

Opening of the Exhibition Project
About the House / Silence Turned Into Objects
 an art project on Wystan Hugh Auden, by Ricarda Denzer
Saturday 31 August 2013
Kirchstetten Station, at 3 pm
Auden House, at 5 pm



With works created by Fatih Aydoğdu / Simone Forti / Sharon Hayes / Olga Karlíková / Pamela Kurstin / Brandon LaBelle / Jonathan Quinn / Annette Stahmer / Imogen Stidworthy / Ultra- red and Marcel Broodthaers' *Interview with a Cat*

The poet and writer Wystan Hugh Auden spent the summers from 1958 until his death in 1973 at his house in Kirchstetten in the Wienerwald, where he is also buried. The State Government of Lower Austria purchased the Austrian part of his literary estate following his death, and established a permanent exhibition on his life and work in his house in 1995. This year, an extensive exhibition is being held both in the museum and around the village of Kirchstetten.

The artist Ricarda Denzer has been engaging, in her work, with hearing, the voice and speech acts, as well as their formal, spatial and socio-political transformation and translation. The artworks presented in the exhibition address the same theme, before a background of W.H. Auden's life and work. A number of the works on show have been developed specially for this exhibition.

The writer's home itself, about which he wrote a twelve-part cycle of poems, is both the actual venue for the exhibition as well as a point of departure for engaging with issues like "how to establish the dimensions of the line separating the public outside from the private inside. In this context the description of the house stands for an extension of one's own self. The house becomes the site of a narrative about the poetics of this interrelationship, a place where the private and the social spheres meet." (Ricarda Denzer)

In the public space of Kirchstetten, Ricarda Denzer is displaying selected facets of the Auden Archive in a new arrangement. In the waiting room at the train station—an important communication point in rural areas—there is a monitor showing the film *Night Mail*, a documentary about mail delivery by night train in 1930s England in which Auden's eponymous poem is set to music written by Benjamin Britten. Quotations from the poet's work are displayed on a flip-dot board on the station grounds, which can be viewed from the train. The shop window of the adjacent post office references Auden's letters, while the poet's voice in a radio play can be heard from inside his Volkswagen Beetle parked on the village square.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, which is jointly edited by the curator and the English literary scholar Monika Seidl, who has studied the work by Auden written in Kirchstetten and its academic reception. Essays by Michael O'Sullivan, Herrmann Schlösser, Rainer Emig, Susanna Gottlieb and others are supplemented by contributions from the participating artists.

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Duration of the exhibition and opening hours

1 September to 3 November 2013

29 March to 27 April 2014

Saturday and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm and by appointment

(contact: Municipality of Kirchstetten www.kirchstetten.at)

Further Events:

EXTRA Trip to Kirchstetten, 14 September, departure from Vienna at 10 am

includes a reading of Auden's poems by Herbert Eigner, and a conversation with the curator Ricarda Denzer

The 40th Anniversary of W.H. Auden's Death on 28 September, at 4 pm

includes songs and recitals by Lucy McEvil, a lecture by Michael O'Sullivan, and a reading by Herbert Eigner

Ricarda Denzer

lives and works in Vienna as a freelance visual artist. Studied at the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

Denzer's artwork engages with issues of translation in society and the cultural field. In this context she is equally interested in the spoken word and the immediate context where exchanges about and information is acquired on cultural production. Making use of texts, interviews, sounds, videos, architecture and various recording methods, she develops projects and installations of interconnections whose subjects revolve around the narratives of development processes and shifting in the global art worlds, working conditions, and abstract forms of transference for cultural systems of reference. The medium of language forms the basis for all thoughts here.

She has participated in numerous exhibitions in venues such as MUSA, Vienna (2007), SITE Santa Fe (2008) and kunstraum BERNSTEINER, Vienna (2011). In 2010, she was awarded the Förderpreis für zeitgenössische Kunst (Award for Contemporary Art) by the Provincial Government of Lower Austria. In 2005, she realized her work *Täuschungsmanöver* (Deceptive Maneuver) in Allensteig, which was supported by Public Art Lower Austria.