

MEDIA RELEASE

09.06. 23.09.2018**Erwin Wurm**
Peace & Plenty

The Austrian Erwin Wurm (*1954) is one of the world stars of contemporary art and his name is mentioned regularly among those of the most important creative artists. In 2015 he showed instructions for *One Minute Sculptures* in a group exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Luzern. It was then that the idea for a joint project was born: an exhibition purely of drawings accompanied by an extensive publication.

The Kunstmuseum Luzern is now showing a selection of about 600 drawings which Erwin Wurm has done over the past years. They are highly diverse both thematically and technically: pencil, crayon, ball point pen, watercolours, collage, sometimes fine lines, sometimes wide, ample brushstrokes or else felt pen on glossy magazines. Be it at home or when travelling, Erwin Wurm draws on a daily basis and so captures whatever his mind wanders to. He works with the paper that is locally available, in different qualities and sizes. The exhibition title *Peace & Plenty* refers both to the hotel of the same name in the Bahamas where he did a huge number of the drawings, and to the sheer number of the works.

The drawings are reflections, commentaries on the world and stores for idea and they embrace the whole cosmos of Erwin Wurm's work. Thematically they resemble a diary, as people with whom Erwin Wurm is in contact crop up in them – artist-friends, his family, and also self-portraits. Sketches of the Austrian pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale highlight the genesis of the works shown there. Many of the drawings are dedicated to *One Minute Sculptures*: a man balancing a tube of hand cream on his nose, another trying to stand on the armrest of a chair, a third persevering so long that he is just a skeleton leaning against the wall (*One Minute for Ever*). Needless to say, deformations (bloating and blending) are also a theme and repeatedly cigarettes (*Asthma*) and weapons (*Bullets*).

Erwin Wurm is an astute and unsentimental observer of reality with a sense for weak points and everyday absurdities. The drawings testify both to his humour and to the audacity with which the artist treats the world and himself. Laughter often sticks in one's throat, given that Erwin Wurm's worldview is in the tradition of a mordent Austrian humour. Situation comedy and precarious moments, dreams and longings reflect Erwin Wurm's interest in man, with all his inadequacies. The source of the works is life itself, even those commonplace things and situations that are part of our everyday life. This close link to the everyday and the candour of the pictorial inventiveness mean that the works address us directly. They not only reflect contemporary everyday life ironically and critically, but also art history. Erwin Wurm is continually broadening the concept of sculpture in his works.

curated by Eveline Suter

Kunstmuseum
Luzern

EUROAPLATZ 1, 6002 LUZERN, SWITZERLAND

TEL. +41 41 226 78 00
INFO@KUNSTMUSEUMLUZERN.CH
WWW.KUNSTMUSEUMLUZERN.CH

BIOGRAPHY

Erwin Wurm, born 1954, lives in Limberg and Vienna. The artist's works have been shown in countless solo exhibitions around the world since the 1990s; from the Philippines via South Korea and the Kunstmuseum Luzern to the United States in 2018. In 2015 he received the Austrian of the Year award in the category Cultural Heritage, and in 2017 he represented Austria at the Venice Biennale.

DATES

Media Preview

Friday, 08.06., 10.15 am

Opening

Friday, 08.06., 6.30 pm

Welcoming and introduction

Andi Scheitlin, President, Kunstgesellschaft Luzern

Fanni Fetzler, Director Kunstmuseum Luzern

Eveline Suter, curator of the exhibition

Followed by an aperitif

Conversation in the exhibition

Saturday, 09.06., 2 pm

The artist Erwin Wurm in conversation with Eveline Suter, curator

Tour for the 60plus generation

Thursday, 14.06., 2.30 – 4 pm

Public tours

Wednesdays 6 pm and Sundays 11 am as indicated on our website

Schools

Varied offering for school classes of all levels

Publication

A publication only consisting of drawings will be issued, ed. by Kunstmuseum Luzern and Albertina, Vienna, Verlag für moderne Kunst, ISBN 978-3-903228-71-9, CHF 50.– / for members CHF 42.–

Events in cooperation with the Lucerne Festival

Visavis

Percussion: Composer in Residence Fritz Hauser in a dialogue

Sunday, 19.08., 4 pm

with Barbara Frey, Director Schauspielhaus Zürich

Friday, 31.08., 12.15 pm

With the percussionist Sylwia Zytynska

Friday, 14.09., 12.15 pm

With the percussionist Peter Conradin Zumthor

Special Event Day

Sunday, 26.08., 11 am – 6 pm

Family Workshop: Together we will create animals for the large Paradise Sky.

Eye & Ear

Composer in Residence Fritz Hauser improvises

Wednesday, 12.09., 6 pm

on Patrick Steffen's video *Nebel*

Sunday, 16.09., 2 pm

on Judith Albert's video *Zwischen der Zeit (nach Vermeer)*

A cooperation between Kunstmuseum Luzern and Albertina, Vienna

The exhibition and publication are supported by Artclub Luzern.

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