

RITUALS II

CEREMONIES

CARLA DELLA BEFFA (IT), ORIT ISHAY (IL), HELMUT & JOHANNA KANDL (AT), JULIAN LEE-HARATHER (AT), ANJA MANFREDI & NICOLE HAITZINGER (AT), BENEDEK REGÖS (HU), GABRIELE ROTHMANN (DE/AT), YAROSLAV SOLOP (UA), DAFNA TAL (IL), BOGLÁRKA ÉVA ZELLEI (HU)

Opening: Monday, 25 November at 7 p.m.

Introduction: Petra Noll-Hammerstiel

Duration: 26 November 2019 – 11 January 2020

The Gallery is closed from 24 December 2019 until 6 January 2020.

sponsored by: BKA Österreich; MA7-Kultur; Cyberlab

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Avi Sabag, MUSRARA, The Naggar Multidisciplinary School of Art and Society, Jerusalem;

Balassi Institute - Collegium Hungaricum Vienna

Rituals are an important component in human expression and communication behaviors and tell us much about the values, understanding of roles and social interaction where they often assume a regulatory and supportive function. The complexity of the substantive issues and the great importance of rituals for humanity inspired the curatorial team of the FOTOGALERIE WIEN to put a focal point on this theme with a series of four exhibitions for the years 2019/2020. The term “ritual” was originally only in common use in liturgical and/or ceremonial contexts but is now in general use at every social level. A ritual is a series of actions carried out according to fixed rules, usually in a specified order. This is primarily aimed at engendering identity and meaning and correlates with a desire for orientation, knowledge and community actions. It is distinguishable from everyday habits i.e. from instrumental, regular and, above all, purposeful activities that can, however, have a “ritual character” ascribed to them. First and foremost, therefore, rituals occupy the spiritual and emotional sphere. Additional characteristics are enactment, processualism and, usually, a high degree of symbolism too. The four exhibitions are concerned with social rituals and their associated networks of relationships: with rituals that articulate demonstrations of power, suppression and exclusion along with religious and other ceremonial rituals. In the course of this, the codes, behaviors and forms of communication related to the various rituals will be examined.

Both religious and profane ceremonies take center stage in the second show of the Rituals’ special series. The sequential processes of ritual are usually defined by celebratory ceremonials which have a predetermined form that embodies order, actions, gestures and deportment and are partially augmented by objects, images and signs that have great identificatory and symbolic character for those taking part in the event. Ritual ceremonies have the power to intensify the hopes and gratifications of the respective wishes. Usually the extraordinary occasion and the special place – and the journey to it – have a pivotal role in the ceremony. The artworks are concerned with religious and secular ceremonies of transformation and initiation through which humans attain another state of consciousness and with rituals of healing, mourning or thanksgiving. On the one hand the artists are involved with documentary and authentic contributions to the subject while, on the other, there are works of dense symbolism in which religious and profane references frequently mingle and where traditions are perpetuated into the present in new constellations.



Dafna Tal

For her video installation, *You Don't Have To Do A Thing*, **Dafna Tal** gathered local people from various religions and cultural backgrounds in a studio in Jerusalem and exposed them to the traditional prayer chants of the three main religions in the town – Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Three video portraits show the facial expressions and physical gestures made as a reaction to the affirmation or negation of what was being listened to. The different religious and cultural backgrounds of the participants are not revealed to the viewers, thereby leaving it open to multiple interpretations but similar inter-faith reactions are observable, however.

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Tu + Fr 2:00-7:00 p.m., We + Th 12:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Sa 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The gallery is closed on holidays.

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