

URS LÜTHI. MORE OR LESS

17.02 > 23.04.2022

Pelayo, 68, Madrid

Exhibition opening on Thursday, 17th | 17:00 - 21:00

We present exhibition *Urs Lüthi. More or less* by Swiss conceptual artist **Urs Lüthi** in his first solo exhibition in Spain. It is based on one of his fundamental research topics, being focused on identity and self-image.

Since 1974, when the first public presentation took place, his body has become the main material for his artistic works. Ambivalent and ironic self-portraits constitute a kitsch and illusionist reflection on the body, time, and life. Moreover, his plastic universe is a personal interpretation of body art and displays an ironic psychological play between the self and the other self, the masculine and the feminine.

From autobiographical and subjective experience, he arrives to a social and existential critique embracing the whole of society. Inspired by Duchamp's *Rose Sèlavy*, he develops the theme of sexual ambiguity and androgynous myth. For Lüthi, disguise means breaking taboo of sexuality, crossing identity barriers, and playing with the relationship between reality and fiction, associated with a continuous reference of meaning. Subjectivity and objectivity are relative concepts. Thus, what matters is to be able to make visible the many aspects under which reality manifests itself.

The artistic research of Urs Lüthi is distinguished by the remarkable agility that set the basis of the artist in different fields of expression: photography, sculpture, performance, screen printing, video, and painting.

Among his best-known works are the installations *Run for Your Life* and *Placebos and surrogates*, which were presented at the Venice Biennale in 2001. In such works, the central items are advertising and excessive body cult.

"The foundation of my work is the human condition. My conception arose in the mid 1960's. It is based on the conviction that one can only experience the world and understand it in a subjective way. I don't believe in subjectivity and, as part of a radical approach, I've taken myself as the subject of my art 'as mirror of the universe.'" Urs Lüthi

Urs Lüthi was born in Krienz, Lucerne (Switzerland) in 1947. He lives and works in Munich.

Lüthi attended the Zurich School of Applied Arts. He worked as a university professor in Kassel, Germany and in 2009 he was awarded the Arnold-Bode-Preis.

Among his exhibitions we can mention that of the Wiesbaden Kunstmuseum (1995), Urs Lüthi. Art is the better life. Tableaux 1970-2002 at the Musée Rath in Geneva (2002). Among his exhibitions in Spain are of a collective nature such as Beautiful People, Center d'Art la Panera, Lérida (2008); A battle of two genders, CGAC - Galician Center for Contemporary Art, Santiago de Compostela (2007); LOOP'00 Barcelona (2003) and Le corps en scène, Institute Francais, Madrid (1994). Being this time with Urs Lüthi. More or less the first individual in Madrid.

He has starred in numerous exhibitions in important institutions around the world, such as: Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam; Zurich Kunsthhaus; Kunstmuseum Winterthur; Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago; National Center for Art and Culture Georges Pompidou in Paris; Nationalgalerie and Neue Berliner Kunstverein in Berlin; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon; Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo; Vienna Kunsthalle; Ludwig Museum in Budapest; Museum of Contemporary Art of Santiago de Chile; Tate Modern in London; Palais de Tokio and Musée d'Orsay in Paris; Kunstmuseum Lucerne; MARTHA of Herford; Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia; MAMC of Saint-Etienne; MAMCO of Geneva; Parkview Museum in Singapore; Palazzo Grassi – Punta della Dogana in Venice and MOCA in Toronto.

On the other hand, he has participated in international artistic events such as: Trigon '73, Graz (Austria, 1973); 13. São Paulo Biennial (Brazil, 1975); Documenta 6, Kassel (Germany, 1977); Sydney Biennale (Australia, 1978); II Internazionale Foto Triennale, Esslingen, (Germany, 1992); Seoul Biennale, (Korea, 1995); 49th Venice Biennale (Italy, 2001).