

Press release

Exhibitions

20.03.2005

Kimmo Sarje et alii

BRIEFE AUS NIRGENDWO

kirjeitä kadonneesta maasta | letters from nowhere

Wing 08.04. – 29.05.2005

The exhibition is open to the press on Thursday 7 April from 10 to 2 p.m..
 Press conference on Friday 8 April at noon. The artist Kimmo Sarje will be
 present on both days. The opening of the exhibition will take place on 8
 April at 6 p.m. WELCOME!

“Human memory is selective, and it is no longer easy to express the spirit of the period in understandable terms,” notes Professor *Raimo Lovio* in his article *The GDR and Marxist Social Science in Finland in the 1970s*, which will appear in the book *BRIEFE AUS NIRGENDWO* edited by **Kimmo Sarje. The artist and art critic **Kimmo Sarje, PhD**, addresses a topical period of recent history that has remained open in many ways by approaching its issues with the means of art and research.**

The book and exhibition *BRIEFE AUS NIRGENDWO* provide a prismatic account of the relationship between human ideals and aims, and society and the individual. This seemingly comprehensive and abstract theme is approached from the perspective of the individual, the subject, through everyday life, individual events and objects. How do we interpret reality and how do we read the messages associated with everyday objects? What happens when the original frame of reference disappears, perspectives change, or documents are torn from their context to be placed in a new framework of interpretation? What happens to man and his memories? How are narratives renewed again and again?

In the words of media researcher Hannu Eerikäinen, the GDR was a utopian state that could not be realized because it had already been realized. The GDR existed in reality, wherefore it could no longer be *utopos*, a non-place, an imaginary world where everything is ideally arranged. Reality thus became the worst obstacle to realizing the utopia of the GDR. Young people of today’s InterRail generation will only encounter that utopia in narratives embedded in the built environment and objects, and in the minds and memories of people, with form and content varying according to the narrators’ experiences and approaches. An individual object, such as a book and its binding or a postage stamp and its graphic design, however, can still bear messages of which the viewer is markedly aware. As the necessary conditions of interpretation remain unfulfilled, the original content of the message is altered and blurred. The message is aestheticized, and the aesthetic dimension creates new content for it.

The contributors to the 350-page *BRIEFE AUS NIRGENDWO* book published in connection with the exhibition are media researcher Hannu Eerikäinen, Professor Raimo Lovio, Researcher Kati Mustola, Dr. Leena Norros, Docent Vesa Oittinen, Ambassador Alpo Rusi, Docent Pekka Sutela and Docent Pertti “Lande” Lindfors, whose articles from 1964 in the journal *Aikalainen* are one of the starting points for the book. Editor Kimmo Sarje has also prepared a pictorial essay and interviews with the artists Jarmo Mäkilä and Kari Jylhä.

For further information, please contact: Museum Director Esko Nummelin tel. +358 (0) 2-621 1085, email esko.nummelin@pori.fi, artist Kimmo Sarje, tel. +358 (0) 40-7576131

Press material: Researcher Miia Lehtola, tel. +358 (0) 2-621 1082, email miia.lehtola@pori.fi

PORIN TAIDEMUSEO | PORI ART MUSEUM 

-----Eteläranta - 28100 Pori - Finland
-----Tel +358-2-621 1080/1081 - Fax +358-2-621 1091
-----taidemuseo@pori.fi - www.poriartmuseum.fi

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