsteiner (Admont Monastery Museum)

Project Director Moscow Exhibition: Simon Mraz (Austrian Cultural Forum in Moscow)

Project Management: Pater Winfried Schwab (Austria), Simon Mraz (Russia)

Simon Mraz, Director, Austrian Cultural Forum in Moscow: "The exhibition 'Beyond Seeing: Art that brings together the blind and sighted' is one of the Austrian Cultural Forum's key projects in Moscow for the 2013 season. This project is unique for two main reasons: first, it draws on works from a monastery with nearly a thousand-year long history that has amassed a contemporary art collection of an international scale. Second, the Admont Monastery has created a special project that offers both blind and seeing visitors a new approach to art."

Michael Braunsteiner, Art Director and Exhibition Curator: "Blind people have a role in the contemporary art discussion. We will have an opportunity to witness a fascinating and mutually enriching process between the blind and the seeing: 'art sharing' (the joint experience of coming into contact with art) and 'space sharing' (the joint experience of being located in a single space). Seeing people discover a new approach to interpreting art and the subject of blindness. In this way, art breaks down barriers and opens the gates."

Sofia Trotsenko, Director, WINZAVOD Centre for Contemporary Art: "Unfortunately, in today's society, religion and art are too often pitted against one another with no attempts to find points of intersection. We are very pleased that the Admont Fund, which represents an ancient religious institution, is working to develop and support contemporary art, thereby establishing a dialogue between two of the most important aspects of society. Winzavod is happy to take part in this project in collaboration with the Austrian Cultural Forum and not only support the international cooperation between our two countries, but also carry out an important social function by providing an opportunity for the blind and visually impaired to experience contemporary art."

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