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MUSEUM D'ART
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Press Release
February 25, 2022

Wolfgang Laib. Crossing the River 19.03. – 31.07.2022

On March 19, 2022 the Art Museum Graubünden will open the exhibition “Wolfgang Laib. Crossing the River”. The show will be on display in the extension building until July 31st 2022.

Wolfgang Laib (*1950, D) is considered to be one of the most important artists of today. His work is characterised by a profound relationship with nature and a declared belief in simplicity. Thereby eastern philosophies from India have shaped his life and his artistic practice since the 1970s. To this day the artist concentrates on just a few cyclical groups of work.

Ever since his journeys to India as a young man the idea inspired him to see humans as part of a larger whole. He also follows this way of life in his art. In doing so, the artist discovers the universal, the eternal, and works with natural materials such as pollen, rice, milk or bees wax. However, he also finds this holistic understanding in Christian culture. In the juxtaposition between a small mound of colour-intensive pollen and a Carolingian Eucharist casket from the Cathedral Treasure Museum, Wolfgang Laib creates an astonishing relationship. The presentation is in a laid-out field of thousands of rice mounds that are related to the architectural features of the museum space. As an important foodstuff rice symbolises vitality and is fundamental for earthly existence. With this temporary installation the artist manifests the spiritual dimension of art and leads us directly to the sources of his poetics.

Accompanying the exhibition is a richly illustrated publication by Lars Müller Publishers with essays by Damian Jurt and Stephan Kunz, a conversation between Wolfgang Laib and Peter Zumthor as well as numerous installation views.



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Short Biography

Wolfgang Laib (*1950, D) lives and works in a small village in southern Germany and maintains studios in New York and southern India. In the year 1972, while he was studying medicine, he decided to finish his studies but afterwards to work entirely as an artist. During this time various journeys took him to Asian countries especially to India. In 1977 Laib began to collect pollen in the meadows surrounding his village and subsequently worked mainly with natural materials such as rice, beeswax, milk, Burmese lacquer and different metals. For many decades, that was the start of numerous exhibitions the world over. He represented Germany at the Biennale of Venice (1982) and took part at the Documenta 7 (1982) and at the Dokumenta 8 (1987). In 2013 the Museum of Modern Art in New York showed the hitherto largest strewn pollen field.

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

Museo Novecento, Florence (2019)
Haus der Kunst, Munich (2002)
Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2010)
Fondazione Merz, Torino (2009)
Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico-City (2009)
Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble (2008)
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte, Reina Sofía, Madrid (2007),
Fondation Beyeler (2006),
Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC (2000),
Kunsthaus Bregenz (1999),
Sprengel Museum, Hannover (1995),
Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1992)



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Media Orientation

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 10 am
Art Museum Graubünden Chur
(Registration: kathrin.gartmann@bkm.gr.ch, Tel. 081 257 28 65)

Opening

Friday, March 18, 2022, 4 pm - 8 pm

Exhibition

March 19 to July 31, 2022
Tuesday – Sunday 10 am to 5 pm
Thursday 10 am to 8 pm

Events

Information on current events can be found on the website of the Art Museum Graubünden
www.buendner-kunstmuseum.ch

Media Contact

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